

# 2005 NA-YGN Professional Development Workshop “Breaking the Barriers”

*A detailed report of sessions and NA-YGN's 1<sup>st</sup> visit to Capitol Hill*

Collected by North American Young Generation in Nuclear  
at the 2005 NA-YGN Professional Development Workshop  
May 15-17, 2005  
The Fairmont Hotel, Washington D.C.



## **Discussion Moderators/Summary Editors/Contributors:**

### **For Sessions:**

Sama Bilbao y León	Dominion Generation
Amy Buu	Westinghouse Electric Company
Lawanda Chisolm	Westinghouse Electric Company
Christopher Comfort	Southern Nuclear
David Pointer	Argonne National Laboratory
Linda Pressley	Westinghouse Electric Company
Michelle Swanson	Westinghouse Electric Company
Rob Szollosy	Southern Nuclear
George Tsakanikas	Bechtel Power Corporation
Anne Shatara West	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Molly Woodard	Exelon Nuclear

### **For Capitol Hill Visits:**

Amy Buu	Westinghouse Electric Company
Matthew Evans	Exelon Nuclear
Muhammed Fahmy	Constellation Energy
Craig Minarich	PSEG Nuclear LLC
Linda Pressley	Westinghouse Electric Company
Mark Pohl	Omaha Public Power District
Duncan Robinson	Westinghouse Electric Company
Michael Stuart	Dominion Generation
Michelle Swanson	Westinghouse Electric Company
Ryan Stone	Duke Power
Kelly Taylor	Dominion Generation
Brent Williams	Bruce Power
Meagan Wilson	Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Draft: June 2, 2005  
Revision: June 9, 2005  
Final Revision: June 22, 2005

## INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **1. 2005 NA-YGN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

- 1.1. Sunday, May 15, 2005
  - 1.1.1. Welcome and Introduction
  - 1.1.2. Opening Plenary – Painting the Big Picture
  - 1.1.3. Expert Session – Key Industry Issues
- 1.2. Monday, May 16, 2005
  - 1.2.1. 2005 NA-YGN Visionary Leadership Award
  - 1.2.2. Gaining Support for NA-YGN in Your Organization
  - 1.2.3. Young Generation Influencing Policy – National Impact
  - 1.2.4. Guest Luncheon Speaker:
    - 1.2.4.1. Frank Luntz, President of The Luntz Research Companies
  - 1.2.5. Young Generation Influencing Policy – Local Impact
  - 1.2.6. Annual Meeting and Open Discussion

### **2. CAPITOL HILL VISIT**

- 2.1. Overview
- 2.2. Who NA-YGN Met on Capitol Hill
- 2.3. Group Feedback

### **3. CONCLUSION**

## INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the 2005 North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NA-YGN) Professional Development Workshop, “Breaking the Barriers,” topics and speakers were selected to help young professionals increase their awareness on a variety of issues surrounding the nuclear industry as well as how they can have stronger voices in their company, in their community and in the government.

This year’s workshop had over 140 participants, which was the highest turnout in recent years. Although the majority of the participants were from United States, members from Canada and Mexico were able to join the workshop held in Washington D.C. Participants were from utilities, national laboratories, vendors, and several consulting firms (engineering, environmental, strategy & technology, etc.), and ranked from the co-op to the executive level in engineering and non-engineering fields. This year’s workshop officially ended on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>; however, participants were able to visit Capitol Hill on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, this summary is broken into two main parts: 2005 NA-YGN Professional Development Workshop and Capitol Hill Visit.

Workshop topics included an overview of NA-YGN’s mission, members and chapters, a special video featuring Dr. James Lovelock, an overview of various industry associations, the latest and greatest on new plants and Yucca Mountain. Other topics included direction on how young professionals can make an impact locally and nationally, how to overcome various challenges, including those dealing with local chapter creation and continuous involvement as well as how to effectively get your message to the public. The final session entailed NA-YGN’s Annual Business meeting, and the passing of the torch to newly elected core members.

The Capitol Hill visit consisted of meetings with 27 different legislative assistants and/or members of Congress from all over the United States. Participants were split into 9 groups, with 3 scheduled appointments each. Each discussion was to focus on who NA-YGN was, understand the person’s position on nuclear energy and for members to explain why nuclear energy is so important for a balanced and diverse energy mix for the United States. Overall, the experience was new to nearly all participants and many positive discussions on nuclear energy were held.

NA-YGN recognizes that not all of its members were able to attend the workshop and hopes that this document will help provide a “window” into this year’s professional development workshop.

# 1. 2005 NA-YGN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

1.1. Sunday, May 15, 2005

## 1.1.1 Welcome and Introduction

This year, Ms. Amy Buu, Professional Development Chair for NA-YGN, set the tone for the workshop. Buu asked members to do something different - challenge themselves and challenge others. By sharing Dr. Wangari Maathai's story as the 1<sup>st</sup> African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her efforts in Kenya, Buu wanted members to follow Maathai's lead and focus on goals that were simple, attainable, and guaranteed for quick successful results in a reasonable amount of time. Buu also reminded members that barriers do exist professionally and personally, but everyone needs to find their way to overcome these barriers.

Following Buu, was Dr. Shannon Bragg-Sitton, outgoing President for NA-YGN, now residing Past President. Bragg-Sitton provided an overview of the mission of NA-YGN for newcomers to the organization as well as current snapshots of our membership. Bragg-Sitton urged participant's to renew their free membership, such that NA-YGN had an active member database and shared statistics in the hopes of stirring up "friendly competition" amongst the membership. An example of statistics shared was:

- Members by Country:
  - 83% - USA, 15% Canada and 2% Mexico
- Fraction of Renewed members
  - 27% - USA, 45% Canada, and 28% Mexico

Showing that although the majority of our membership stems from the USA, that the membership renewals from the USA is the smallest in comparison to the membership renewals from Canada and Mexico.

Bragg-Sitton closed her discussion with providing examples of what NA-YGN chapters have done in the past as well as a status update on the number of local chapters. There were 19 local NA-YGN chapters at the time of the workshop. 18 were identified on Bragg-Sitton's slides, but during the workshop, St. Lucie announced their newly created local NA-YGN chapter.

Following Bragg-Sitton, was a video presentation of Dr. James Lovelock, Independent Scientist and Environmentalist and father of the Gaia Theory, which is the belief that Earth is a living entity with systems that balance each other and has to be able to 'heal' itself from moderate damage; extreme damage to a natural system is irreparable and can cause a shift in the natural balance. Lovelock emphasized the need to focus on reducing greenhouse gases and focus on environmental change. He mentioned that out of all the energy sources, natural gas is the most dangerous to the

environment. Any carbon emissions the combustion of natural gas saves (versus the combustion of coal) are lost when taking into account that there is a 1-2% leakage of natural gas from the system. Current natural gas rigs have leakages up to 5-6%. Lovelock strongly advocated the need for clean, safe, emission-free energy options to meet such needs. Unlike the “typical” environmentalist, Lovelock is an advocate for nuclear energy.

