

NMMSS news

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY & FOR NMMSS USERS

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Office of Security and Safety Performance Assurance Reorganized

On October 21, 2005, the DOE Office of Security and Safety Performance Assurance (SSA) announced its new Office of Material Control and Accountability (SP-70) with D.L. Whaley as the acting director. The Office of Material Control and Accountability is responsible for all aspects of SSA's material control and accountability (MC&A) and sealed source operational activities including the operational responsibility for management of the Nuclear Material Management and Safeguards System (NMMSS), the Local Area Nuclear Material Accountability Software (LANMAS) program, and the New Brunswick Laboratory. In addition, the Office of Material Control and Accountability will provide technical expertise and facilitate initiatives needed to address MC&A issues and promote improvements within the Department. As part of its function, the Office of Material Control and Accountability will assume the responsibilities of the former MC&A Task Force and co-chair the MC&A Quality Panel.

As part of the Office of Material Control and Accountability, Peter Dessaulles remains as the DOE NMMSS Program Manager and may be reached at 301-903-4525 or at pete.dessaules@hq.doe.gov.

Correction to Back Reference Requirements for DOE

DOE Manual 470.4-6, Section B, states that back references are required for corrections (pages IV-8, V-2). The statements were also contained in the previous reporting instructions (DOE M 474.1-2A). However, for DOE contractors, the reporting of back reference numbers is only required in two instances:

1. The facility reporting the correction is an IAEA-selected facility.
2. The transaction being corrected is an import or export.

For all other corrections, the reporting of the back reference number remains optional.

If you have any questions related to DOE requirements for reporting back reference numbers on corrections, please contact Tina Barnett at tbarnett@nacintl.com or 678-328-1126.

Input Needed for the 2006 NMMSS Users Annual Training Meeting

The 2006 NMMSS Users Annual Training meeting will be held May 23 through 25 at the [Caribe Royale](#) in Orlando, Florida. The sponsors are now in the process of planning the meeting. In order to make the meeting as productive as possible, we need user input as to topics to be covered in papers and open discussions. Please take a moment and provide this valuable feedback to us.

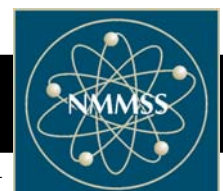
In addition, we are looking for volunteers to present papers, chair sessions, and participate in the round table discussions. Getting more users involved will make for a more interesting and useful meeting. Please forward your input to Dan Collier at 678-328-1120 or dcollier@nacintl.com

Reports Distribution Update

If you receive NMMSS reports on a regular distribution schedule, within the next couple of months you will be receiving a listing of the reports you receive. NMMSS will be requesting that you update the listing. Any non-responses will result in reports being removed from distribution. This is an effort to increase the efficiency of NMMSS operations. Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Juan Subiry at jsubiry@nacintl.com or 678-328-1146.

Offering of NMMSS Training for NRC Licensees

Another offering of a NMMSS training course for NRC licensees is tentatively being planned for February 2006. The course is designed for



individuals with limited experience in NRC reporting requirements related to nuclear material and inventory reporting to NMMSS. There is no cost or prerequisites for the course. The exact dates will be determined if enough people express interest in attending. A minimum class size of five (5) students is required in order to justify conducting the course. If you are interested in attending, or have a particular topic you would like us to address, please contact Ron Bonifay at rbonifay@nacintl.com.

A Special Message for NRC and Agreement State Licensees

For the past couple of years, the NRC staff has worked with the DOE, the NMMSS operator, and Licensees to improve the quality of Licensee data contained in the NMMSS. Between October 2003 and February 2005, all Licensees confirmed their holdings of special nuclear materials (plutonium, enriched uranium, and U-233) and foreign obligated source material (depleted uranium, natural uranium, and thorium). The result is that the NMMSS and all Licensee accounts have been rebaselined for nuclear material required to be reported to the NMMSS.

The NRC has identified another action, timely closure of "open transactions", which we believe will improve the quality of Licensee data contained in the NMMSS. An open transaction means that either a shipper or receiver involved in an activity documented on a DOE/NRC Form 741 has not submitted their information to NMMSS.

