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# Newsletter



## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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*Visit our web site at [www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org).*

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## Upcoming Meetings

Margaret McCarthy/Chris Martel

The schedule of meetings for the remainder of the chapter year has been tentatively set:

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

Mark your calendars! Especially make sure to set aside December 10<sup>th</sup> (holiday meeting) and June 1<sup>st</sup> (annual meeting). Details for all of the events will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

## New Members

**John Sumares**

Many new members have been admitted to NECHPS over the past six months. Please welcome:

Sassan Abdollahzadeh  
Barbara Bastenbeck  
William Hoey  
Elizabeth Kay  
Salvatore LaRosa  
Curtis Liddle  
Corrine Mancevice  
Peter McGondel  
Christopher Melhus  
James Nelson  
Matthew O'Neill  
Dianne Quintero  
Margaret Rakas  
Nasser Rashidifard  
Debra Sasser  
Steve Snay  
Jeffrey Chapman  
Kevin Dwyer  
Andrew Lamb  
David Schlier  
Sebastian Cannata  
Jonathan Ricci.

We'd also like to extend a special welcome to our three new affiliate members: Scientech, SEMA Technologies and Laurus Systems.

## Utilities Seek Permits for Possible Nuke Project

Contributed by Rusty Lorenzen

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Two U.S. utilities asked federal regulators on Thursday for permits to possibly build nuclear power plants on land next to existing atomic reactors in Illinois and Virginia.

The filings for an "early site permit" by Exelon Generation Co. and Dominion Resources Co. reflect growing interest in reviving construction of nuclear power stations in the United States after the industry was set back by disastrous accidents in the 1970s and 1980s.

Exelon Generation, a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corp., filed at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an early site permit to possibly build a nuclear plant on land next to an existing Exelon reactor in Clinton, Illinois.

Dominion Resources, of Richmond, Virginia, also asked for the permit that could lead to a third reactor at its twin-unit North Anna station in Mineral, Virginia.

Each company said it had no immediate plans to build new plants. The permit doesn't authorize plant construction but is the first of a two-part licensing process under NRC rules on site suitability, environmental impact and emergency planning.

The utilities said the NRC's review and approval process could take up to 33 months or more. If granted, the permit would be good for 20 years and renewable for another 20, allowing Exelon and Dominion to "bank" the land for future use.

If the companies wanted to proceed with construction, they would have to go through a second process to get a license to build and operate a reactor.

No new nuclear power plants have been put in service in the U.S. since 1996, when the Tennessee Valley Authority's Watts Bar 1 plant went on the grid in Tennessee.

New construction was halted by safety worries in the wake of the near meltdown of the reactor core at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania in 1979 and

the deadly explosion at the Chernobyl reactor in 1986 in Ukraine, then part of the former Soviet Union. Opponents of nuclear power also point to hazards raised by long-term storage of spent radioactive fuel.

But new nuclear plant construction is gaining some support in utility and government circles due to rising prices for fossil-fueled plants and concerns about the impact of their emissions on the environment. Exelon, which operates a fleet of nuclear stations in the Midwest, said the Clinton site originally was designed for two units but only one was built, and it is close to the Midwest region's transmission grid.

Dominion said the North Anna plant was planned for four reactors but only two were constructed.

## **MIT Names New Lab Director**

From *MIT News* 9/23/03

In a step that will enhance the ability of MIT to meet the next generation of research, teaching and medical-related needs in nuclear science and engineering, MIT Associate Provost and Vice President for Research Alice P. Gast has announced the appointment of Dr. David Moncton as the new director of MIT's Nuclear Reactor Laboratory.

Moncton, an adjunct professor of physics, served as associate laboratory director of the Argonne National Laboratory from 1987-2001, where he led the design, construction and early operation of the \$1 billion Advanced Photon Source. He will assume his responsibilities at MIT full time on Jan. 1 and will serve on an interim basis until then.