### 1.1.2 Opening Plenary – Painting the Big Picture

Ms. Angela Howard, Executive Vice President of Nuclear Energy Institute, helped “connect the industry dots”. Most young professionals are aware of the various industry organizations, however are not sure how they are connected. Howard’s presentation gave an overview of the various groups in the nuclear power industry, their roles and interactions. Instead of drudging through a tiring list of alphabet-soup acronyms, Howard livened things up with a game show, “Nuclear Jeopardy.” Howard’s slide presentation contained ‘answers’ that she read to the audience, who then had a chance to ‘buzz in’ with the correct ‘question’. Correct responses won a prize.

After the conclusion of ‘Nuclear Jeopardy’, Howard opened the floor to questions from the audience. Below is a synopsis of the questions and answers.

#### 1.1.2.1 Question and Answer

**Q: Why are there so many groups in the Nuclear Industry? And why don’t they combine?**

**A:** Some have combined. NEI itself is the result of several industry groups that merged in the pursuit of a common goal. The reason there are so many different industry groups is because each has a different focus; EPRI on research, INPO on operations, NEI on policy and legislature. While there is strong collaboration among the groups, being separate entities allows them to retain their different focuses.

**Q: Where does NEI get its funding?**

**A:** Funding for NEI comes from its 238 member companies which range from utilities and suppliers to engineering companies and law firms. NEI’s annual budget is ~\$38 million (US).

**Q: Are there any smaller industry groups?**

**A:** There are like Owners groups for a reactor supplier or reactor design that cover problems and operational experience related to that specific design.

### 1.1.3. Expert Session – Key Industry Issues

This panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Sama Bilbao y León and focused on the importance of new nuclear power plants and used fuel. The four panelists provided different perspectives on these two key industry issues:

- David Christian, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations, Dominion Generation
- Jeffrey S. Merrifield, Commissioner of U.S. Regulatory Commission
- Eric Knox, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary and Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary for Energy Science and Environment for U.S. DOE
- Marvin S. Fertel, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer for Nuclear Energy Institute

Christian kicked off the discussion by introducing his presentation, “The Path to New Nuclear: Moving from Promise to Reality”. In this session, Christian noted that the future of nuclear is now and the momentum towards new plants is on the horizon. With proven performance, increased positive media coverage, and stronger government support, nuclear energy is on the cusp of a revolution. The reality is that by 2025 the U.S will need 50% more electricity. Christian also emphasized the need for nuclear power is derived from current high gas prices and to maintain the current fraction of non-emitting energy.

In regards to the licensing process for new plants, Christian points out that the new license process is improved and preserves opportunity for public input. His observation stems from the fact that Dominion is pursuing Combined Operating License (COL) using the new NRC licensing process. Dominion reviewed Surry, North Anna, Idaho National Lab, and Savannah River as potential sites for new plant. However, upon careful review, an Early Site Permit (ESP) was submitted in September 2003 for North Anna. The initial Technical Review has been completed and the ESBWR was chosen as the plant type for the Dominion COL. NRC’s approval of the COL is expected in ~24-36 months and the construction of the new plant expected by 2015

After providing a status update of Dominion’s activities, Christian provided his opinions on the “Alternatives to Nuclear”:

After providing a status update of Dominion’s activities, Christian provided his opinions on the “Alternatives to Nuclear”:

- Oil is running out of reserves while consumption is increasing
- Coal production releases harmful greenhouse gases
- Natural gas resources show the U.S. basins are declining and the finite supply is decreasing

In closing, Christian advised young professionals that they can be a strong voice in addressing the issue of a diverse energy supply in the U.S by recommending two actions:

- Contact congressmen and get involved in current Energy Bill Legislation
- Help educate the public by providing positive and correct information

Following Christian, Commissioner Merrifield started by giving a brief history on the conception of the NRC and its function in the industry. The NRC was created in 1975 when the Atomic Energy Commission was split (DOE and NRC). It's main function is to have cradle-to-grave oversight of civilian uses for nuclear material, including having NRC inspectors at 67 out of the 103 US reactors that are in operation. The agency's current work focus is on the following areas: plant power uprates, license renewals and design certifications. In regards to plant power uprates and license renewals, there were 100 uprates from 1977-2004 and the NRC believes that every U.S. nuclear plant will seek to renew. 1/3 of the plants in the U.S have already completed license renewals. In regards to design certifications, Commissioner Merrifield provided the following updates: The ESBWR, GE's advanced BWR design, is undergoing pre-application review which is expected to be complete in 36-48 months; EPR, AREVA's advanced PWR design, is currently being built in Finland, however, is not licensed in the U.S. Discussions were held in regards to the pre-application review of the EPR in support of a 2007 planned design certification application. The AP1000, Westinghouse's advanced PWR design, was issued the final safety evaluation and final design approval on September 13, 2004. The design certification rulemaking is scheduled for completion in December 2005. With all of the US reactor activities, the NRC faces the same challenges as the rest of the nuclear industry: increased work load and limited resources. Given these challenges, the NRC cannot focus on both LWR license needs and Generation IV license reviews. However, recognizing the importance for Yucca Mountain, the NRC is currently increasing their staff in order to accept the Yucca Mountain license application by the end 2005 or early 2006. Commissioner Merrifield closed his discussion by stating that, "This is a dynamic time in the future of nuclear energy and the young generation in nuclear will have a chance to shape the future of the industry."

According to Knox, "developing countries such as India, China, Korea want what the U.S. has and are working very hard to get it. Also, oil prices are spiking because of global competition for oil." Also, Knox points out that "the U.S. government is not going to build new nuclear power to produce electricity for consumers (it is not their job). Utilities and industry employees have to step forward and take the lead on building new plants in the U.S." He emphasized that the industry should not look to DOE to lead this initiative.

Knox also shared the rationale behind why France is nearly 80% powered by nuclear energy and why they built so many nuclear plants in its time. After reviewing France's resources, France recognized that they did not have enough resources for coal, gas, etc. and therefore, nuclear became France's answer to address the resource limitations.

In regards to the DOE perspective on Yucca Mountain, Knox notes two very key points:

- The schedule isn't as important as quality.
- It must be done the correct way, the first time and we cannot fumble the ball

According to Fertel, "YGN is in great position to provide leadership for future of the industry." He notes the following on several key industry issues:

- License Renewals – 1/3 in process of renewal and 1/3 completed. 100% are expected.
- Three ESPs were received by Exelon, Entergy, Dominion
- A fear exists that increased security focus after 9/11 at nuclear sites have taken the focus off of safety
- Non-Proliferation – Need a stronger more effective non-proliferation infrastructure. U.S need to be a stronger player in this infrastructure
- Operational safety for nuclear countries - U.S. should assist other countries in regulating nuclear properly. An incident in other countries can hurt the image of nuclear in the U.S.

Fertel continues by providing a status update on public opinion:

- 83% of U.S. public believe nuclear is key part of energy mix
- 58% agree with building new plants
- 69% of U.S. is fine with building new plants on existing sites

Fertel even noted that the environmentalists are changing their tune. Patrick Moore (Greenpeace Founder) stated in an interview that "the U.S. should build more nuclear."

Fertel observes that the future of nuclear requires that the industry continues to operate plants safely and reliably, increase its capacity factors (current average 91%), as well as be proactive with the management of problems and issues. He concludes his discussion by asserting that the keys to the nuclear energy's success is preparing the industry to build new plants in the US, resolve the problem with nuclear waste (and begin discussions on reprocessing), resolve the Yucca Mountain issue as well as market alternative uses of nuclear power such as hydrogen production.

