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Trip Report for TRANSSC 31 and 8th Meeting of the NSGC November 2-6

TRANSSC-31 and the 8th Meeting of the NSGC were held from November 2nd to the 6th. I attended portions of the NSGC meeting on November 3rd and 4th. The remainder of my time was spent at TRANSSC 31. The NSGC meeting agenda had a session for a joint discussion with TRANSSC on the Coordination of Nuclear Security Guidance on Transport and the UN Orange Book. Unfortunately the priority of TRANSSC 31 was to evaluate a significant number of proposals to SSR-6 and SSG-26 and decide whether the proposals justified entering a revision cycle for SSR-6 and SSG-26, as such the TRANSSC 31 meeting was unable to support the joint session. There were however two important agenda items during the NSGC meeting that was of interest to ISSPA. These were to review the draft revisions of NST048 *Security of Radioactive Material in Use and Storage and of Associated Facilities*, (revision to NSS No. 11) and NST044 *Security of Radioactive Material in Transport* (revision of NSS No. 9). There was a significant amount of discussion by the NSGC regarding both revisions, the majority of the comments raised during the meeting supported the revision, there were some comments that were critical of the revisions. In the end, both revisions were approved for submission to Member States for 120 review, the intent is to have these reviews conducted in parallel. The goal would be to publish the revised implementation guides Q4 2016, this is an optimistic goal.

One significant comment from the NSGC was to reevaluate the categorization scheme and move away from the D values. It is unlikely that this change would happen in the near future and may not be pursued at all. A change in the categorization scheme would affect many documents other than NSS No 11 and 9 as well as some member state security regulations, such as the NRC's Part 37 regulation, which is based on the current categorization scheme. At this time I don't believe this to be an important item for ISSPA. There is not much support from member states to reevaluate the categorization method.

As mentioned above, the TRANSSC 31 meeting was primarily dedicated to the review of proposed revisions to SSR-6 and SSG-26. Mr. Rick Boyle chaired the portion of the



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TRANSSC meeting (November 3 through 5) that evaluated the proposals. Over 100 proposals were reviewed during the plenary meeting. There were no surprises in regards to the outcome of the review and the decision was made by TRANSSC to enter a revision cycle for SSR-6 and SSG-26. The revision process is expected to take 2 years and the earliest we may see publication would be Q4 2018. Below are a few items worth noting:

- The German proposal to require a working life in the special form certificate was withdrawn.
- The proposal by WNTI to sub-divide the cargo hold of aircraft to support Exclusive Use shipments on an aircraft was withdrawn but further work will be conducted.
- There will be changes to the A1 and A2 values, including new isotopes. The A1/A2 Working group have not calculated exempt quantity and exempt consignment values for the new isotopes and have been tasked with doing so.
- The 20% increase in dose rate following the NCT drop test is being revised so that a successful test can be demonstrated if the dose rate does not exceed a contact dose of 2 mSv/hr (200 mr/hr).
- 1973 Type B packages will be phased out.

A copy of the final resolution table will be provided after it has been made available to TRANSSC members.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John J. Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John J. Miller