

January 12, 2016

In 2011 and 2014, the Department of Energy (DOE) Chief of Nuclear Safety (CNS) sponsored technical meetings on natural phenomena hazards (NPH). These meetings were held in Germantown, Maryland, and we received positive feedback on their usefulness. The CNS office, part of the DOE Office of Environmental Management, aims to host NPH technical meetings approximately every two years. We are now planning for a similar NPH meeting, tentatively October 18-19, 2016, again in Germantown, MD.

As with the prior meetings, the focus will be on DOE and contractor staff sharing information on NPH characterization and facility designs to mitigate hazards. We also welcome participation from other government and private sector organizations interested in the effects of NPH on nuclear facilities. Some have suggested we vary the meeting location, but we believe holding it in the Washington, DC area enables more interagency participation. The meeting will allow NPH experts and those responsible for NPH mitigation to share knowledge of NPH characterization and design in an intimate gathering, with just one or two tracks of presentations and discussions over two days. The meeting will also serve as excellent professional development for younger professionals working in NPH mitigation. Examples of possible discussion topics are recent reviews or analyses of seismic and other NPH at nuclear facilities, changes to both DOE requirements and national consensus codes and standards, and facility modifications responding to changes in standards or NPH demands. Presentations from the 2011 and 2014 meetings can be viewed on the CNS website, through this link: <http://www.energy.gov/em/seismic-natural-phenomena-hazards>.

The meeting will have no registration fee. However, out-of-town participants will be responsible for securing travel costs from their own organizations. Interested individuals involved with NPH mitigation are invited to submit abstracts (approximately 500 words or fewer, please) on topics worthy of presentation and discussion at the NPH meeting. The maximum length of oral presentations will be determined by the total number of abstracts submitted, but based on past experience, will be approximately 20-30 minutes. As before, presentation materials will be posted on a dedicated page on the CNS website, with the exception of any Official Use Only material. Papers tied to a presentation are also welcomed and will be posted on the website, but papers are not required to accompany a presentation.

Note that we are referring to this as the “2016 Natural Phenomena Hazards Meeting and Training Session.” This is not a workshop or conference, but part of DOE’s ongoing efforts to properly characterize and mitigate natural hazards at DOE facilities. Therefore, DOE and contractor participants should not look for this meeting in the conference management system or attempt to enter it into the system.

Abstracts for consideration should be submitted to Ms. Marlene Fitzpatrick, Office of the Chief of Nuclear Safety, at marlene.fitzpatrick@em.doe.gov, no later than June 6, 2016. Please copy stephen.mcduffie@rl.doe.gov on submittals. Those interested in attending, but not providing a presentation, should express this interest to Dr. McDuffie. The CNS staff will review submittals, notify accepted presenters, and issue meeting invitations by August 5, 2016. Please contact Dr. McDuffie by e-mail, or at 509-373-6766, with any questions.