NITSL NOW

Informing members about NITSL news & activities

Welcome to the March 2023 Newsletter!

Below you will find an update from NITSL Chair Amanda Engle, an update on the NITSL 2023 Conference, and a brief update from our Standing Committee Chairs.

A lot of hard work has been going on across NITSL with conference planning and initiatives!

If you aren't already plugged into a Standing Committee, now is a good time to jump in and participate.

Chairman's Update

Happy Spring, NITSL community! March is the calm before the storm for Conference planning, as tasks are quickly coming due and won't slow until the Conference is here! Fortunately, Cathy and the APS team make planning a breeze! The EC will be doing some spring cleaning for the NITSL SharePoint site in anticipation of migrating to a newer version. We know the current site isn't the most friendly to navigate and hope to improve that.

Earlier this month, the EC was hosted by INPO in Atlanta for the first time since 2019! We had an excellent time touring the facility, learning about INPOs initiatives, engaging in discussions about the challenges our industry faces, and evaluating how to evolve our relationships with advisory groups. We've got some ideas to help promote cross collaboration within our NITSL community, but we'd also like to expand our reach. This is where you can help! If you are aware of other industry peer groups that may have overlap with NITSL, please put them in contact with the EC. We may not know about them, and they may not know about us, which could be a missed opportunity to collaborate!

I wish you all well and hope that springtime makes your days better, brighter and warmer!

INPO Update

The NITSL EC and INPO IT leadership resumed their annual face-to-face meeting at the INPO building. This was the first in person meeting since the pandemic started. During the meeting, the NITSL EC toured the building and received updates on INPO IT activities, Data Science, and INPO2023 Top Priorities.

Pictured to right along with the NITSL Executive Committee: Joe White (INPO IT Director), Lem Grant (INPO Infrastructure Services Manager), and Chameka Anderson (INPO Application Services Manager).

49th NITSL Conference
Empowering the Nuclear Workforce Through Innovation
July 10 - 13, 2023

Registration is now OPEN for the NITSL 2023 Conference

You can register through this link: 2023 - NITSL Conference

Email invites have been sent out! Share with any peers that may be interested in participating in NITSL conference.

If you didn't receive the invite, please reach out to Cathy Przyjemski. We can provide the domain information you can get whitelisted to allow the notifications to come through to your utility

Keynote speakers include APS CIO Michelle Ferrera, APS VP of Site Operations John Hernandez, and, APS CNO Adam Heflin

Some topics being presented:

Being innovative doesn't have to be complex and/or time consuming. It can be as simple as a designing and building a jig to support Radiation Protection configuring whole body scanner quicker. During a general session on "Gaining Efficiencies Through 3D Printing" we will learn how Southern Company is lev-

Software Quality Assurance (SQA) can pose financial and operation risks if not effectively applied to the modern-day challenges we face. A SQA panel, made up of various individuals in the nuclear industry, will go over why SQA is required, where it stands today, and more. This will be very helpful and informative

Additional topics Include (but not limited to):

- Non-Invasive Digitization of Existing Plans and Facilities

- Learn how one company is using Dynamic Instruction software to move to digital procedures

- Vulnerability Management

- Improving the Digital System Upgrade Process

Along with industry related updates from our advisory groups INPO, EPRI, and NEI

2023 Conference Host

Standing Committees

Below you will find an update from our Chair/Co-Chairs. If you would like to participate in the discussions the group is having, please join a meeting and/or reach out to the Chair or Co-Chair

(click their names to send an email)

Infrastructure & Applications

We have some good cross sub-committee topics during the conference.

We have been able to get peers in touch with appropriate people for help. A good example is when APS reached out to see who in the industry uses ESOMS.

We have 6-7 great presentations during the conference.

We have had great attendance having between 15-20 people.
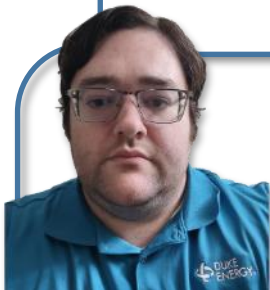
Josh Patrick

Thomas Brooks

Meeting Info:

Monthly Meeting - 4th Thurs each month, (alternate Thurs for November & December) - 4pm EST

Call in: 470-705-0860 and use conference ID: 682 395 1#

Teams Meeting Link

Digital Controls

The Digital Controls committee last met on Tuesday Feb 28th. All further monthly meetings will be held on Tuesdays and the meeting notice has been sent out to those on the list.

