

**Subject:** We have a new WIPP committee!  
**From:** "Barbara Pastina" <bpastina@nas.edu>  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Sep 2002 10:14:46 -0400  
**To:** Steve\_Zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us



Dear Steve:

The National Research Council of the National Academies has just begun a new study on WIPP.

The objectives of this study are: 1) to provide a review of the Department of Energy's program for characterization and transportation of transuranic waste; and 2) to recommend improvements to enhance the program's technical soundness, efficiency, cost effectiveness, and safety to workers and the public. The study also will address programmatic, policy, and societal impacts of changes in characterization and transportation requirements. The study will not address requirements for the characterization of remote-handled transuranic waste or non-technical transportation requirements.

The new (provisional) WIPP committee has just been appointed. Why provisional?

The biographical sketches of provisional committee members are posted on the Internet during 20 calendar days for public comment. Members are officially appointed only at the end of this public comment period.

I am attaching below the list of biographical sketches. They are not the most up-to-date but I thought you wanted to have an idea of who is on the committee. The updated bios will be posted on the internet in a few days.

Here is just the list of names:

- John C. Allen
- Ann Bostrom
- Gregory R. Choppin
- Alfred Grella
- Michael Mobley
- Kenneth L. Mossman
- Robert H. Neill
- John Plodinec
- Victoria J. Tschinkel (CHAIR)
- Detlof von Winterfeldt
- Chris G. Whipple
- Raymond G. Wymer

We are tentatively scheduling the first meeting in Carlsbad for October 28-29. As I mentioned the other day, I need to talk to you about possible presentations and speakers at this or future meetings.

(See attached file: Bios.doc)

Barbara

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**NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE**  
**Optimizing the Characterization and Transportation of Transuranic Waste Destined for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

NOTE: these are not the most updated biographical sketches, but I wanted to let you know as soon as possible who else is on the committee. The updated bios will be posted on the Internet<sup>1</sup> during 20 calendar days for public comment. Your nomination becomes final only at the end of the public comment period.

**Chair**

**Victoria J. Tschinkel** is the principal of the consulting firm VICTORIA J. TSCHINKEL Environmental Policy and Management. Her specialty is advising clients on strategic environmental planning, compliance with environmental permitting requirements, and managing technical consulting teams for clients with environmental problems. She is also an appointed commissioner of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, which sets the environmental standards for the state. She previously served as the Department's Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and assistant to the secretary from 1976-1987. Under her leadership, Florida made several landmark environmental initiatives, including the complete modernization of the state's water quality standards, adoption of a state water policy, institution of Florida's hazardous waste permitting and cleanup programs and comprehensive revisions to the state's groundwater protection rules. Mrs. Tschinkel is a Director of ConocoPhillips Corporation, and has served on numerous state and national advisory boards and committees, including appointments to the U.S. Department of Energy Advisory Board, the Board of Resources for the Future, Center for Clean Air Policy and Audubon of Florida. Ms. Tschinkel received an A.B. in zoology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Actinide and physical chemistry**

**Gregory R. Choppin** is the R.O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Florida State University. His research interests involve the chemistry of the actinides, their separation, and the physical chemistry of concentrated electrolyte solutions. During a postdoctoral period at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, he participated in the discovery of mendelevium, element 101. His research and educational activities have been recognized by the American Chemical Society's Award in Nuclear Chemistry, the Southern Chemist Award of the American Chemical Society, the Manufacturing Chemist Award in Chemical Education, the Chemical Pioneer Award of the American Institute of Chemistry, a Presidential Citation Award of the American Nuclear Society, and honorary D.Sc. degrees from Loyola University and the Chalmers University. Dr. Choppin received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Loyola University, New Orleans, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas, Austin. He currently serves as member of the Board on Radioactive Waste Management.

