

From Laura Connolly and Frank Hansen—An update on preparations for the 7th US/German Workshop on Salt Repository Research, Design and Operation.

Please be advised of the following information:

We have obtained the necessary DOE and Sandia approvals to start planning the 7th US/German Workshop on Salt Repository Research, Design, and Operation to be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Crystal City – National Airport on September 7-9, 2016. Our contract with the hotel was finalized last week. Here is some information regarding the arrangements we have made so far:

- **Point of Contact at the Embassy Suites is Ryan Wollman, ryan.wollman@hilton.com, Direct: 703-416-3849, Location: 1300 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22312, Main Phone: 703-979-9799, EmbassySuites.com**
- **The room rate is \$222 per night (DC Federal Government per diem rate)– includes breakfast, Manager’s Reception, WiFi connections in sleeping rooms, hotel shuttle between Reagan National Airport and the hotel, location is close to Metro stations for easy and convenient local transportation**
- **Conference registration fee will be \$300 – includes two lunches, AM and PM refreshments, conference room rental, A/V equipment, and WiFi connections in conference rooms, plus the hosted dinner**
- **Check-in on September 6, check-out on September 9**
- **Meeting is scheduled for all day September 7 and 8, and for the morning only on September 9**
- **Due to DOE requirements, we will not be able to open the conference registration until mid-May 2016, at which time we will add the links to the 7th Workshop website for the conference registration/payment and hotel registration**
- **Conference registration/fee payments will be closed on August 15, 2016, at which time we must pay the hotel for all conference room and food/beverage charges in advance**
- **We haven’t made a final decision regarding where to hold the hosted dinner on Thursday, September 8. We are considering Ted Turner’s Montana Grill Crystal City – specializing in American Buffalo.**
- **We are considering a special tour of the geological collections at the Smithsonian Museum, but this has not been finalized yet. This would be scheduled for Friday afternoon, September 9**
- **We will be compiling a 2017 calendar with featured “salt” photographs. We ask participants to send candidate photos (to Laura) of salt colleagues (people pictures), natural salt environments, cool micrographs, experimental rigs and tested samples, or virtually anything salt related that would light up a calendar. We will compile the calendar to be given as a conference memento.**

If you have suggestions for changes please make them known early.

Also please note that the NEA Salt Club has not yet made arrangements for a meeting during that same week.

Thank you,
Laura
505-284-3907
laconno@sandia.gov
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