

EFCOG Best Practice #77

Title: Improved EMS/OSH Assessment Strategy

Facility: Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)

Best Practice

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Brief Description of Best Practice:

During the course of development of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) and Occupational Health and Safety (OHSAS) 18001 programs several methods for deploying internal conformance and compliance assessments were developed. These assessments occurred independently and created an unnecessary resource load over the course of a given year. This best practice improved BNL performance through consolidation of required EMS/OSH and compliance assessments.

Why the Best Practice was used:

The best practice was developed to reduce the audit burden on limited (contributed) resources by combining several independent assessments required for EMS and OHSAS programs.

What are the benefits of the Best Practice:

Prior to the implementation of this best practice EMS/OSH/Compliance assessments required more than ten weeks of audit time, significant contributed resource use, and more than five separate reports. The best practice consolidated this effort into one four-week process with only two weeks in the field significantly reducing resource burdens. In addition, approximately five reports were consolidated into one.

Other benefits include:

- Improved approach at recognizing "extents of condition"
- One list of findings
- Allows site sampling approach
- Concurrent with DOE audits (when possible).
- Shows ESH Directorate commitment to improve operational burden on Line.

What problems/issues were associated with the Best Practice:

The coordination of several subject matters into one assessment plan was significant. Report consolidation of findings was difficult due to a lack of consistent checklists. Future audits will standardize checklists, improve schedules, and conveniently organize subject matter. Additional issues included:

- Findings can overlap between media
- Auditor overload
- Staying on schedule
- Hard to separate EMS and OSH findings in final report
- Longer close out meetings

How the success of the Best Practice was measured:

The success was measured by the reduction in time noted above and an improved

institutional approach that allows better causal and extent of condition analysis.

Description of process experience using the Best Practice:

The development of the best practice was significantly time consuming for the project lead. Specifically in pulling together several old audit approaches into one new one. However, the expectation is that this process will continually improve over time and lead to a truly integrated approach to ESH assessments. It is a natural progression for an improving integrated safety management program and maturing EMS.