### 1.1.3.1 Question and Answer

**Q: What would have to happen for us to have a reprocessing plan in the U.S.?**

**A:** Because uranium has not been extremely expensive there is currently no need to reprocess. Although reprocessing is one alternative to Yucca Mountain, the process is expensive and the plutonium extraction part of process will raise many concerns. This option could be a potential alternative that will be looked at in the future. Reprocessing in the U.S. may not happen, however, we should stay abreast of the technology.

**Q: Is public opinion really a roadblock to building new plants in the U.S.?**

**A:** With the correct infrastructure in place within the U.S. for building new plants, the public opinion may cause delays but not roadblocks. The question is not public opinion, but which utilities are willing to make the investment. Other countries such as China and Japan have not shown the U.S. anything we don't already have in place. The U.S. has a different infrastructure which includes public interaction. In the past this has caused roadblocks, however, with proven safety record and a better licensing process in place we can overcome potential roadblocks.

**Q: How is the financial environment in the U.S. changing as a result of new nuclear plants?**

**A:** The industry is putting together more attractive financial packages. Wall Street wants to understand the risk and returns on building a plant. The nuclear industry needs to come up with some financial case that is believable. Although the nuclear industry has a good safety performance history, utilities would like the risk to be hedged with multiple owners.

**Q: How will transportation of nuclear material to Yucca Mountain affect the industry in the future?**

**A:** States that are not educated on nuclear power are going to create pushback, and the U.S. has to find a way to overcome those hurdles. The nuclear waste issue is political and not related to any safety or technical problems. Highly radioactive material shipments are made everyday.

1.2 Monday, May 16, 2005

### 1.2.1 2005 NA-YGN Visionary Leadership Award

This year, NA-YGN presented for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in its history, the NA-YGN Visionary and Leadership Award to Mr. George Hairston, III, Chairman of Southern Nuclear Operating Company. Hairston was presented the award by Lisa Shell, President of NA-YGN, whereby it was recognized that without his leadership and support for NA-YGN, NA-YGN would not be where it is today. In honor of Hairston's efforts, the future name of this award will be The George Hairston Visionary Leadership Award.

### 1.2.2 Gaining Support for NA-YGN in Your Organization

This panel discussion was moderated by Chris Comfort and focused on local chapter generation and maintenance as well as the executive perspective on young professionals. The four featured speakers of this session included:

#### NA-YGN Local Chapter Perspective

- Elizabeth McAndrew, Constellation Energy
- Brent Williams, Bruce Power
- Craig Minarich, PSEG Nuclear
- Duncan Robinson, Westinghouse Electric Company

#### Executive Perspective

- Steve Byrne, Senior Vice President, Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer, South Carolina Electric & Gas
- Carrie Phillips, Governmental Relations Manager, Southern Nuclear Operating Company

#### **Calvert Cliffs**

The first presenter was Elizabeth Mc Andrew from Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs. Their chapter has been in existence for two years and she spoke about the steps they have taken. During the first year, a charter was developed and management sponsorship was obtained. One issue that arose after the first 18 months was the succession path for officers/leaders in the organization. The solution for the Calvert Cliff's NA-YGN chapter was to provide the development opportunity to a new hire who had recently joined the company. The new perspective on leadership provided the opportunity to change the direction the chapter was taking to emphasize professional development. Besides gaining a new viewpoint on the chapter direction, it also gave the new employee the ability to be engaged in activities at the plant.

Also, NA-YGN was expanded to be a fleet-wide organization at Constellation. The sponsor was a senior director. A core team was

formed and a fleet charter was written. This team meets monthly via teleconference to resolve issues.

### **Bruce Power**

Brent Williams and Tracy Edwards updated the group on the progress that was made in the last year towards creating a NA-YGN chapter at Bruce Energy in Canada. Brent attended the International Youth Nuclear Conference (IYNC) in Toronto last year and took information back to start the process of forming a chapter. One key point that was emphasized was that a strong commitment must be made to creating a chapter. Then, the new chapter should be communicated out to perspective members, as well as line and senior management who can provide support. The NA-YGN concept, mission statement, and proposed activities should be presented in the message provided to those individuals who can lend support. Also, more experienced people should not be turned away from helping in the new NA-YGN chapter, even if they do not meet the “less than or equal to 35 years old and less than 10 years of nuclear experience”. They add a new perspective and have extensive experience that would be an asset to a new chapter. At Bruce Power, an advisory committee was formed from nominations from upper management so the entire site is aligned and moving towards the same goal. Williams and Edwards emphasized that advertisement is key to a successful kickoff meeting. Extensive details were provided to management so their people were able to support the meeting. The meeting was held during work hours and food was provided. The advisory committee gave presentations about NA-YGN and also surveyed those attending what topics they wanted to cover. Out of the survey, their members wanted the following activities: Social Activities, Professional Development, Nuclear Technology and Education Outreach. It was decided that there would be 4 to 5 meetings per year. Currently, there are approximately 40 active members. Some upcoming activities for the NA-YGN chapter at Bruce Power are a simulator demonstration, information on TMI and Davis Besse, and leadership seminars.

### **PSEG**

Craig Minarich provided an update on the NA-YGN chapter at PSEG. Currently they have 50 to 60 members, with 10 to 15 being active members. Some of the activities they have participated in during the last year include the NA-YGN Drawing Contest, Career Fairs/Career Days, Science Fairs, and they also have monthly speakers to discuss various career paths. Some of the strengths of the PSEG NA-YGN chapter are strong membership at one location and extensive Executive/Management Sponsorship. Also, funding for the chapter is provided by the Corporate office and the chapter's recognition is growing on-site. However, the chapter also is facing several challenges, including lack of time/resources during outage times on site. It had been discussed that the meetings and

activities may be put on-hold during outage time to eliminate the burden on members. Also, the proposed merger with Exelon causes uncertainty for the future of the chapter, however the group plans to bring the benefit of the NA-YGN chapter to Exelon. This will provide networking opportunities for members. In the future, the chapter would like to start a mentoring program and also work with the Training Department to develop a rotational work program to implement at the site.

### **Westinghouse Electric Company**

Duncan Robinson from Westinghouse Electric Company provided an update on their NA-YGN chapter. There are a total of 70 members between two sites, however approximately 15 are active members. The chapter has an Executive Board of 10 people, who are elected. The focuses are social activities, professional development and community service. More experienced members can become mentors to younger members and provide feedback.

Realistic goals should be set in terms of active membership. All meetings should have an agenda and a goal so members do not lose faith and interest. All actions should be followed through and results communicated out to the chapter. Verbal communication is more effective than relying solely on email to encourage members to be active participants. If the number of active members is small, it is easy to 'burnout' those members by relying on them to participate in all activities. It is important to always recruit new members, especially new employees to the company. A leadership position in NA-YGN provides them with professional development opportunities, as well as more people to share the responsibilities in the chapter.

