2025 CMBG Conference Presentation and Breakout Descriptions

MONDAY

Welcome
Anthony Waltz, Wolf Creek

Introduction and logistical information about the conference will be provided.

Keynote
Cleve Reasoner, VP Chief Nuclear Officer, Evergy

INPO
Zack Wei, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations

This presentation from the Institute of Nuclear Plant Operations (INPO) will present an INPO perspective on the overall state of engineering and configuration management across the nuclear industry and describe INPO's CM-related activities and current focus areas.

EPRI's Digital Systems Engineering Framework
Jason Castro, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

This presentation will provide an update on activities within EPRI to support configuration management across the nuclear industry. EPRI is leading an effort to support improving the process for Digital equivalences. This time will be used to provide information on this effort as well as other CM efforts within EPRI.

Breakout Session
MM1 – CM 101
Instructor – Matt Yarlett, Westinghouse

The objective of this session is to engage new conference attendees in the Configuration Management (CM) process as presented at the conference and provide them with a capsule summary of the process.

CM 101 should provide an understanding of how the different plant organizations contribute to and support configuration control of design, processes, and equipment. There will be a discussion of the industry three-ball process model for CM equilibrium, examples of how the equilibrium can be upset, and recommended processes for restoring the equilibrium.

MM2 – Standard Design Process
Facilitator – Andrew Neal, Southern Company

This breakout will focus on the implementation and use of the Standard Design Process.

Participants should be prepared to discuss their interface procedures and any challenges they have had with the SDP. We will use this time to benchmark how other utilities have implemented the process and any actions they have taken to ensure use and understanding of the process.

MM3 – VETIP
Facilitator – Roger Andreasen, Ameren
Discuss commitments to VETIP and industry changes that impact utility's ability to procure replacement parts with proper information to maintain configuration.

NRC
Chris Henderson, NRC Senior Resident at Wolf Creek
Industry issues regarding engineering and design configuration management, from the perspective of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Vogtle 3 and 4 Update
Southern Company
An update on the status of Vogtle, units 3 & 4, will be provided.

License Renewal Boundaries on P&IDs
Benjamin Tolson, Wolf Creek
An innovative solution to combine license renewal (LR) data into the controlled P&IDs, maintaining the requirements for two different types of documents within one PDF file, while ensuring the LR drawings are accessible and up-to-date.

CM Participant Burning Questions Panel
panel of select conference speakers and breakout facilitators
This interactive session will focus on industry issues that conference attendees wish to address. Questions will be collected during both the registration process and the conference session, with a goal to allow attendees to bring up areas in which the utility is struggling, and gain OE from the industry in real time.

TUESDAY
Modernizing TVA's Software Quality Assurance Program
Josh Perrel, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
As the result of a self-assessment performed in 2023, it was identified that TVA's Software Quality Assurance Program had failed to maintain the Quality Assurance plan commitments for software. The last two years have been spent recovering the program, developing a new tracking mechanism, integrating requirements with other systems, and

engaging stakeholders. This presentation will explain that recovery process and discuss the upcoming hurdles for Software Quality Assurance in the next two years.

Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Progress and Design Control
Michel Arcand, Tennessee Valley Authority / Mike Riddle, Terra Power

This presentation provides an update on Terra Power's Natrium plant development in Kemmerer, Wyoming and TVA's BWRX-300 plant development in Clinch River, Tennessee; and Design Configuration Management plans for support of those efforts.

Breakout Session
TM1 – SMR Design Control
Facilitator(s) –Mike Riddle, Terra Power / Michel Arcand, Tennessee Valley Authority

Breakout to discuss, provide input to, and benchmark best practices for Design Configuration Management of a new nuclear project.

TM2 – Digital Software, Firmware Control
Facilitator – Josh Perrel, Tennessee Valley Authority

TM3 – Vendor Info Schedules
Facilitator – Andrew Neal, Southern Company

This breakout will focus on the process for working with equipment vendors and obtaining vendor information timely to support design activities. This has been a challenge in the industry to obtain vendor documentation timely. Participants should be prepared to discuss their utilities process for soliciting vendor documentation including any challenges and successes you have had in working with equipment vendors.

