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# UPDATE...

## ***A Word From the Chair...***

EFCOG Chair, Billy Morrison  
Kurion Veolia Federal Services

It is with great pleasure and pride that I wish the Energy Facility Contractors Group a happy silver anniversary.

Twenty-five years ago this week, EFCOG formally came into existence. After receiving approval from then-Secretary of Energy Watkins early in 1991, a group of executives from the Department of Energy's M&O contractors met the first week of December 1991 to officially form EFCOG, approving a charter and electing officers. Karen Clegg of Allied Signal/Kansas City was the first elected chair of EFCOG and by the end of 1993 there were 16 EFCOG members, constituting approximately one-third of the DOE M&O contractors.

In the two-and-a-half decades since, that partnership with the Department of Energy has grown—as has our membership—but EFCOG's mission was the same then as it is today: enabling complex-wide information sharing to ensure excellence in DOE operations.

I'm proud to be part of the current EFCOG board in carrying forward this important work and honored to be working with such a talented collection of board members, working group leads and participants and member companies.

One of the most recent ways we have been partnering with DOE is in Contractor Assurance. With increasing value, attention, and scrutiny being placed on effective CAS as an essential element in improving overall governance (DOE Policy 226.2), the need to assess how well a CAS is functioning with a high degree of transparency has taken on increasing priority.

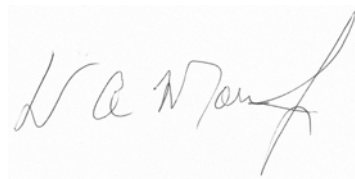
This fall, EFCOG formed a joint senior level EFCOG/DOE Task Team to identify a consensus approach for determining whether or not a CAS is effectively implemented. A diverse team of senior industry leaders are set to deliver an EFCOG Best Practice Guide to be used by DOE contractors by April 30, 2017. This will create a vehicle for CAS continuous improvement and organizational learning. I want to thank John MacDonald for his leadership on the CAS effort as well as the entire task team for their quick action.

As the year comes to a close, I also want to highlight a few key 2017 dates to put on your calendar:

- Feb. 27-28: Annual Working Group Workshop in Washington, D.C.

- June 7-8: EFCOG Annual Meeting and Working Group Meeting

It has been a pleasure working together in 2016 and I look forward to more great things in 2017.  
All the best,



Billy Morrison  
Chair, EFCOG

## **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

### **Waste Management Working Group**

*Chair – Sonny Goldston, Aktkins Global*

*Vice Chair –Renee Echols, Firewater Associates*

*Secretary – Tammy Monday, Perma-Fix Environmental*

*DOE Liaison – Frank Marcinowski, Doug Tonkay*

*EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsor – Moses Jaraysi, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation, Billy Morrison, Kurion Veolia Federal Services*

#### **Main Accomplishments**

**Completed the evaluation of realistic “return to service” radiological contamination limits for commercial equipment that has transported DOE wastes to a DOE disposal facility including the DOT HM 250 rulemaking.**

The Packaging & Transportation (P&T) Subgroup along with the Radiation Protection Subgroup of the Safety Working Group continued to evaluate the issue of realistic “return to service” radiological contamination limits for commercial equipment that has transported DOE wastes to a DOE disposal facility including the DOT HM 250 rulemaking. In a Packaging & Transportation (P&T) Subgroup meeting held in conjunction with the Contractors Transportation Management Association Annual Workshop on June 9, the types of impacts to the return to service brought about by HM 250 were discussed and evaluated.

The WMWG issued a report on the “Return to Service Impacts for Non DOE Owned Transport Conveyances Report to DOE” on June 21, 2016. The focus of the report was to provide information regarding radioactive contamination that might be identified on non-DOE owned transport conveyances, in order to reduce return to service impacts associated with detecting radioactive contamination. This report does not resolve or recommend any specific clearance criteria but rather focuses on understanding the issue and providing methods to reduce future potential exposure of equipment to DOE owned radioactive material.

The goal of this report is to provide technical input to DOE to improve consistency in application of DOE and DOT requirements and reduce or eliminate the situations where non-DOE-owned

transport conveyance equipment could incur return to service delays as a result of radiological clearance activities by DOE contractors.

**Best Practice: Overall performance standards for use by DOE sites when conducting radiological release surveys on commercial transporter equipment and vehicles.**

In a Packaging & Transportation (P&T) Subgroup meeting held in conjunction with the Contractors Transportation Management Association Annual Workshop on June 9th, the types of activities that should make up the radiological release survey protocol complex wide was agreed upon. It was developed into a best practice in FY2016. The title of the best practice is: "Non-DOE owned transport equipment return to service inconsistencies". The P&T Subgroup is expected to continue this effort by providing consultation and training in the implementation of this protocol.

**Provided technical support for the completion, response to comments, implementation and training associated with DOE Order 435.1A (Radioactive Waste Management) with a focus on Consolidation, Waste Classification, and Waste Incidental to Reprocessing.**

The WMWG provided a draft presentation to assist with the explanation of the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) Citation and Evaluation requirements and guidance. Also, the WMWG Team provided a revised definition of Spent Fuel along with guidance on classification of waste from the disposition of Spent Fuel. The EFCOG WMWG provided technical support for response to comments and implementation and training associated with the existing Order.

Training was conducted at Los Alamos the week of May 23 partially in response to investigations into the TRU waste shipped to WIPP from LANL that resulted in the WIPP shutdown. Training was also conducted for DOE-HQ in August and September. The training is expected to be given at other sites in the future.

