2017 International RAMP Meeting - Taiwan

RAMP holds two meetings annually ~~to~~ which bring together participants and users from all over the world to discuss code usage and development. Attendees can participate in open discussions with developers, provide suggestions for code improvements, and learn more about code upgrades or future releases. The 2nd International RAMP Users Group Meeting was held April 24-28, 2017, in Taipei, Taiwan. The meeting, hosted by Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council (AEC) and Institute of Nuclear Energy Research (INER) and sponsored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, had over 60 registered users in attendance. The meeting featured four health physics codes: RASCAL (emergency preparedness and response); VARSKIN (skin dose); RADTRAD (compliance for design basis accidents); and GENII (an environmental dosimetry package). The hands-on training offered users a way to test the codes and their ability to use them while receiving direct feedback from the code developers. In addition to training, a series of "Meet the Trainer" discussions were held during which users were able to ask more in-depth questions specific to their day-to-day use of the codes. Midway through the week, attendees were invited to a tour of the Nuclear Safety Duty Center in New Taipei City that performs two roles for the AEC: for communication with licensees and the public about nuclear safety during normal operations and as a communication and emergency response center during nuclear accidents and significant radiation releases. Taiwan also arranged a tour of the National Palace Museum in Taipei City that contains a collection of Qing Court artifacts from The Palace Museum, the Jehol temporary palace, and the Shenyang temporary palace. The RAMP team would like to thank Taiwan's AEC and INER for hosting the meeting!

RAMP Team Highlight

Michael Smith, CHP, is a Project Manager in the Environmental Assessment Group of the Earth Systems Science Division at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, Washington. He recently joined the RAMP team, along with his PNNL colleagues Tonya Keller (Sr. Program Coordinator) and Lubov Lavrentiev (Project Coordinator). At the NRC's request, PNNL has been supporting the management of RAMP since 2015.

Mr. Smith has over 18 years of experience providing technical and management support in nuclear engineering, health physics, and environmental sciences, including 6 years as lead radiation safety specialist and radiation safety officer for an international project at Chernobyl, Ukraine. He has contributed to or led work in the areas of performance and risk assessment; safety, design, and ALARA analysis; dose assessment and projection; environmental assessment; environmental impact; regulatory compliance; environmental sampling, including MARLAP/MARSSIM protocols; emergency response; and public outreach.

Michael will rely on his experience as a user and developer of several RAMP codes to assist the RAMP team in achieving its mission in the areas of software maintenance and development. Michael along with the RAMP team is eager to hear your ideas for code development or other issues needing attention regarding the computer codes.

International Partners

The RAMP Team would like to give a big welcome to our three new international partners: Australia, Spain, and Vietnam. We look forward to working with your regulatory agencies in the upcoming months!

New RAMP Website

The RAMP website has new features and a modern styling that is easier for users to navigate. This one-stop website centralizes access to numerous NRC computer codes, along with technical documents, training modules, regulatory guidance, and information about upcoming workshops and meetings. The Leidos team, led by Wendy Chinchilla, deployed the revamped website during the Summer of 2017. If you haven't done so already, you are encouraged to check out the new website at http://www.usnrc-ramp.com/ and let us know what you think. Questions or comments about the website can be directed to Wendy.Chinchilla@nrc.gov or ramp@nrc.gov.

RAMP Begins Transition from Training to Technical Exchange

RAMP is a Program for Training, Developing, Maintaining, and Distributing the U.S. NRC's Radiation Protection, Dose Assessment and Emergency Response Computer Codes. Up to now the RAMP team has focused on training; however, the program has matured and it is now time to transition our efforts to address in greater depth the other mission areas of RAMP, namely software development and maintenance. As part of this process, you will see that more of our upcoming time and effort will be devoted to technical aspects of the software. One such visible change will be the introduction of technical meetings held in conjunction with the RAMP Users Group meetings. The first of these will be a VARSKIN technical meeting scheduled during the October 16-20, 2017 RAMP Users Group meeting.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Uses of VARSKIN in a Medical Hospital Environment
Michael Stabin, Vanderbilt University