### **South Carolina Electric & Gas Company**

Stephen Byrne provided attendees of the conference ideas of how to promote NA-YGN to upper management to gain support. First, arrange a meeting to discuss what upper management has to gain from NA-YGN at their site. For example, they gain feedback from younger employees and get "free" on-campus recruiting. SCE&G provides \$10,000 a year for chapter activities and for members to attend conferences. Also, the company benefits from the education outreach that NA-YGN does through the Drawing Contest and by talking to various school groups. It's also important to appeal to your upper manager's sense of service. Most nuclear power plants are in rural communities and NA-YGN does public outreach by participating in local activities. The general public finds it refreshing and responds more favorably to young people talking about nuclear power. It is difficult to give the public a first-hand view of a nuclear power plant because of increased security after 9/11.

## **Southern Nuclear**

Carrie Phillips discussed the benefits of participating in NA-YGN. It provides networking opportunities for new employees. As the chapter grows, it will motivate and involve others to become involved in NA-YGN.

### 1.2.2.1 Question and Answer

**Q1: The plants in my company are within 80 miles of each other – how do you structure the chapter with the plants in different locations?**

**A1.Q1:** In the chapter for Constellation Energy, each site has a president but then there is a delegate that serves as the spokesperson for the fleet-wide chapter.

**A2.Q1:** At Westinghouse, there are two sites and it is an ongoing struggle. There are issues with not isolating the sites that are in outages.

**A2.Q1:** The chapter needs to provide more definition and structure to the organization to make it work at different locations. The chapter at Bruce Power has an advantage since it is all at one location.

**Q2: What obstacles have been overcome in a financial sense?**

**A1.Q2:** The conference expenses were provided by the training department in support of an initiative to maintain a diverse workgroup. Also, HR provides money for annual events.

**A2.Q2:** For the 2005 conference, there was no money budgeted. However, for the 2006 budget, the NA-YGN chapter worked with the financial planners to provide money to attend conferences. This allows for more independence for the organization.

**A3.Q2:** The chapter will benefit from developing a budget because it covers planned activities. This plan is helpful when discussing upcoming events with upper management.

**A4.Q2:** The NA-YGN chapter at Southern Nuclear has money to use as needed. This eliminates the need to solicit upper management each time money is needed to support a chapter activity. This allows the group to have more control over the activities.

**A5.Q2:** Once you have a senior manager as a sponsor, ask them to contact additional upper managers to promote the chapter and perhaps gain financial support. Also, when the chapter is first starting, ask for money for a specific event, instead of a lump sum. This lets your sponsor, as well as the company, know what the chapter's focus will be in its activities.

**A6.Q2:** Duke was able to link WIN and NA-YGN together as support organizations. This allows them to have an annual budget of \$25,000 per group.

**Q3: What activities did not work for your chapters?**

**A1.Q3:** Social events are popular at Constellation.

**A2.Q3:** Some chapters do not need NA-YGN to provide a social atmosphere, but may look to it for professional development and public outreach. Make sure all the meetings you hold have content and provide information to the members.

**A3.Q3:** Provide different activities to keep the interest alive in the organization. Plan social, professional development and public activities where the chapter can participate.

**A4.Q3:** Associate the value of participating in NA-YGN for the members.

**A5.Q3:** Do not try to create completely new activities for NA-YGN to sponsor. Support some of the activities that are already established in the community, such as science fairs or activities hosted by the local ANS, ASME, WIN chapters.

**A6.Q4:** Do not make the entire organization engineering-based. Recruit and retain members from all departments to create a diverse chapter that is involved in several different activities. Also, do not rely on email for communications – talk to the members in person or on the phone to keep the chapter alive.

**Q4: How do we get other departments involved in NA-YGN?**

**A1.Q4:** Talk to their senior leaders and speak at their staff meetings to recruit members for NA-YGN. Also, provide information to people who wish to continue their education. Arrange tours at other places with a nuclear associations besides nuclear power plants to gather interest. Appeal to the needs of the different departments.

**A2.Q4:** Remember nuclear is a huge field that encompasses several different career opportunities.

**Q5: What role does the Core Group (National) provide for developing a new chapter?**

**A1.Q5:** Information about NA-YGN and established chapters are available on the website. Contact any member of the Core Group and they will provide assistance.

**A2.Q5:** They can help you contact other established NA-YGN chapters to get more information.

**A3.Q5** Let the Core Group know you are organizing a new chapter and then they can get you in contact with other people.

**1.2.3 Young Generation Influencing Policy – National Impact**

This panel discussion was moderated by Dr. David Pointer and focused on the legislative process and how NA-YGN members can have the maximum impact. The featured speakers for this session included:

- Jason Remer, Manager, Security, Nuclear Energy Institute

- Annie Caputo, Professional Staff Member, U.S. House of Representatives
- Clint Williamson, Professional Staff Member, U.S. Senate

The first speaker, Mr. Remer, delivered a slide presentation “Influencing Your Member of Congress”. During the presentation, Remer stressed several factors to successful interaction with your representative. First, know who you are whether that is a young nuclear professional, an industry leader or just an engineer with a ‘better mousetrap’. Second, know what your goal is; to favorably influence your legislator towards nuclear policy, a local issue or just to make the world a better place. Once your goal is established you need to figure out how to achieve that goal. The most effective way to do that is to build a relationship with your legislator and a key in building that relationship is to connect your goal with their needs.

Remer then went on to discuss how congress members tend to focus their attention into a ‘Pyramid of Interest’. This diagram places the congress member at the apex of the pyramid with 5 tiers or groups supporting them. The lowest tier or base of the pyramid is the General Public. The congress member might see public opinion poll results but they have the least impact on the decisions the congress member makes. The second tier is the Voters in congress member’s district. This group has more impact on the congress member since they have the power to vote the congress member back in or to elect a replacement. The third tier is Contributors. This group has more impact than general voters because their financial support helps drive the congress member’s campaign. The fourth tier is the Congress Member’s Staff, the people that help with the daily operations of the congress member’s office. The fifth and final tier is the Congress Member’s Campaign Staff. This group has the most impact on the congress member’s decisions and actions as they are directly responsible for whether or not the member is elected to office.

To be effective in your interactions with your legislator, you must realize this Pyramid of Interest does exist and use it to help in your relationship with your congress member.

During remainder of the presentation Remer encouraged young professionals to be diligent in building their relationship with their congress member. It takes time to build a relationship and that’s even more true with a legislator since there is a extreme demand on their time. Remer also recommended that you do your homework. While in college, you might have heard from your professors that the only stupid question is the one not ask. That doesn’t hold true for dealing with your representative. There is plenty of publicly available information about your congress member that you shouldn’t waste their time asking about what college they attended or how they voted on bills. And as odd as its seems given how new and inexperienced you feel you are in

the industry, if you provide accurate and balanced information to the congress member they will come to rely on you as an expert source in the industry.

Remer concluded his presentation with a section he referred to as 'How to eat an elephant', a task that seems impossible but simple if taken one bite at a time. Once you have arranged for a meeting, whether with the congress member or with one of their staff members, limit yourself to a list of one or two issues for that first meeting. Develop one page summary/fact sheets for those topics so the congress member and their staff will have the information at their finger tips. And most importantly follow up with the staff, thanking them for the meeting and reinforcing your position as an information source.

The speakers that followed, Annie Caputo and Clint Williamson, built on Remer's presentation and added emphasis to certain points Remer made.

