Present at ORNL:

Sabine, Crystal, Eugene, Adam, Ken, George, Jaime

Online:

Olivier, Ally, Sudipta, Martin, Dvora, Stephen

Document approval:

* Minutes from July 2019 conference call: approve
* Agenda for Aug. 2019 conference call: approve

1. NScD updates

SNS is currently down for a short shutdown due to an issue with the cryogenic moderator system. This shutdown started last Tuesday and the expected date for resuming neutron production is on Mon. Aug. 19. Instruments that use decoupled moderators may not be able to operate for another two weeks after neutron production resumes.

HFIR start-up is still on track for Nov. 5, 2019. Steps are currently being taken to assure sufficient fuel quality to avoid similar incidents to the Nov. 13, 2018 event. We need to send another message to impacted users to clarify that re-scheduled experiments will likely run between Dec. 2019 and June 2020. During the long HFIR outage, the collimation systems of the two SANS instruments have been upgraded and the data acquisition systems have been converted to EPICS. New detectors have also been installed at HB-2C and HB-3A, and the second HB-1A monochromator has been replaced.

Effective Aug. 1, ORNL established an STS project office. There is an ongoing search for the director of the project; the interim director is Graeme Murdoch. Several other people are moving from the Neutron Technologies Division to get involved with the STS project, including Ken Herwig. DOE has also named a federal project director and a program manager for STS. There are currently plans to complete a CD-1 review in early FY2020.

2. Scheduling and re-scheduling SNS experiments

SHUG-EC would like the neutron production planning schedule to be shared with users in a more accessible way. We already share this information for up to one year in advance on our website but perhaps users don’t know where to find it.

3. STS instruments workshop

This will take place on Dec. 9-10, 2019. A SHUG-EC sub-committee has already been established (Olivier, Martin, Dvora et al) and has actively been discussing the workshop. This sub-committee is currently determining who to invite to the workshop. At this event, we need to establish the science case for the STS, which will help to establish the instruments that we plan on building. There may be informational webinars (e.g. source characteristics) to help lead to fruitful discussions at the workshop proper. The user newsletter will advertise this workshop; it will be sent out this week.

4. Changes to NScD Software Group

The software plan presented at the DOE review was well-received and therefore we should continue to execute the plan. The SHUG-EC feels that there has not been much feedback solicited from the user community regarding software issues. To address this point, NScD made significant changes to the user surveys (just rolled out in July) requesting more detailed information about the software experience during their experiments. Maybe we can also invite Jay Billings to our next SHUG-EC conference call and we can have a webinar allowing users to ask Jay questions and present their concerns. The new software plan also proposes a new user liaison role, but this position has not been rolled out yet.

5. SHUG-EC selections

We are soliciting nominations now; these will be sent to Martin Mourigal. We have three regular positions available (three-year term) and one graduate student/postdoc position available (two-year term).

6. Next conference call: Tues. Sept. 17, 3 – 4 PM