

KANSAS CITY SECTION 1314

By Ron Hanshaw



The NCSLI Kansas City Section 1314 meeting was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington, Kansas. The meeting was hosted by the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation. Twenty-eight people were in attendance from 12 different companies.

The meeting opened at 8:00 A.M. with refreshments provided by Wolf Creek. At 8:30 A.M., Pete De Blonk of Wolf Creek welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Tom Moreau, also of Wolf Creek, who provided an overview of the Wolf Creek facility. The group showed great interest and asked a number of questions about the facility. Some of the attendees were interested to learn that the fishing at the Wolf Creek Lake is very good.

The NCSLI Central U.S. Division VP, Robert Sawyer, provided the NCSLI board of directors update. It sounds like the annual NCSLI conference at National Harbor was particularly exciting this year.

Elizabeth Gentry of the NIST Weights and Measures Division gave the first presentation of the day on the "Metrology Laboratories State Weights and Measures Program." Elizabeth talked about the requirements for demonstrating measurement traceability for weights and measures (legal) metrology. She explained the process by which traceability hierarchies, uncertainty analyses and reporting are documented and assessed, and the resources that are available to the State laboratories through NIST. The group expressed their interest in the program with a variety of questions following her presentation.

After a break, Elizabeth Gentry continued with a presentation on the "NCSLI Metrology Ambassador's Program." Elizabeth talked about how the NCSLI 164 Education, Liaison and Outreach Committee were formed. She explained how "metrology ambassadors" encourage students to consider metrology careers. Elizabeth was enthusiastic about the outreach committee and invited attendees to become metrology ambassadors.

Jon Sanders of the Fluke Corporation gave the last presentation before lunch. Jon's presentation covered "Principles and Practical Tips about Infrared Temperature Calibration." Jon discussed the basics of infrared measurement and how it relates to calibration. He talked about the numerous error sources that are involved in the calibration of infrared instruments and provided the group with valuable information on how to get the most accurate measurements with this type of instrument. The audience's interest was expressed by questions concerning the use of infrared instruments.

Lunch was up next. Although it did take a while to get into the facility for lunch, it was worth it. After waiting to be cleared through security, Pete De Blonk offered to provide lunch free of charge to the group. Thanks Wolf Creek!

The agenda was modified to allow for a tour of the Wolf Creek facility after lunch instead of waiting until the end of the day. After donning personal protective equipment (hard hat, safety glasses and ear plugs), the attendees were split into smaller groups and headed in different directions. One group headed out to see the generating plant, while the other groups set out to tour the calibration laboratories. There was a high level of interest in both areas of the tour.

We returned to the conference room for our last speaker of the day. Mark Schiefer, of The Modal Shop, provided a presentation on "Practical Considerations in Accelerometer Calibration." Sometimes it's a little difficult to hold a group's attention after lunch, but Mark did a great job of providing an interesting and informative discussion on the subject. He started by providing the theory and construction of piezoelectric accelerometers and went on to talk about calibration; the standards used, and provided a comparison of calibration methods. Mark finished by talking about the challenges of low and high frequency accelerometer calibration and answered questions that the audience had about the subject.

The group completed evaluation forms and door prizes were drawn. The coordinator discussed plans for the next meeting and asked the group to consider hosting a future meeting. A date for the next meeting has not been set, yet. It was interesting to find that the meeting ended at almost exactly 4:00 P.M. as scheduled even though at one point in the meeting we were more than half an hour behind schedule.

We would like to thank Wolf Creek for being an excellent host by providing refreshments, lunch, and tours of the plant. They went out of their way to make this a successful meeting. We would also like to thank the speakers who all came from quite a distance. Each speaker was interesting and kept the full attention of the audience. Additionally, thanks to NCSLI for providing door prizes and to John Hoffman of Wise Safety and Environmental for providing material for the meeting.

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