Looking forward to the conference and we are actively seeking the next Co-Chair for next year, bring a coworker to one of our monthly meetings, the next meeting is on March 21, at 1530 EDT (GMT-4).

Mark Whitman

Johnny Lindeman

Meeting Info:

Monthly Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of each month - 3:30pm EST

Call in: 704-659-4701 Conference ID: 316-394-272

Teams Meeting Link

Software Quality Assurance

NITSL/NIRMA Collaboration Presentation "A Bad Day in SQA and Impact to Nuclear Power" will be a General session this year at NITSL in Arizona!

We are very excited to have a SQA presentation available for everyone to come and be a part of and our goal is to make an impact and get many questions raised in our Q/A.

Many thanks to Janice Hoerber at Ameren to working on this and setting up our collaboration meetings to make this all happen.

Don't know what SQA is or what role it plays in your business? Attend our SQA 101 presentation this year.

Michelle Vera

Lacey Mowery

Want to Attend our monthly meeting? We'd love to see more utilities representation in SQA.

Email myself michelle.vera@constellation.com for information or

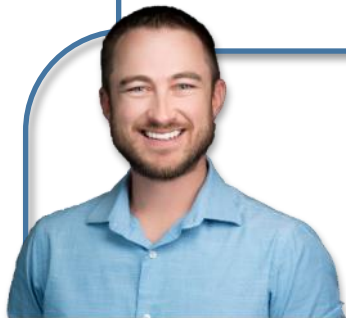to get the invite for the April SQA Monthly call on 4/5/2023 2PM EST.

Meeting Info:

Monthly Meeting – 1st Wednesday of every month from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM MST (AZ time)

Call in: 1-443-833-0044 Participant ID: 696232272

Teams Meeting Link

Cyber Security

The Cyber Security Standing Committee is a very active Committee within NITSL meeting every other week.

Calls continue to have high industry engagement, good attendance and great discussion on varying Cyber Security Programmatic or Technical strategies.

We have had five Technical Calls where we spend an hour with industry peers asking questions, guidance, and suggestions on Lessons Learned for areas of our programs where we need some benchmarking. We have sent out six industry surveys on various cyber topics that have helped utilities gain understanding on how to better support their own stations.

Michael Dack

Kurt Hofmann

We would like to see more people engaged in the Cyber Standing Committee, so if you are currently working at a utility within the NITSL organization, feel free to request to join! Our current initiatives are Vulnerability Management, Cyber Security Specialized Training, Effectiveness Reviews, and Effective System Hardening. The teams are working on their presentations for July!

Meeting Info:

We meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 11amEST.

Call in: 1-470-705-0860 Conference ID: 540838509

Teams Meeting

Georgia Power is building the first new nuclear units in the United States in three decades! Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are the first new generation of nuclear generation energy facilities. The rising demands for electricity combined with concerns about clean air are two of the leading issues generating interest in new nuclear facilities.

Fun fact: The volume of concrete used for construction could build a 3,375 mile sidewalk between Miami and Seattle.

[*source: https://www.georgiapower.com/company/plant-vogtle/fun-facts-and-faq.html*]

Vogtle Unit 3 took a large step forward to becoming operational by reaching initial criticality.

POWER Magazine captured more details about this significant event:

Vogtle 3, one of two 1,117-MW Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear reactors Southern Nuclear Operating Co. is building in Georgia, has reached initial criticality. The event marks a pivotal milestone for the Generation III+ pressurized water reactor (PWR)—the first of its kind built in the U.S.

"Initial criticality is a key step during the startup testing sequence and demonstrates that—for the first time—operators have safely started the nuclear reaction inside the reactor," said Georgia Power, a Southern Co. subsidiary, on March 6. Georgia Power co-owns the Vogtle expansion, comprising Vogtle 3 and 4 with Oglethorpe Power, MEAG Power, and Dalton Utilities. "This means atoms are being split and nuclear heat is being made, which will be used to produce steam."

Source and more details at this link POWERMAG—Vogtle 3 Reaches Initial Criticality

There are a lot of interesting initiatives being addressed across NITSL! Now is the right time to get plugged in to learn more and/or contribute to any of those. Please reach out to the Chair and/or Co-Chair for more information on how you can get plugged in.

For continuous information, connect with NITSL on LinkedIn !

The NITSL Newsletter goal is to keep members involved and informed.

Feel free to provide feedback or comments at any time!