Caputo became enthralled with nuclear technology while writing a high school paper, and went on to a degree in nuclear engineering and communications. Driven by a desire to provide more advocacy for nuclear technology, she pointed out how available information on the legislators is, including the House of Representatives' website, [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). This information can be used to help target which members to speak with as well as helping young professionals be relevant, direct and specific in their contact with legislators. One point of advice that she gave in dealing with legislators is to start with the conclusion, as odd as that seems to engineers, but is logical given the extreme time constraints place on legislators since it cuts down on the evidence and reasoning that you need to present to support that conclusion. Another piece of advice she gave was to be honest and up front in your dealings with the congress member because despite the reputation that politicians are shady and underhanded, the best way to gain and keep the member's trust is to be honest. Annie mentioned that a great opportunity to start a relationship with a congress member is to volunteer for their campaign.

Williamson, who degreed in social science and began his career with the Senate staff from New Mexico, emphasized that DC is built on relationships and representatives may be more accessible that you'd think. Many members hold monthly 'town hall' meetings through out their voting districts which usually last an hour and have an average attendance of 25 – 30 people. Williamson also encouraged young professionals to be 'the expert' for their legislator because despite their inexperience in the industry they are still more knowledgeable than legislators and are usually a more welcomed source of information than someone that's spent decades in the field and considered 'tied' to the industry. In being the expert, Williamson cautions young professionals to stay away from using acronyms and avoid being

overly technical. Williamson also suggests that you draft up a one page summary of your points on a given issue in clear concise language and send those to a congress member's staff. This helps the staff inform the congress member and also gets your name on their radar so that when that issue comes up, the staff will contact you for more information.

#### 1.2.3.1 Question and Answer

**Q: What is the impact of the falsification of documents on the Yucca Mountain Project?**

**A:** The falsified documents were falsified Quality Assurance Records and not technical data. While it did spark an effort to verify the technical data used, it is not as bad as the Media is making it out to be, and it will be far from the last criticism of the project.

**Q: What is the Price-Anderson legislation and the status of its renewal?** Price-Anderson is legislation that was enacted in 1957 to limit the amount of insurance a nuclear plant needs to carry. It carries measures to subsidize that insurance by spreading the cost of damages from a nuclear accident across the fleet of nuclear reactors, with owners paying a total of up to \$10.5 billion. There is currently a draft renewal of the Act in the Energy Bill before the Senate.

**Q: How are the legislators in DC addressing the issues between the state of Nevada and the Nuclear Industry?**

**A:** The local area surrounding Yucca Mountain is supportive of the project, however, the Nevada State Attorney General will continue to fight the project, debating any perceived crack in the project. Such issues in question are the radiation standard, with a new draft of the standard coming this summer, and the question of document falsification, which the Attorney General considers a critical victory in stopping the project. NEI and DOE will continue to defend the project against legal attacks.

**Q: In regards to pollutants, if nuclear is not the solution, what is the answer?**

**A:** This topic is a very partisan issue with Republicans being upfront and recognizing that action needs to be taken whereas the Democrats are touting renewables like solar and wind as the answer to the problem. Most shy away from nuclear based on the knee-jerk reaction that nuclear waste is worse than other pollutants. Williamson mentioned an article in Wired Magazine that described the 'False-God hope' of renewables as a main energy source, given their highly unreliable nature which makes them unstable for base load application. With its new public association as a zero greenhouse gas emissions power source, nuclear power is gaining increased support especially among environmental activists.

#### 1.2.4 Guest Luncheon Speaker: Frank Luntz, President, The Luntz Research Companies

This session focused on how to effectively communicate with the public and understanding the importance of word choice.

Luntz is one of the most honored communication professionals in America today. Time magazine named him one of “50 of America’s most promising leaders aged 40 and under” and he is the “hottest pollster” in America according to the Boston Globe. Luntz has written, supervised, and conducted more than a thousand surveys and focus groups for corporate and public affairs clients in 11 countries since forming The Luntz Research Companies in 1992. More than a dozen Fortune 100 companies have turned to Dr. Luntz for communication guidance

Luntz pounced on the participants immediately and chose a person to conduct what he calls the “A to Z” exercise. He assigned this person the pro-nuclear stance and he selected the anti-nuclear stance. In “A to Z,” the first person must begin their first word with A, the second must follow up with the next letter in the alphabet. This exercise teaches the importance of listening, quick-thinking, and making your point. An example of the beginning of each line of conversation follows (editor’s note: this exercise went too quick to capture the true essence of the exercise):

Anyone can agree that nuclear waste...  
But you have to consider...  
Can’t you at least acknowledge...

Tips and tidbits Luntz shared with the group:

- Don’t use the word “mistake” – it kills your credibility (i.e. TMI)
- Use the phrase, proven reliability and safe to operate
- America perceives an “electricity” problem more so than an “energy” problem. Be sure to talk about the “electricity” industry when you want to discuss stability of supply. When referring to “energy”, the first thought favors oil, not nuclear.
- There was a time when youth did not support nuclear. Remember that the time is changing. We are not the TMI generation.
- Use these key words: proven, clean, reliable, sustainable
- Emphasize the importance of re-licensing. Discuss the continuous upgrades on existing plants with new technology and making sure the plant continues to operate safely and reliably.
- The single best energy context is the following: we need to find a comprehensive long-term solution to make America more energy independent and energy efficient. Nuclear is

clean, reliable, and sustainable – it must be one important part of a comprehensive policy.

- Focus on energy independence and efficiency: We should rely on American ingenuity, not the Saudi Royal Family. We need to continue re-licensing our existing plants and build new plants.
- Don't beat up on the other energy sources. Recognize the other side's point, but promote and defend nuclear. For example, wind power is a great source, but there is not enough land to support the base load energy demand.
- America does not want to face another California incident or any blackouts and expect utilities to be there for them 10 years from now.
- Win the safety message and recognize that mothers can be your toughest foe. Convey visuals such as state of the art design, stout structure, concrete, no windows, automated security (i.e. 24 hour monitoring system and fail-safe mechanisms) and trained professionals. These images make people feel safe about nuclear. Chain-linked fences and armed security guards do not.
- Know the close and acknowledge the risk: Like all sources of energy, nuclear power has its risks. But, when you consider the benefits of nuclear energy and its proven record of safety, it's worth the risk.
- Don't over promise, you don't want to under deliver.
- Recognize that public meetings are typically attended by those who are not our age, but between the ages 50-60, because they have this fear. If you don't acknowledge their fear, you can't address it. If you don't address this fear, you can't overcome their fears.
- Don't use the words "spent fuel" or "nuclear waste". "Used fuel" is more effective.
- What you say doesn't matter, it's what they hear. Humanize and personalize nuclear power. If they see that you truly believe in it, they will likely believe it as well.

#### 1.2.4.1 Question and Answer

**Q: How do you respond to a question that potentially requires a technical answer?**

**A:** Try your best to make your responses more human and less engineering-like. Use metaphors and analogies that people understand. If you have to use technical words, apologize for the technical answer. Recognize that it is advantageous to go above their heads for a few minutes. It adds credibility. Just don't go too long or you will lose them and they won't get it. Also, they need to feel that you're being honest.

**Q: How do you counter someone who believes "nuclear" causes cancer?**

**A:** You receive more radiation from an xray at the airport than from a nuclear power plant and why would ~700 people choose to expose themselves to radiation at a NPP if it wasn't safe. In actually, nuclear science and technology helps prevent and cure cancer as well as other diseases.