Cloud Software Control
Matt Yarlett, Westinghouse

As utilities continue to expand their capabilities with Cloud Software (or Software as a Service/SaaS), it is critical to ensure that the appropriate controls are in place. Specifically, it is essential that utilities and third-parties agree on the vendor's role in providing software for incorporation into standard business processes and how change management is addressed. This presentation will also discuss potential software quality assurance implications that need to be considered.

Recommissioned Plants
Michel Arcand, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Matt Yarlett, Westinghouse

An update on the status of stations in the process of recommissioning, and some of the configuration management challenges that accompany the recommissioning process.

Breakout Session

TA1 – NISP-EN-04

Facilitator – Alex Bowman, Tennessee Valley Authority

TA2 – Temp Changes

Facilitator – Roger Andreasen, Ameren

Discuss the interpretation and application of Temporary Alterations (INPO 12-010) across the nuclear industry.

TA3 – EOC Management

Facilitator – Andrew Neal, Southern Company

This breakout will be used to discuss the utilities management process for EOCs. We will use this time to benchmark other facilities process to identify any good practices that could be utilized. Participants should be prepared to discuss their EOC management process including any scheduled performance meetings, metrics, feedback processes used, or any other management tools that are used to ensure quality design deliveries from the EOCs.

WEDNESDAY

Breakout Session

WM1 – AI in CM: Artificial Intelligence in Configuration Management

Facilitator – Derick Stone, Bentley

Change and Modification Process

1.   Operational Efficiency: AI can analyze complex data sets to provide insights into employee engagement and performance, helping organizations develop smart strategies for managing change.

2.   Enhanced Communication: AI technologies like natural language processing (NLP) can refine internal and external communication, ensuring continual and intelligent coaching through chatbots.

3.   Predictive Analytics for Early Warnings: AI-powered predictive models can anticipate issues and obstacles before they arise, allowing organizations to address them proactively.

4.   Evidence-Based Decision Making: AI redefines the decision-making process by providing evidence-based insights that drive smarter decisions.

Asset Configuration Management

1.   Automated Identification of Configuration Items: AI algorithms can parse through vast amounts of data to automatically identify potential configuration items (CIs), reducing manual effort and increasing accuracy.

2.   Predictive Analytics: AI-driven systems can analyze data from logs, hardware, and software configurations to identify potential problems before they occur, allowing for proactive management.

3.   Optimization of Work Order Planning: Generative AI can create detailed work plans by training on enterprise and published data, improving planning efficiency and compliance.

4.   Reliability Engineering Support: AI can generate failure and effects analyses from historical data, helping prioritize and reduce serial failures, thus increasing site reliability.

WM2 – Non- Configuration-Controlled Items

Facilitator – Roger Andreasen, Ameren

In the effort to become more efficient in changing and updating plants there are requests to make components non-configuration controlled. Where is your utility's line between what configuration must be managed and what does not?

WM3 – International Issues

Facilitator – Karen Low, Wolf Creek

This is an opportunity to discuss and benchmark best practices regarding challenges and solutions unique to plants outside the United States.

Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse (Non-Nuclear CM)
Anthony Waltz, Wolf Creek

A presentation of the July 17, 1981 collapse of two overhead walkways at the Kansas City Hyatt Regency hotel and the configuration management issues (along with fast-tracked construction with reduced oversight, and the design of the walkways themselves degraded due to miscommunication, corporate neglect, and gross negligence) that led to what remains the deadliest non-deliberate structural collapse in the U.S. since 1860.

"Hot Seat" Benchmarking Panel
panel of select conference speakers and breakout facilitators (Alex Bowman, Derick Stone, and Andrew Neal)

For this 2nd interactive session that will focus on industry issues and questions submitted by conference attendees, topics will consist of any unaddressed previously collected questions as well as "off the cuff" requests submitted live, in-person, and via Slido.