

Conference Waiver
2013 Meeting of the Department of Energy (DOE)
Energy Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group
May 6-10, 2013 – Chicago, Illinois

Compelling Purpose and Unique Circumstances that Warrant a Waiver

DOE Emergency Management Programs play a key role in ensuring the health and safety of the public and workers at and around DOE facilities. Each EMI SIG meeting is uniquely structured to address current events and issues of concern to DOE Emergency Management. Events such as Fukushima, the wild-land fires, and other catastrophic disasters have uncovered issues that must be addressed for DOE to effectively carry out its emergency management mission. The intent of the 2013 EMI SIG Meeting is to: focus on such critical issues as the safety of nuclear facilities as it relates to beyond design basis events analysis and emergency response; to identify opportunities for improvement; to discuss and obtain feedback on the DOE nuclear safety culture, as it relates to emergency management; to facilitate integration of the regulatory framework (non-DOE federal regulations and policies) into site/facility emergency management programs; and to discuss and obtain feedback on the control and use of risk assessments to support nuclear safety decision-making in the context of emergency management.

The appropriateness of the EMI-SIG as a unique venue to address these types of issues has been proven in the past by its undisputed role in the continuing improvement of DOE emergency management programs over the past 26 years, as these programs have transitioned from only addressing radiological hazards to programs that embrace a comprehensive, all-hazards approach. The additional hazards now addressed include biological hazards, chemical hazards, natural phenomena hazards, and malevolent acts. More than 1,000 DOE/NNSA and contractor employees comprise the EMI SIG general membership, with an average of about 275 DOE and contractor attendees at the annual meetings.

Secretarial Conference Waiver

Based on the representation of the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on attendance at this conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.



Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy

Date: DEC 18 2012