Typical examples include:

- 1) A licensee facility receives a reportable quantity of nuclear material, which is required by NRC regulations to be reported to the NMMSS, but does not report the receipt to the NMMSS. In this case, the NMMSS would be aware of the shipment because the shipping party had reported this activity to the NMMSS.
- 2) A licensee facility reports their facility information for nuclear material import or export but does not supply the foreign facility version of the transaction as required by current regulations.
- 3) A receipt at a licensee facility is reported as an interim receipt (i.e.: A/N) and the facility is expected to submit a final receipt (i.e.: A/E) after

measurements are completed.

- 4) A DOE/NRC Form 741 documenting a shipment, receipt, or measurement may have been lost in transmission and not received by the NMMSS operator.

For each of the examples listed above, the NMMSS lists each activity as an open transaction. In order for the NMMSS to proceed with monthly data processing, the NMMSS "generates" a licensee submittal for each open transaction. The "generated" values listed for the open transaction exactly matches the values reported by the other party on their DOE/NRC Form 741. These NMMSS "generated" values are replaced with licensee values when the licensee submits a DOE/NRC Form 741 to the NMMSS providing confirmation of shipment or receipt.

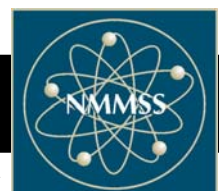
Clearly, the most accurate information for shipments, receipts, and NMMSS projected material balances result from having actual reported values instead of NMMSS "generated" responses.

To this end, starting October 1, 2006, the NMMSS reconciliation procedures will include a requirement that the NMMSS not accept values generated as a result of an open transaction when reconciling licensee submitted inventory and material balance information.

Because reviewing and replying to open transactions from previous NMMSS process periods and reconciliations could require significant licensee resources, either of the following methods can be used by licensees to close open transactions:

- 1) The licensee can receive the NMMSS report, TJ-011B, review the open transactions listed and respond to each one with a DOE/NRC Form 741 submittal.
- 2) The licensee can review the TJ-011B and ask the NMMSS to generate a DOE/NRC Form 741 that accepts the other parties values. The Licensee could then review the generated DOE/NRC Form 741 and, if acceptable, the licensee could return it to the NMMSS as a submittal. The NMMSS will treat such action as a formal Licensee submission.

As previously stated, starting October 1, 2006, licensees will need to close all open transactions or the NMMSS will not be able to complete reconciliation activities with your site.



Licensees do not need to wait for an annual reconciliation with the NMMSS to close open transactions. Licensees are encouraged to start reviewing and closing open transactions now.

NRC staff plan to have a session at the May 2006 NMMSS Users Annual Training Meeting to review improvements to the NMMSS data. However, if you have any concerns with this action prior to that meeting, you are encouraged to contact Brian Horn or Larry Harris at the NRC. They can be contacted at NMMSS@NRC.GOV.

Attention Licensees

As part of a continuing NMMSS data quality initiative the NRC has directed NMMSS to identify Licensee balances of materials not currently required to be reported under NRC regulations (privately owned deuterium, tritium, curium, americium, neptunium, californium, berkelium, and enriched lithium as well as most privately owned source material with no treaty obligations.) Such balances were generated by licensee information submitted to NMMSS.

These "non-reportable" materials are not reviewed during the NMMSS reconciliation procedure. Therefore, having these materials in the NMMSS database lessens the accuracy and value of reconciled values in the NMMSS database.

At NRC's direction, NMMSS has started contacting licensees concerning their balances of these materials listed in NMMSS and requesting their assistance in developing transactions to remove the book balance. To preserve historical information, no transactions previously sent to NMMSS are actually being removed from the database. It is envisioned that a Licensee would submit a DOE/NRC Form-741 A/M transaction, with an optional concise note attached, to offset the current non-reportable balance.

This action is not designed to impact the reporting and/or balances of DOE owned materials currently in licensees's inventories. Additionally, when there is good cause, the NRC may choose to forgo the complete removal of non-reportable balances for some licensees.