**Q: How do you respond to the question regarding tax subsidies/credits for nuclear power?**

**A:** We're investing in nuclear and we're benefiting from nuclear energy right now. We are trying to catch up to the Europeans.

### 1.2.5 Young Generation Influencing Policy- Local Impact

This panel discussion was moderated by Anne Shatara West and focused on the importance of local involvement when addressing the community's concerns. The featured speakers for this session included:

- James Scongack, Corporate Communications, Bruce Power
- Candice Trummel, Commissioner of Nye County, NV
- Lisa Shell, Engineer III, Dominion Generation

Scongack provided information on the political outlook for nuclear power in Ontario. He stated that Bruce Power has six operating plants that provide 4700 MW of power, which equates to 20 percent of Ontario's electricity. With the planned phase out of coal by 2007 (which equates to approximately 7500 MW, 25 percent of the province's electricity), refurbishment of existing nuclear plants is required. He noted that the peak demand will increase 1.3% each year over the next 10 years and that nuclear and natural gas are the only realistic large-scale generation options for Ontario. Scongack listed the following actions for the industry:

- Operational performance of existing plants must improve – unplanned and/or forced outages negatively impact nuclear.
- The financial performance of plants must improve – the building and operation of plants must be economically sound.
- To support new plant builds, the industry must brand nuclear as a zero emitter of greenhouse gases and improve public perception about safety and waste issues.

Scongack emphasized that one-on-one engagement is critical to influencing public opinions and that key messages to convey to the public are that nuclear energy is a reliable, environmentally clean, and an affordable source of power,

Trummel provided a local perspective on Yucca Mountain as Commissioner of Nye County, Nevada. There is a need to address the local needs of surrounding communities and develop mutually agreeable solutions to impacts and concerns. This is important from

both a national energy and an economic perspective. While the opposition to the Yucca Mountain repository is more frequently heard, the counties and communities immediately surrounding the site are supportive of it. She mentioned that the local communities have developed solutions to many of the impacts and concerns raised about Yucca Mountain, and they need the industry's support in getting those solutions heard. Her advice to the nuclear industry was to maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts when discussing Yucca Mountain and nuclear energy. She also emphasized that the nuclear industry "must shed its cloak of secrecy." There is currently too much bureaucracy in the nuclear industry, and there must be intergovernmental cooperation to resolve the outstanding issues. Trummel closed by stating that industry must help Nye County in promoting Yucca Mountain as a solution. This can be done by showing tangible solutions to all issues, involving local governments in the decision process, providing accurate information and cultivating relationships with the local communities.

Shell discussed how the local Dominion NA-YGN chapter in Virginia has been increasing its focus on public outreach, especially once Dominion submitted the ESP in 2003. Shell described the anti-nuclear campaign which focused on security, health impacts, economical and environmental impacts of nuclear. The local members attended the anti-nuclear events, took note of their issues and spoke to concerned citizens. Shell provided insight in regards to attending anti-nuclear meetings:

- Be prepared
- Have a positive message and stick to it
- Be respectful
- Always take the high road when being confronted because this gives a good impression as well as portrays a professional demeanor
- Do not make up answers to questions you do not know
- Try to minimize technical responses
- Encourage colleagues to attend

Shell mentioned additional public outreach ideas such as writing letters to the editor, reaching out to the media, being part of the local public hearings and creating a FAQ of local concerns on the chapter website. In closing, Shell emphasized the importance of staying knowledgeable about issues, signing petitions, writing letters to local government officials and to be engaged on the Public Information Committee.

General conclusions from this session were that there needs to be more leadership by the industry, better performance by the Department of Energy, and better partnership with local communities to influence public perception and policy. It was also highlighted that though the issue of energy independence resonates more in America than Canada, US policy does influence Canadian policy.

## 1.2.6 Annual Meeting and Open Discussion

### Past President

This session was designed to officially pass the torch to newly elected officers as well as provide an overview of activities under each Core position. Bragg-Sitton, outgoing President, expressed much gratitude to the outgoing officers for their support over the year. In becoming Past President, Bragg-Sitton will be chairing a new group: Knowledge Transfer Task force, please contact Bragg-Sitton with questions or if you would like to be a part of the team.

### President

Shell, incoming President discussed her objectives for the upcoming term. Shell emphasized the importance of keeping the momentum going as well as a focus on inter-society relationships and encouraging NA-YGN members to get involved with their technical societies, such as ASME, ANS, WIN SWE, SNM, HPS, etc. She also reminded members that the core is available to support local chapters, but it's up to the local chapter as to it's true impact.

### Vice President

Pointer, incoming Vice President, discussed that as vice-chair of ANS' Young Professionals Group, he will work on improving the relationship between ANS and NA-YGN. The purpose of this partnership is to reduce the amount of time it takes to organize events with ANS, benefit from ANS discounts and a way to open the door to the ANS organization for NA-YGN members. Eventually you need to graduate from NA-YGN and this would make a smoother transition. NA-YGN will not become a part of ANS.

### Professional Development Chair

Buu, expressed an appreciation for everyone's hard work in putting together the "Breaking the Barriers" Workshop. Workshops take a lot of work and require a committee, if you are interested in being a part of the Program Committee or have ideas for the next year's workshop, contact Buu. Upcoming conferences to register for, be a part of and/or help develop:

- 2005 Winter ANS Meeting, Washington D.C. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- 2006 NA-YGN Workshop, San Francisco, CA, May 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- 2006 ANS Annual Meeting, Reno, NV, June 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- 2006 IYNC, Stockholm, Sweden, June 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

### Treasurer

West's responsibilities include cafepress.com, sponsorship committee, and a proposed paper contest. Cafepress.com is the website that sells NA-YGN apparel. The sponsorship committee is responsible for finding sponsors so NA-YGN can continue with great activities, but the

same organizations sponsor us time and again, if you have ideas of new sponsor join the committee and/or contact Anne

Also, West would like to start a paper contest for the best paper and also give out chapter awards, but this also takes money, which is why sponsorship is so important

### **Public Information Chair**

Stuart will focus on educating the public and strong participation at public NRC meetings. He'll also continue championing the NA-YGN's Annual Drawing Contest.

### **Communications Chair**

McAndrew will be spear-heading the Communications Committee and soliciting future Go Nuke articles from all NA-YGN members. Also, follow up to the visits to the Senate and Congress will be the responsibility of the Communications Chair.

### **Canadian Affairs Chair**

Williams, Canadian Affairs Chair discussed his objectives for the next year, increasing the percentage of Canadian membership at NA-YGN events and reaching out to different industries that use nuclear science and technology

### **US Affairs Chair**

Robinson, US Affairs Chair, expressed for those who are interested in starting a new US chapter to please contact him or Pointer. He'd like to see more joint-chapter meetings occur in the next year, so use your contacts from the workshop and make a commitment to get your chapters together

### **Mexican Affairs Chair**

Ms. Aida Contreras, spoke on behalf of the Mexican Affairs chair, Mr. Armando Gómez Torres. Contreras expressed an appreciation for everyone's hospitality as well as proposed activities to increase Mexican participation in NA-YGN. By connecting with AJENM and inviting AJENM members to become NA-YGN members via the AJENM website and also partnering with a Mexican Nuclear Society for the 2006 annual meeting, they hope to increase Mexican involvement in NA-YGN activities, locally and nationally.

