Hydrogen Safety Panel: Shaping Safety Awareness and Practice

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Abstract

Safety is an essential element for realizing expanded applications for hydrogen and hydrogen systems, including safe operation in all aspects: from hydrogen production through storage, distribution and use; from research, development and demonstration to commercialization. The U.S Department of Energy’s (DOE) Hydrogen Program gives safety paramount importance in all facets of its research, development and demonstration projects. The Hydrogen Safety Panel brings a broad cross-section of expertise from the industrial, government and academic sectors to help ensure the success of the program as a whole.

The Panel strives to raise safety consciousness directly at the project level. DOE requires that all hydrogen projects prepare safety plans. Guidance is provided by the Panel and safety plans are reviewed in order to encourage thorough and continuous attention to the safety aspects of the specific work being conducted. Panel-conducted site visits focus on engagement, learning, and open and active discussion of safety practices and lessons learned, rather than as audits or regulatory exercises.

This paper introduces the Hydrogen Safety Panel, describes its approaches to support the goals and objectives of the DOE Hydrogen Program and shares specific themes and examples of its work and interactions. Safety knowledge tools that have been developed to share insights, references and lessons learned from safety events and hydrogen safety best practices are discussed.

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