Holmium for Use in Cancer Therapy
Anthony Di Pasqua, Binghamton University SUNY

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Pendant Dose Assessment
Blake Orr, ARPANSA

Dose Assessment of Hot Particle Held Stationary against the Wall of Alimentary Tract
Peter Lee & Bill Lin, NRC Region 3

Lantheus Medical Imaging: High Dosimetry Result
Michael Reichard, NRC Region 1

VARSKIN is a computer code for calculating skin dose that assesses compliance with the dose criteria of 10 CFR Part 20. The code is used to perform confirmatory calculations of licensees' submittals regarding skin dose (from both electron and photon emissions) estimates at any skin depth or skin volume, with point, disk, cylindrical, spherical, or slab (rectangular) sources, and even enables users to compute doses from multiple sources.

If you are interested in participating in the VARSKIN technical meeting and/or VARKSIN training to be offered during the October 2017 RAMP Users Group meeting, more information can be found at http://www.usnrc-ramp.com/content/ramp-users-meeting-oct-16-2017.

VARSKIN Technical Meeting Schedule at http://www.usnrc-ramp.com/sites/RAMP/files/other/Upcoming_Meeting/VARSKIN_Agenda_2017.pdf

Information about VARSKIN at http://www.usnrc-ramp.com/content/varskin-overview.

Fall 2017 RAMP USERS GROUP MEETING – Washington D.C.

October 16 - 20, 2017

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters

Radiation Protection Computer Code Analysis and Maintenance Program (RAMP)

2017 Fall Users Group Meeting, October 16-20, 2017
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
3 White Flint North, 11601 Landsdown Street, North Bethesda, MD 20852
RAMP Website: www.usnrc-ramp.com

Monday, October 16, 2017	8:00AM – 9:00AM	Registration and Check-In (3WFN-1C03/1C05)
	9:00AM – 12:00PM	Opening Remarks and Plenary Session (3WFN-1C03/1C05)
	1:00PM – 4:30PM	RASCAL (3WFN-2A14) / VARSKIN Technical Meeting (3WFN- 1C03/1C05) / MILDOS (3WFN-2A32)
		Social Night
Tuesday, October 17, 2017	8:00AM – 8:45AM	Morning Primer: HABIT Discussion (3WFN-2A18)
	9:00AM – 12:00PM	RASCAL (3WFN-2A14) / VARSKIN Technical Meeting (3WFN- 1C03/1C05) / MILDOS (3WFN-2A32)
	1:00PM – 5:00PM	
Wednesday, October 18, 2017	8:00AM – 8:45AM	Morning Primer: Radiological Toolbox and DCFPAK Discussions (3WFN-2A18)
	9:00AM – 12:00PM	RASCAL (3WFN-2A14) / VARSKIN Training (3WFN- 1C03/1C05) / RESRAD Advanced Modules (3WFN-2A32)
	12:00PM – 1:00PM	International Meeting
	1:00PM – 5:00PM	Tour of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
Thursday, October 19, 2017	8:00AM – 8:45AM	Morning Primer: GENII Discussion (3WFN-2A18)
	9:00AM – 12:00PM	RADTRAD (3WFN-2A14) / GALE (3WFN-2A18) ATMO CODES (3WFN-2A18) / PIMAL (3WFN-2A28) / RESRAD Biota (3WFN-2A32)
	1:00PM – 5:00PM	
Friday, October 20, 2017	8:00AM – 8:45AM	Morning Primer: Code Collaborations with Other U.S. Federal Agencies (3WFN-2A18)
	9:00AM – 11:00AM	RADTRAD (3WFN-2A14) / RESRAD Discussion (3WFN-2A32)
	11:00AM – 12:00PM	RAMP Closing Remarks and Ceremony (3WFN-2A18)