### **Technical Listserv Discussions**

If you are interested in technical listserv discussions there are two currently established: Safety Analysis and Reactor Engineering. They have not been used as of yet, but if you would like to join please contact Comfort.

## 2. CAPITOL HILL VISIT

### 2.1. Overview

Participants of the workshop were invited to meet with Members of Congress and/or their legislative assistants at their respective offices on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Nine groups were created and split into their respective regions. Participants from the same companies were divided to increase networking opportunity and to add diversity of perspectives. Group leaders were identified for each group, provided copies of the NA-YGN leave-behind and led the discussions for the group. Each group had 3 different appointments. Group leaders were also instructed to follow-up their appointments with thank-you notes. The visits were organized by Leslie Barbour and Kris Baumgartner of NEI.

Overall, participants had a very positive experience on the Hill. They enjoyed the chance to talk to an “outsider” about nuclear energy. The workshop topics must have prepared some participants too well because they wanted to discuss the anti-nuclear position during their appointments. Despite the chance to discuss the anti-nuclear perspective, many appreciated each appointment and the opportunity to discuss current and future nuclear energy for the United States. Overall, there were two significant benefits to the day’s meetings. The first was that the participants gained insight into the legislative process and how people work on a day to day basis to craft what becomes policy and law. The second benefit is the opportunity we now have to network with those who influence policy, and to possibly be a future resource for their questions when they are seeking more information.

### 2.2. Who NA-YGN Met on Capitol Hill

In Section 2.3, NA-YGN compiled feedback on specific appointments, however, feedback on every appointment was not provided. Please note that the following Members of Congress and/or their legislative assistants were visited:

#### 2.2.1 House Representatives

- Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) & Paul Doucette
- Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN)

#### 2.2.2 Senatorial Staff

- Stephen Boyd of Senator Sessions (R-AL)
- Christine Heggem of Senator Burns (R-MT)
- Russell Williams of Senator Domenici (R-NM)
- Ashley Horning and Matthew Beynon of Senator Santorum (R-PA)
- Matthew Rimkunas of Senator Graham (R-SC)
- Doug Clapp of Senator Murray (D-WA)
- Chad Metzler of Senator Kohl (D-WI)

### 2.2.3 House Representative Staff

- Ray Fitzgerald of Representative Shimkus (R-IL)
- Karen Long of Representative Whitfield (R-KY)
- Alon Kupferman of Representative Wynn (D-MD)
- Jeff Goff of Representative Knollenberg (R-MI)
- Mark Anderson of Representative Blunt (R-MO)
- Eric Loewen of Representative Hagel (R-NE)
- Rogan Kelly of Representative Ferguson (R-NJ)
- Alex Beckles of Representative Towns (D-NY)
- Ashley Hoy of Representative Sue Myrick (R-NC)
- Michelle Dallafior of Representative Strickland (D-OH)
- Elizabeth Bartheld of Representative Sullivan (R-OK)
- Pat Cavanagh of Representative Doyle (D-PA)
- Joel Brubaker of Representative Shuster (R-PA)
- Greg Thomas of Representative Barrett (R-SC)
- Cody Stewart of Western Caucus/ Representative Cannon (R-UT)
- Tim Aiken of Representative Moran (D-VA)

### 2.2.4 House Science Committee Staff

- Alisa Ferguson of House Science Committee
- Charlie Cooke of House Science Committee
- Chris King of House Science Committee
- Marsha Shasteen of House Science Committee

## 2.3 Group Feedback

### 2.3.1 House Representatives

Representative Biggert (R-IL) and Paul Doucette Legislative Director spoke to the group about the importance of the nuclear energy being part of the US energy mix. Over 50% of Illinois' electricity is nuclear-generated. Biggert is an avid supporter of the industry, and recently traveled to France to view their used fuel reprocessing process. She will continue to support the nuclear-friendly bills, and pushes for money allocations to support the industry.

Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN) (report unavailable)

### 2.3.2 Senatorial Staff

Stephen Boyd of Senator Sessions (R-AL) was not able to have a lengthy discussion due to the highway bill, but was able to spend a brief amount of time with the group. The success of this meeting was when Boyd expressed that he was happy to see the young faces of nuclear. Some lobbyists do not have a vested interest in what they are lobbying, and therefore this group was more credible.

Christine Heggem of Senator Burns (R-MT) was involved with the highway bill. The group was able to introduce themselves and provided additional contact information for any follow-up questions or discussions.

With Russell Williams of Senator Domenici (R-NM), the group discussed NA-YGN and the objectives of the organization. They also expressed gratitude for the continuous support Domenici has provided for the nuclear industry.

Ashley Horning and Matthew Beynon of Senator Santorum (R-PA) wanted information on maps of nuclear locations, percent of nuclear power in Pennsylvania, facts on benefits of nuclear power in Pennsylvania, and transport routes for spent fuel.

Matthew Rimkunas, Legislative Assistant to SC Senator Lindsey Graham is very knowledgeable on nuclear issues and technologies, although he is interested in learning more, and respected the collective knowledge and experience of the NA-YGN members who had come to visit. He made it abundantly clear that Sen. Graham R-SC, wholeheartedly supports the continued use and expansion of nuclear energy, for its environmental and economic benefits to his constituency in S.C.

Doug Clapp of Senator Murray's office (D-WA) brought forth that his main concern was the issues with a contamination cleanup in Washington State. The group felt unprepared to deal with this issue specifically. However, positively-received discussions were held in regards to refurbishment and new plant build options and how this would provide high paying jobs in construction and plant operations, as well as provide future environmentally important technologies.

Chad Metzler Energy Staff to Sen. Kohl (D-WI) discussed Wisconsin's views on the nuclear industry, stating that the state as a whole is accepting of re-licensing for existing plants, but is opposed to the creation of new plants. Approximately 20% of Wisconsin's power is generated by nuclear means. Chad stated that the public was still too uniformed about the issues related to nuclear power, and automatically associated the term "nuclear" with terms "radiation, Three-Mile Island, and Chernobyl." A clear, concise strategy must be developed to inform the public.

### 2.3.3 House Representative Staff

Ray Fitzgerald of Representative Shimkus (R-IL)office noted that with Exelon in Illinois, they had a very positive perspective on nuclear energy. Fitzgerald was interested in having additional information on nuclear medical isotopes, was able to receive

information from the group and recognized that NA-YGN would be a resource for future questions.

Karen Long of Representative Whitfield (R-KY) was pro-nuclear, however did not feel that new nuclear plants will be built in the United States during her lifetime. Although agreeing that nuclear was needed as part of the energy mix, she did not believe the growth of nuclear capacity would happen. Long encouraged NA-YGN to do a mass mailing to Members of Congress and felt that this effort would make a strong impact on decisions on nuclear legislations. Long also encouraged increasing the grassroots initiative and believed that it will have a big impact on the future of nuclear energy in the United States. Long has seen many organizations who were focused on nuclear and hoped that with NA-YGN being young and enthusiastic that NA-YGN would be more successful in conveying the message about nuclear energy.

Alon Kupferman, Legislative Director of Senator Wynn's (D-MD) office was very supportive of nuclear energy. They added more to the energy bill for hydrogen production. The group also provided information regarding AREVA's gas-cooled reactors.