One of 26 small university-operated research reactors in the United States, MIT's reactor supports medical, environmental, geological, physics and materials research done by MIT and many other institutions throughout the country. It is also a teaching laboratory for the Department of Nuclear Engineering. It is the only facility in the country where collaborators from hospitals may provide advanced radiation treatment and researchers may study advanced radiation therapies for otherwise untreatable brain cancers.

"I believe that we're poised to embark on a new phase for the Nuclear Reactor Laboratory as a national user facility for Generation IV nuclear reactors," Gast said in announcing the appointment. "We are fortunate to

have this opportunity to match Dr. Moncton's scientific expertise and experience in facility management with the Laboratory staff experience in nuclear reactor operation. I'm excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with David over the coming years."

Following completion of the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne, Moncton spent two years on assignment as executive director of the \$1.4 billion Spallation Neutron Source project in Oak Ridge, Tenn. In 1987, he was awarded the Department of Energy's E.O. Lawrence Award for his outstanding research in condensed matter physics, using neutrons and X-rays. Moncton, who earned the Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1975, was a student of the late Professor Clifford Shull, co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics in 1994.

Moncton served for five years on the MIT Corporation visiting committee for the Department of Nuclear Engineering. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and has been recognized by the Department of Energy and Sigma Xi for his contributions to the community through the construction of the Advanced Photon Source.

## **New Members**

If you know anyone who wants to join NECHPS, tell him/her to visit the website ([www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org)) or contact John Sumares at 617-427-2944. Student members are always welcome, and remember, student membership is free!

## **New Address??**

To change your address or contact information, visit the NECHPS website at [www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org). Keeping this information current will ensure accurate entries for everyone in the NECHPS Membership Directory.

## **View the NECHPS History**

The NECHPS web site ([www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org)) now has a section about chapter Meeting History, as well as a listing of the previous members of the Board of Directors, and the previous Officers (great for documenting CEUs!).

## **Meeting Announcement**

***New England Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
Autumn 2003 Meeting-Tuesday, October 28, 2003***

### **The Sheraton Lexington**

727 Marrett Rd. (off Rt. 2A), Lexington, MA  
781-862-8700

- 12:00 PM Registration – Lunch will be available during registration  
1:15 PM Welcome  
1:30 PM **The New Generation of PET Instrumentation**  
Fred Fahey, D.Sc.  
Children's Hospital ! Boston, MA !  
2:10 PM **The Role of Metabolic Imaging for Radiotherapy Target Definition**  
Wade Thorstad, M.D.  
Washington University Medical Center ! St. Louis, MO  
2:50 PM **Computer Aided Diagnosis in Breast Imaging**  
Maryellen Giger, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago ! Chicago, IL  
3:30 PM Refreshment Break  
4:10 PM **Body Stereotactic Radiotherapy**  
Danny Song, M.D.  
Medical College of Virginia ! Richmond, VA  
4:50 PM **Technical Aspects of Prostate Treatment with HDR/IMRT**  
Jack Yang, Ph.D.  
Monmouth Medical Center ! Long Branch, NJ  
5:30 PM Business Meeting

<b>Format:</b>	Lecture with question period
<b>Objective:</b>	Continuing Education forum to provide medical physicists and guests with data and discussion on topics of research and professional interest.
<b>Director:</b>	Peter Biggs <a href="mailto:pjbiggs@partners.org">pjbiggs@partners.org</a>
<b>Registration:</b>	NEAAPM members: \$15                      Advance Registration required nonmembers:                      \$35                      Deadline: Monday, October 20th
<b>by email:</b>	<a href="mailto:john.willins@bmc.org">john.willins@bmc.org</a>
<b>by US mail:</b>	John Willins, PhD Department of Radiation Oncology Boston Medical Center 88 East Newton Street, EB-11 Boston, MA 02118

***Directions: Take I-95 / Rt. 128 to exit 30B, Route 2A West (towards Concord). The hotel is a few hundred yards on your right.***

## **October Meeting**

### *Medical Response to Radiation Accidents*

**Date:** Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**Location:** Publick House, 295 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Speaker:** Dr. Roan Goanes