**Hazardous waste management regulations**

**Victoria J. Tschinkel** (see Chair)

**Robert H. Neill** served as the Director of New Mexico's Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) from the group's creation in 1978 until his retirement in May, 2000. The EEG performs an independent evaluation of the potential public health and environmental impacts to New Mexico of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Project, a repository for the disposal of defense transuranic waste. Mr. Neill directed a staff of scientists and engineers, including consultants, in the review and evaluation of work performed by the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors, as well as conducting independent research and analyses on the radiation exposure to people. Prior to this, he served as a commissioned officer in the Bureau of

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<sup>1</sup> Your bios are posted at the following URL: <<http://nationalacademies.org/brwm>>. To see them, click on 1) "Current Projects;" 2) "Optimizing the Characterization...;" and 3) "Committee Membership." Your bios should be posted tomorrow.

Radiological Health of the U.S. Public Health Service for 23 years. Upon retirement, the Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, administrator for EEG, appointed Mr. Neill director emeritus. Mr. Neill received the degree of mechanical engineer from the Stevens Institute of Technology and an M.S. in radiation hygiene from the Harvard University School of Public Health.

### **Health physics/occupational exposure**

**Kenneth L. Mossman** is professor of health physics and director of the Office of Radiation Safety at Arizona State University in Tempe, where he has also served as assistant vice president for research. Prior to his arrival in Arizona, Dr. Mossman was a faculty member of the medical and dental schools at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and was professor and founding chairman of the Department of Radiation Science of Georgetown's Graduate School. His research interests include radiological health and safety and public policy. Dr. Mossman has authored over 130 publications, including six books and proceedings related to radiation health issues. He has presented testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Dr. Mossman served as president of the Health Physics Society and received its prestigious Elda Anderson Award, the Marie Curie Gold Medal, and the Founder's Award. He also served as a Sigma Xi distinguished lecturer. He has been a fellow of the Health Physics Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has served on committees for the National Research Council, National Institutes of Health, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna). Dr. Mossman earned a B.S. in biology from Wayne State University, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in radiation biology from the University of Tennessee, and an M.Ed. degree in higher education administration from the University of Maryland.

### **History of characterization and transportation requirements at WIPP**

**Robert H. Neill** (see Hazardous waste management regulations)

### **Implementation of transuranic waste characterization requirements at generator sites**

**John Plodinec** is director of the Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory at Mississippi State University. His laboratory specializes in developing instrumentation for unusual environments and in characterizing processes and technologies under real-world conditions. Dr. Plodinec is an internationally recognized expert in waste management and glass science. He has made important contributions in several areas of radioactive waste management, ranging from waste characterization to glass durability modeling. Prior to joining Mississippi State University, he worked for 22 years at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, where he collaborated in building and operating the first remote in-cell melter and served as primary technical lead for the product qualification program. In that capacity, he oversaw the transuranic waste streams produced by the Savannah River Site. He has authored over 90 publications, primarily on waste vitrification and thermodynamics of waste management. He holds a patent on a device to sample high-level waste and a patent on a slurry-feeding device for glass melters. Dr. Plodinec earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Florida.

**Raymond G. Wymer** is a former director of the Chemical Technology Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He is a specialist in radiochemical separations technology for radioactive waste management and nuclear fuel reprocessing. He is a member of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He is a consultant for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and for the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Energy on matters of nuclear nonproliferation. He is a fellow of the American Nuclear Society and the American Institute of Chemists, and has received the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' Robert E. Wilson Award in Nuclear Chemical Engineering and the American Nuclear Society's Special Award for

Outstanding Work on the Nuclear Fuel Cycle. He received a B.A. from Memphis State University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.

### **Public policy/environmental risk**

**Michael Mobley** is a private consultant on regulatory radiation-related issues has represented Tennessee on the Southeast Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Compact Commission from 1984 to 1999. Mr. Mobley has been the director of the Tennessee Division on Radiological Health and has worked in every aspect of the Division's Radiation Control Program. He is also the State Liaison Officer for Tennessee to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Mobley is a past Chairperson of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., has served as that organization's treasurer, and has served on numerous committees and working groups for the conference. He is the current chair of the Federal Facilities Committee, which has been charged by the Conference on Radiation Control Program Directs with developing and coordinating information regarding federal facility radiological impact issues. This committee also assists state, federal agencies, and programs in developing a comprehensive and consistent national state/federal radiation control program effort which would include federal facilities. Mr. Mobley received a B.A. degree in physics and mathematics, an M.S. degree in physics, and a master's degree in public administration. He is also a 1986 graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute.

