

CSEWG Report to the NEANSC Working Group on
International Evaluation Cooperation
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The 42nd CSEWG Meeting was held at Brookhaven National Laboratory October 5-7, 1993. The next meeting is expected to be held October 25-27, 1994. A review of progress was made at this meeting, but the occasion was also used to assess the status of the U. S. nuclear data program and to formulate strategy for the future. Serious budget problems threaten the program. We are in danger of losing our measurement facilities and the resources for continued evaluation activities continue to dwindle.

Strategy

The strategy session held on Wednesday was led by D. Larson of ORNL and consisted of an afternoon of brainstorming in a plenary session. Results of recent reviews of nuclear data activities in the United States and by the NEA were factored into the discussions.

The interactions led to the suggestion that the CSEWG structure should be revised in light of current conditions and resources. A couple of models were suggested. These will be considered and discussed at the May 1994 Nuclear Data Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Some of the key considerations include maintaining current capability, focusing on problems, reaching out to the User Community, strengthening international cooperation, and providing guidance to the NNDC operation.

ENDF/B-VI Evaluations

The Evaluations Committee held a plenary meeting and individual meetings of Standards, General Purpose, Special Applications, Yields and Decay, and Charged-Particle and Photonuclear Subcommittees. Plans were formulated for the documentation of Release 2 of ENDF/B-VI and initial planning for a Release 3 following the 1994 CSEWG Meeting. A task force was set up to recommend revisions to the U-235 evaluation that will address a long-standing problem in calculating aqueous criticals. A special meeting of the Evaluation Committee will be held at the Gatlinburg Conference in May 1994.

Methods and Formats

The format manual will be updated as a result of some typos that have been uncovered, some clarifications that have been suggested, and a few changes approved at the meeting. The ENDF utility codes will be updated as appropriate. A request to increase the number of sections to 350 was approved.

Doug Muir of Los Alamos National Laboratory was named chair of the Covariance Subcommittee. He announced that manual chapters for the covariance processing modules ERRORR and COVR are now available. A full ENDF-6 MF31/MF33 processing capability now exists in NJOY 91.91 and the MF32 capability now covers all options presently exercised in available ENDF/B-VI evaluations.

C. Lubitz of KAPL reported a clarification on the use of l-dependent radii will be included in the format manual. He also described a modification to the resonance region of U-235 which will increase epithermal alpha, which will improve calculations of aqueous criticals.

Data Testing

Only the Thermal Reactor and Shielding DTA subcommittees met. Although limited in scope, data testing results are already being considered for future revisions to ENDF/B-VI. Plans are under way for documenting the results of ENDF/B-VI data testing.

D. Ingersoll of ORNL reported on an electronic database for shielding benchmarks which is being developed via collaboration with the NEA DB. It is planned to utilize the database for fusion benchmarks, and it is hoped that CSEWG will be able to eventually access benchmark data from an online system.

Measurements Committee

Don Smith of Argonne National conducted the first formal meeting of the Measurements Committee, which was formed at the May 1992 CSEWG Meeting. Among items discussed were the status of the Data Request List, the mission of the committee, and its constituency. During the immediate future, a membership drive is under way to locate and recruit interested parties.

Release of ENDF/B-V

A February 23, 1994 memo from David J. McGoff, Acting Director, Office of Civilian Reactor Development, Office of Nuclear Energy, U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) to Dave Hendrie, DOE ER-23, noted that "we no longer require restrictions on the distribution of ENDF/B-V".