The WMWG has worked to develop an Assessment Plan and Criteria for DOE O 435.1 to assist LANL DOE-EM and NNSA to assess the Contractor's implementation of the radioactive waste requirements as part of a response to the post WIPP shutdown investigation findings.

The WMWG participated in drafting a Technical Standard Guide for Disposal Authorization Statements for DOE Low Level Waste Disposal Facilities. As the Technical Standard went to RevCom, the WMWG commented on the Standard and is now involved in resolving Complex wide comments.

The EFCOG WMWG also developed an update to the Tank Integrity Program requirements and guidance to update DOE Order 435.1 in concert with the Tank Waste Corporate Board. Additional work is planned for the Guidance in FY17

**Portsmouth Onsite Disposal Facility Disposal Authorization Statement Approval**

As a result of the DOE Low Level Waste Federal Review Group (LFRG) review (assistance provided by the EFCOG WMWG), DOE issued a preliminary Disposal Authorization Statement (DAS) for the Onsite Disposal Facility. The WMWG assisted DOE in this effort thru consultation on the new Technical Standard Guide now in RevCom. The CERCLA ROD was approved by the State and EPA, which allows DOE to proceed with final design and construction on the Onsite Disposal Facility.

## **DOE STANDARD 1120 Integration of Environment, Safety and Health into facility disposition activities**

The WMWG D&D Subgroup formed a Team and partner with the Safety Working Group to participate with DOE to revise and review this Standard.

The WMWG partnered with the Safety Working Group to ensure that the revised DOE requirements are designed to protect the safety of the workers and the public, but at the same time be implementable in a manner that will allow efficient, effective decommissioning and Environmental Restoration Projects to proceed safely and successfully. This effort provided review, specific comments, supported development and implementation of DOE STANDARD 1120 that will allow efficient, effective D&D Projects to proceed safely and successfully

## **DOE Order 413.3B “Program and Project Management (PM) for the Acquisition of Capital Assets**

The EFCOG Waste Management D&D subgroup partnered with the Project Delivery Working Group to review and comment on DOE efforts to revise DOE Order 413.3B. The intent was to evaluate its applicability to D&D projects. Significant progress was made and EFCOG comments were incorporated into the revision. This effort is expected to continue in FY2017.

### **Four Best Practices have been developed:**

- Use of a Remote Tapping Tool at Idaho National Laboratory to minimize worker exposure and avoid future contamination accidents.
- Use of earthen benches and other technologies to support remediation and removal of contaminated river structures.
- Effective use of site-specific assessments by waste generators in preparation for facility evaluations by the NNSR Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program.
- Non-DOE owned transport equipment return to service inconsistencies. (Discussed above)

### **Meetings and Communications**

The WMWG conducted four operational meetings in conjunction with DOE at the Waste Management Symposia, the RadWaste Summit, the NNSR Generator’s Conference, and the Perma-Fix Annual Radioactive Waste Workshop.

In addition to the face-to-face meetings, the WMWG conducted monthly conference calls to manage and coordinate operational tasks and focus areas. Several of the tasks required additional conference calls and small face-to-face meetings with team members and the DOE experts involved in that particular task.

## **Training Working Group**

*Chair – David Lent, Idaho National Lab*

*Vice Chair – Cindy Dutro, Los Alamos National Lab*

*Secretary – Donna Kirchner, Idaho National Lab*

*DOE Liaison – Karen Boardman*

*EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsor – Sandra Fairchild, Savannah River Remediation & AECOM,  
Jeffrey Stevens, BWX Technical Services Group*

The Training Working Group had over 36 DOE facilities participate in activities and more than 100 members, DOE Liaison, and Sponsors participate. Below are some of the Working Group accomplishments.

### **Task Team Regulatory Affairs**

The team provided technical support for the completion and response to comments on DOE O 426.2 (Personnel Selection, Training, Qualification, and Certification Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities), with a focus on updating and streamlining the order. DOE O 426.2A is now in RevCom for review and comment until January 3, 2017. Brendan Burns will address us at our next EFCOG Training Working Group meeting specific to the changes to DOE O 426.2.

### **Best Practice: Learning Management Systems**

The EFCOG Training Working Group LMS Subgroup was chartered in early 2016 to “conduct research and discussions with representatives from across the DOE complex regarding LMS requirements, methods, and possible deployment efficiencies.” The subgroup has worked throughout the year with that purpose in mind.

The deliverables of the subgroup, which align with those spelled out in its charter, will be presented at the TWG annual meeting on December 6–7. These deliverables, which are also accessible on the LMS Subgroup [SharePoint site](#), include:

- a **Best Practices Report** that summarizes the research, discussions, and recommendations of the subgroup members regarding LMS requirements and implementation methods;
- a **website** at which white papers, LMS evaluations, case studies, and other related resources can be accessed by the EFCOG community; and
- a **survey** (with results documented) of LMS products currently in use at EFCOG member facilities and ways those LMSs are supporting those facilities’ goals and objectives.

### **Meetings and Communications**

The TWG conducted monthly conference calls to manage and coordinate operational tasks and focus areas. Several of the tasks required additional conference calls and small face-to-face meetings with team members.

### **Upcoming Annual TWG Working Group Meeting**

Date: December 6–7, 2016.

### **Place: Albuquerque, NM (DOE National Training Center)**

Theme: Efficiency and Effectiveness: Driving Excellence in DOE Training Programs