**Cost:** \$35.00 Members, \$45.00 Guests, and \$25.00 Students

**Menu:** Yankee Pot Roast OR Roast Turkey AND  
Clam Chowder and Mixed-Green Salad AND  
Deep-Dish Apple Pie for Dessert

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Please note, you can make payment up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, please register beforehand.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration (with check to NECHPS) to:

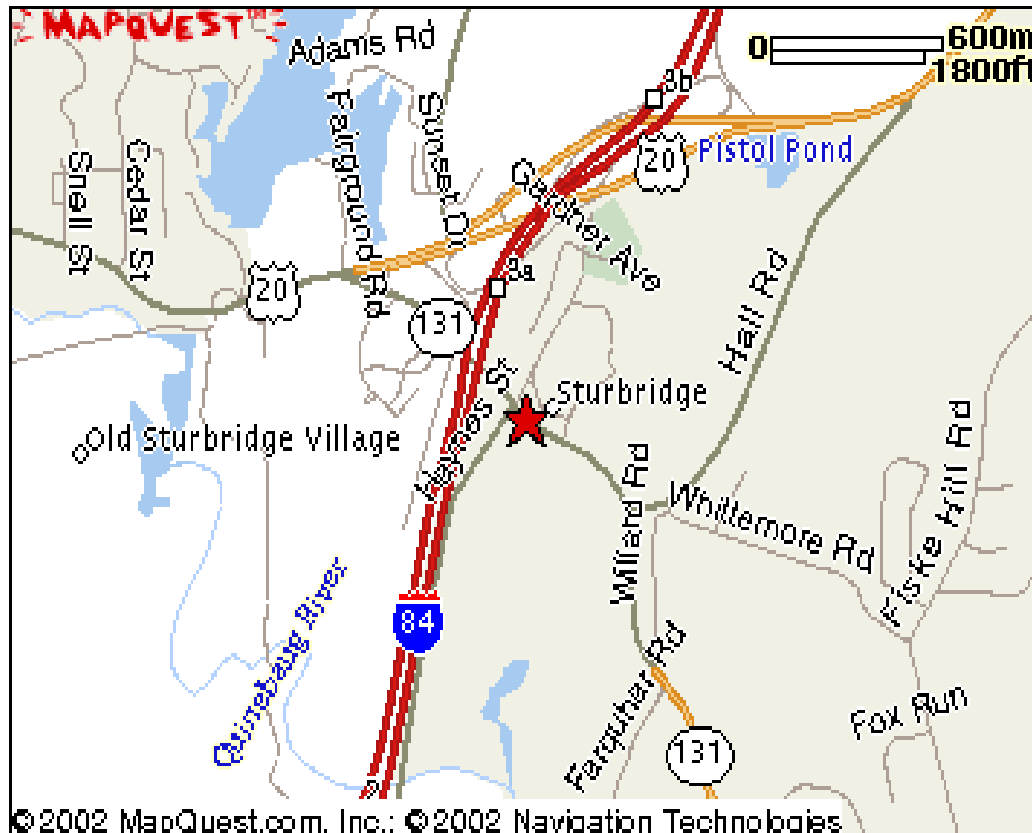
Chris Martel  
306 Hayden Rowe  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

OR E-mail to register: **chris.martel@aeat-qa.com**  
OR Register online at: **www.nechps.org**  
OR Call (781) 505-8298

***Be sure to inform Chris of your choice of entrees when registering for the meeting!***

## DIRECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC HOUSE

On the Common  
Route-131(295 Main Street)



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### Directions

From the Mass Pike take **exit 9 (I-84/US-20)** towards HARTFORD/NEW YORK CITY. Merge onto I-84 W. From I-84 W take **exit 3B (US-20 W)** towards BRIMFIELD. Merge onto US-20 W, then turn left at lights onto Route-131 S/MAIN ST. The Public House is at 295 MAIN ST.

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For additional information please call: (508) 347-3313 or go to

<http://www.publichouse.com>