

Topic Area 3 Office Hours Q&A

Q: Are there any working papers available for the things that say forthcoming at nric.inl.gov?

A: The forthcoming paper is mature but not ready for public consumption.

Q: As a follow-up, has that work been done internally at DOE or via universities?

A: A bit of both. Specific to the work being done through the Maritime Nuclear Application Group has been done through INL, the American Bureau of Shipping, and Morgan Lewis, but that working group does include universities. The NEUP work is university specific.

Q: I was wondering what the scope of the research in topic area 3 would be? For example, we are considering a project to integrate prototype micro-nuclear reactors in association with Westinghouse to supply heat to a local cement producer (Heidelberg Materials). However, as we scope this research, we would like to ensure that field simulations and eventual demonstrations are within the scope of this topic area.

A: We've had research in this area, so field simulations and demonstrations are all within the area of interest. We appreciate industry participation, but it's not required, it does make sense to get input to make sure your prototypical reactor meets the needs for the area you're looking at. This topic isn't just tied to remote locations, it can also be conventional land-based applications with advanced or existing reactors.

Q: Would looking at a topic as a feasibility study be sufficient for this topic area or do we need to go further than that?

A: It leading to feasibility is sufficient, but the basis for that feasibility would still have to be grounded in some of the things that are discussed in this topic like infrastructure design.