Over the next several months, NMMSS staff will be contacting selected licensees to begin this process.

You are urged to assist in this important effort. NMMSS staff can provide you with a number of report products that will identify how these balances were acquired at NMMSS. Additionally, NMMSS staff is prepared to assist you with the development of a transaction(s) to rectify this situation.

Additional assistance can be obtained by contacting Juan Subiry at NMMSS. Mr. Subiry can be reached at 678-328-1146 or via email at jsubiry@nacintl.com or you may contact Brian Horn or Larry Harris of the NRC via email at NMMSS@NRC.GOV.

Submitting Data Requests

In order to improve the service and quality of special data requests, all requests should be forward to one of the following NMMSS personnel:

General Requests:

Ron Bonifay, rbonifay@nacintl.com or 678-328-1116

Gary Hirsch, ghirsch@nacintl.com or 678-328-1117

Foreign Obligations Requests:

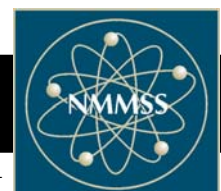
Michelle Romano, mromano@nacintl.com or 678-328-1112

The personnel will discuss your needs in depth and verify that you are receiving the information that meets your needs.

A special data request is a request for information and/or a report that is not received on a regular (monthly, quarterly, etc.) basis. To be added to distribution for a standard report at a standard frequency, please contact any NMMSS analyst.

Distribution Problem with August/September NMMSS News

Due to a change in email programs at NAC International, there was a technical problem in the distribution of the August/September issue of the NMMSS News. If you did not receive the issue via email, it is available at www.nmmss.com or you may contact Shirley Williams (swilliams@nacintl.com or 678-328-1206) to have a copy emailed to you. Please accept our apologies for the distribution problem.



Meet the Staff

The NMMSS News will begin featuring and introducing a member of the NMMSS staff each month beginning with this edition. The purpose is for you to become more familiar with that individual in order to enhance customer service.

This month's featured analyst is Jay Riggins. Jay is a five-year veteran of NMMSS, and is known for his proficiency at NRC reconciliation. He has expert knowledge of the NMMSS reporting instructions and can be relied upon to provide professional advice on handling difficult reporting questions. In addition to NRC reconciliation, Jay provides routine support to daily operations. Jay has recently received DOE security training and certification as the backup to the NMMSS classification officer.

Jay may be contacted at jriggins@nacintl.com or 678-328-1128

Transaction and Inventory Due Dates For DOE Sites

Please note NMMSS transaction and inventory due dates for DOE sites are as follows.

Reporting Month	Transactions Due	Inventory Due
November 2005	December 12	December 15
December 2005	January 12	January 16
January 2006	February 10	February 15
February 2006	March 10	March 15

Calendar of Events

Dates	Events
March 21-24, 2006	MCA-112, NMMSS I, for DOE entities, Albuquerque
May 23-25, 2006	2006 NMMSS Users Annual Training Meeting, Orlando
June 20-22, 2006	MCA-212, NMMSS II, for DOE entities, Albuquerque

2005 NMMSS Holiday Schedule

NMMSS Closed	Occasion
December 23 & 26	Christmas Holidays

2006 NMMSS Holiday Schedule

NMMSS Closed	Occasion
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2, 2006
Martin Luther King's Birthday	Monday, January 16, 2006
President's Day	Monday, February 20, 2006
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29, 2006
Company Designated Floating Holiday	Monday, July 3, 2006
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4, 2006
Labor Day	Monday, September 4, 2006
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23, 2006
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 24, 2006
Christmas Holiday	Monday, December 25, 2006

Disclaimer

The NMMSS News is published at the direction of DOE and NRC. General comments on the publication can be made to Dan Collier of NAC (dcollier@nacintl.com, 678-328-1120), Peter Dessaulles of DOE (Pete.Dessaulles@hq.doe.gov, 301-903-4525), or Brian Horn of NRC (BGH1@nrc.gov, 301-415-8128).