Jeff Goff, Energy Staff to Chairman Knollenberg (R-MI) spoke with the group about Chairman Knollenberg's direct involvement as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development. He works to allocate funds to various industries, including nuclear power.

Mark Anderson of Representative Blunt (R-MO) was instrumental in developing the energy bill and was very personable. Mr. Anderson gave the group advice, noting that the industry needs to take a proactive measures for new plant builds and increasing nuclear capacity in the US versus having the government subsidize the efforts. Should the government be involved, all of the pre-requisites and hundreds of requirements set forth by the government will lose the cost-effectiveness of new plant builds. He also recommended taking an environmental stance with coal and build on the emission-free aspect of nuclear. In regards to used fuel storage, he felt that the public perception of Yucca Mountain is wrong. Yucca Mountain isn't a dump, it's a storage facility. The industry must reach out and educate the public about Yucca Mountain. If you can't see it, taste it, hear it, feel it, then people fear it. He felt that the public perception was hurting Yucca Mountain and making it an issue.

Eric Loewen, Legislative Fellow and ANS Fellow of Senator Hagle's office (R-NE), was very familiar with NA-YGN and recognized that with the new YGN-ANS interface it will require resolution of inter-organizational issues. Also noted was that the Senate staffers use Loewen as the main contact for nuclear information. Loewen then

took the group to the Rotunda and the underground subway reserved specifically for members of Congress and staffers.

Rogan Kelly of Representative Ferguson's office (R-NJ) enjoyed discussing nuclear energy with young corporate representatives in lieu of lobbyists. Initially, the discussion was the low environmental impacts of Hope Creek and Salem. Prior to the implementation of these plants, the main source of electricity for NJ was coal. Ferguson was very supportive of those two plants and nuclear energy. Kelly enjoyed going on plants tours and found them very educational. The discussions were dynamic and included topics about storage, transportation and Yucca, TMI, and observations on how historically the industry did not take a very proactive stance.

Alex Beckles of Representative Towns (D-NY) felt NEI was not doing an overly good job at educating politicians, including those that support nuclear.

Ashley Hoy of Representative Sue Myrick (R-NC) was very pro-nuclear and excited to visit with the NA-YGN members. She believed NA-YGN's focus on public outreach will be key in providing the correct information to the public. Hoy noted that Myrick also visited France to see the reprocessing process and felt that the trip was very informative on nuclear energy.

During the visit with Michelle Dallafior of Representative Strickland's office (D-OH), the group wanted to understand the reason why Strickland voted against the energy bill in the past. It was noted that the stumbling blocks were mainly non-nuclear related and rested mainly in the political arena. Dallafior expressed Strickland's disappointment when USEC's enrichment facility was moved out of Ohio due to the loss of jobs that were incurred.

Elizabeth Bartheld of Representative Sullivan's office (R-OK) provided a different proponent perspective because, although sites are prepared, there are no nuclear power plants there. Oklahoma is very much a gas and fossil fuel state, and wishes to have nuclear plants. Information was provided on environmental impacts and the group addressed questions on transportation and cask storage.

With Pat Cavanagh of Representative Doyle's office (D-PA), the group discussed NA-YGN and the objectives of the organization. Cavanagh also provided advice on how NA-YGN can be more involved in the legislative process and emphasized the importance of staying in touch. One key tip was that NA-YGN should try and meet with representatives at their home office.

Joel Brubaker of Representative Shuster (R-PA) wanted a practical 1-2 page informational packet with facts and figures.

Greg Thomas of Representative Barrett (R-SC) appreciated meeting Brian Acampora, a member who lived in the district and worked at the Oconee plant. Thomas shared that Barrett himself actually grew up about 10 miles from Oconee Nuclear Station. Thomas was knowledgeable about nuclear and asked the group the two questions that he gets asked the most: safety and what to do with used fuel. The group spoke very eloquently and in regards to the issue of security and safety associated with the transportation of spent fuel and the security of spent fuel casks located on site used the reference of "driving an 80 mph train into the cask" and explained some other testing procedures that spent fuel storage goes through. The staff member actually said he would use our example in the future because it put things in perspective and could be visualized. Also, Thomas has not been to an operating commercial nuclear power plant and Acampora gave him his card and offered for him to come and visit.

Cody Stewart of Western Caucus or Representative Cannon (R-UT)'s office told the group that the functionality of the Western Caucus was to bring together the concerns of the Western region of the United States. Discussions were held about the Browns Ferry re-start and Commissioner Trummel's presentation at the Workshop. Stewart liked the suggestion to hear a local perspective from Commissioner Trummel.

Timothy B. Aiken, Legislative Director for VA Representative James P. Moran, stated that Rep. Moran D-VA, sides with environmentalists (of which there are substantial numbers among his constituents) for approximately 95% of the issues, but recognizes the benefits of nuclear energy. He has concerns with the security issues of storage of used fuel on-site, particularly while it is in the spent fuel pool, in keeping with the National Science Academy report. Representative Moran and his staff were invited to tour Calvert Cliffs and/or North Anna if they had a chance, so they can see and better understand the security measures that are in place to address these issues.

#### 2.3.4 House Science Committee Staff

Alisa Ferguson and Chris King of House Science Committee, of Representative Bart Gordon (TN)'s office wanted to learn more about the challenges of the industry and young professionals of the industry. Ferguson and King were interested in hearing both the pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear perspective and appreciated meeting with the NA-YGN group.

Charles E. Cooke, Minority Professional Staff Member of the Committee on Science for the House of Representative strongly

supports nuclear energy and has a very good understanding of the issues, as well as the complications of the legislative process. He is optimistic for completion and passage of the Energy Bill during this legislative session. The legislation is being crafted early enough in the session to allow time to effectively iron out differences between the House and Senate versions. In addition, the White House is taking an active leadership role in making this legislation a priority. The House better understands now which issues the Senate is inflexible on, so they can avoid those bitter pills in their version of the Energy Bill.

Cooke informed the group that the House Science Committee has oversight of the national labs and DOE supported research and development. Any research the industry thinks they might benefit from may be worth bringing to Mr. Cooke's attention. He can identify an issue to the national labs and ask for a capability statement, and then come back to the industry with what research the labs can do, and what results they could expect to report. A company may then follow up with targeted research contracts. One example he gave was research on gas line cracking.

Marsha Shasteen of House Science Committee mentioned she was not just concerned with nuclear, but all power plants and major industries. She was pro-nuclear but definitely had concerns, especially when it came to spent fuel storage and, in particular, the safety of spent fuel pools. Reprocessing was also discussed. The group did their best to address these concerns without going into too much detail, but Shasteen began to focus on the developmental side of science (i.e. females in nuclear power plants/engineering and educating youth in America). Shasteen's concerns may not have been fully addressed during this visit.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, NA-YGN had an overall impressive few days in Washington D.C. So much so, that this "brief" synopsis became a detailed report. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the workshop and report possible, including our sponsors for the workshop who were:

- American Nuclear Society
- AREVA
- Constellation
- Department of Energy
- Nuclear Energy Institute
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Westinghouse Electric Company

Now, mark your calendars for May 16-17, 2006 for next year's NA-YGN Workshop! ☺