

## Chicago Chapter of the American Meteorological Society January 9, 2007 Meeting Notes

- Chapter President Paul Dailey sent out a big thanks to Chesapeake Energy's Jon Davis and Mark Russo for hosting last month's meeting/holiday celebration! Food was great!
- Treasurer Ray Waldman reports that there are 67 paid members in the Chicago Chapter so far this year as compared to 76 last year.
- Secretary William Johnson is currently compiling a membership list for the local Chicago Chapter Directory. If you want to be included in the Chapter Directory, send in your application and dues in ASAP!
- Paul Dailey read a brief article regarding former WBBM-TV meteorologist Paul Douglas, and founder of Digital Cyclone, Inc., on its sale to Garmin for \$45 million.
- Meeting attendees: 22.
- Next meeting on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn.

The Chicago Chapter of the AMS January 2007 meeting featured speaker Mr. Mark T. Carroll, Executive Vice President of Murray and Trettel, Inc., and his subject, 'Meteorological Monitoring for the Nuclear Industry.'

A brief video presentation about Murray and Trettel, Inc. and its environmental and forecasting divisions began Mr. Carroll's topic. Mr. Carroll and Mr. Thomas R. Piazza, President and CEO of Murray and Trettel, Inc. are seen in the video explaining the two divisions of the company. The Environmental Systems Division has meteorological instrument towers throughout the seven nuclear power plant sites in Illinois which measure various meteorological conditions including temperatures at three different levels, 300, 175 and 33 feet. Fossil plant monitoring including sulfur dioxide measurement is also available. Murray and Trettel, Inc. are responsible for maintaining the meteorological equipment. The Forecasting Division receives its primary source of information through NOAA Port and the internet. Eighteen meteorologists are staffed at Murray and Trettel, Inc.

After the video, Mr. Carroll went into depth on the nuclear industry monitoring of meteorological elements. The seven nuclear power plants in Illinois are the most of any state. There are thirty years of data archived at the Illinois sites. Murray and Trettel, Inc. also have towers at nuclear plant sites in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina. Besides temperature, the meteorological towers measure wind speed, wind direction, precipitation, dew point and solar radiation. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission need twelve months of meteorological data before consideration of a nuclear power plant being built. Two meteorologists are assigned to review and analyze the data from the meteorological towers. Routine and preventative maintenance is performed once a month at each site. Calibration of the meteorological equipment is done three times a year which is one time more than NRC standards. Statistical analysis of the meteorological data is provided by monthly and yearly reports.