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c: UNENE Officers, UNENE EAC, UNENE RAC, UNENE Board

From: V.G. Snell

RE: **ANS Meeting – Trip Report**

Background

I attended the annual meeting of the American Nuclear Society (I attended one day, on June 9 2015), in San Antonio, Texas. Basma Shalaby had been invited to participate in a panel discussion on education, and I was representing her. The Panel session was entitled “Breaking the Barrier Between Research and Industrial Implementation” and the purpose was to show how industry needs were reflected in nuclear R&D. The UNENE presentation for the panel has been filed with L. Cole and posted on our web site.

Points

- The Panel session lasted three hours and was well attended (45-50 people for the entire time)
- The academic members of the Panel emphasized how their courses prepared students for industrial careers.
- Steve Nesbit from Duke Power made a few interesting remarks from an operator perspective:
 - fundamental research was essentially complete. The vast majority of today's research is not relevant to operating nuclear power plants. The one exception is ageing management.
 - hence the customer for R&D today is the U.S. government
 - there is no shortage of nuclear engineers but finding good technicians and maintenance staff is more of a challenge
 - R&D should have realistic endpoints: “tell me when you're done”
 - is the research infrastructure from decades ago still relevant? Does the US need so many national labs.?
- Westinghouse indicated they were “opening up” more and collaborating with other organizations
- EPRI mentioned their ties with Canada (Peter Tremaine's work for them on boron chemistry)
- Some members of the audience said that “Canada had got it right” (!??)

Afterwards I attended a couple of good plenary sessions on communicating the risks / benefits of radiation to the general public, and on the future of nuclear energy. No real surprises here, other than some U.S. representatives were bemoaning the loss of U.S. leadership in new nuclear build. The other question batted around was whether it was ANS's role to be a bridge between industry and research.

V.G. Snell
UNENE Programme Director