**Victoria J. Tschinkel** (see Chair)

**Robert H. Neill** (see Hazardous waste management regulations)

### **Radioactive waste management regulations**

**Chris G. Whipple** is a principal in Environ, Inc. in Oakland, California, which provides consulting services mainly to private industry. His professional interests are in risk assessment and performance assessment, and he has consulted widely in this field for private clients and government agencies. Prior to joining Environ, he worked at ICF Kaiser Engineers (1990-2000) and the Electric Power Research Institute (1974-90). He served on the National Research Council's Board on Radioactive Waste Management from 1985 to 1995, and as its chair from 1992 to March 1995. He also served as a member of the BRWM's Committee on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant from 1989 to 1997. He holds a B.S. degree from Purdue University and a Ph.D. degree in engineering science from the California Institute of Technology. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2001.

### **Radioactive waste transportation regulations**

**John C. Allen** is vice president of transportation practice at Battelle Memorial Institute. He served in several positions at Battelle Memorial Institute including vice president for business development; transportation division manager of the Cambridge operations; managerial roles in the Operations Research and Analysis Program and the Institutional and Policy Analysis Program; and transportation economist. Prior to joining Battelle in 1983, he worked as a transportation economist and policy analyst with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mr. Allen has managed and participated in numerous studies relating to hazardous materials transportation, and is familiar with HM-181, the performance-oriented standard for containers used in transporting hazardous materials. He has served on various advisory panels and was recently appointed chairman of the National Research Council Transportation Board's Committee on Hazardous Materials Transportation. He holds an M.B.A. in transportation from the University of Oregon, and a B.A. in Economics from western Maryland College.

**Alfred Grella** is an independent nuclear and hazardous materials transportation consultant. He retired in 1990 from a career in U.S. government service, first at the Department of Transportation and later at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. His distinguished career spans 40 years as a professional in health physics, health protection, transportation, inspection and enforcement, training, and related regulatory activities. He has authored more than 30 published papers. He is a member of the American Nuclear Society and a fellow of the Health Physics Society. In 1965, Mr. Grella was awarded certification as a health physicist by the American Board of Health Physics. Mr. Grella received the M. Sacid (Sarge) Ozker Award in 1996 for distinguished service and eminent achievement in the field of radioactive waste management. Mr. Grella received a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Connecticut and completed the one-year management program at the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

### **Risk/benefit assessment, decision analysis**

**Ann Bostrom** is associate professor in the School of Public Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she teaches quantitative methods, environmental risk, and risk communication at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Bostrom has research interests in risk perception, communication and management, and in cognitive aspects of survey methodology. Her research focuses on mental models of hazardous processes (how people understand and make decisions about risks), and was funded by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Bostrom received a Fulbright scholarship and the Lois Roth endowment award to study at Stockholm University. In 1997, Dr. Bostrom was awarded the Chauncey Starr Award for a young risk analyst from the Society for Risk Analysis. She holds a B.A. in English from the University of Washington, an M.B.A. from Western Washington University, and a Ph.D. in public policy analysis at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Detlof von Winterfeldt** is associate dean for faculty affairs and research of the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at the University of Southern California and a Professor of Public Policy and Management. He also is the president of Decision Insights, Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in decision and risk analysis. His research interests are in the foundation and practice of decision and risk analysis as applied to technology and environmental management problems. He is the co-author of two books and over one hundred articles and reports on these topics. He has served on several committees and panels of the National Science Foundation, including the Advisory Panel for the Decision and Risk Management Science Program, as well as on the National Research Council Committee on Risk Perception and Risk Communication. Dr. Von Winterfeldt received M.A. and B.A. degrees in psychology from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and a Ph.D. in mathematical psychology from the University of Michigan.

### **Waste characterization, management, and treatment**

**John Plodinec** (see Implementation of transuranic waste characterization requirements at generator sites)

**Raymond G. Wymer** (see Implementation of transuranic waste characterization requirements at generator sites)