



UPDATE...

A Word From the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Billy Morrison
Veolia Nuclear Solutions

As we get ready to close the books on 2017, I want to thank each of you for another successful year supporting the important missions of the Department of Energy. EFCOG continues to make a real impact in working with DOE to address a broad range of operational challenges and issues across the complex.

All told, the contractors that make up EFCOG represent more than two-thirds of DOE's annual budget, a powerful force for reducing costs, improving safety and security and sharing lessons learned.

It's important that we recognize the investment the Administration is making in EM and NNSA while many other programs are receiving cuts. Now more than ever, we as a contractor community must rise to the occasion and ensure we make progress on these vital DOE missions as efficiently and effectively as we can.

Over the next year, EFCOG will continue to emphasize and enable our working groups in key areas—safety, security, waste management, project delivery and training. We will also look for opportunities to better coordinate DOE messaging with the contractor community to make sure we are telling the story of our successes.

In that vein, I would like to highlight a few key actions as we look to 2018. Most notably, EFCOG in November held the first NNSA Corporate Partnering session with NNSA leadership, a meeting that will continue on a quarterly basis going forward. Modeled on EFCOG's successful EM Corporate Partnering initiative, the NNSA group is comprised of corporate leaders from prime contractors across the weapons complex. At the November meeting, the group discussed strategies for expediting security clearances and DOE's new security order, among other issues. Additionally:

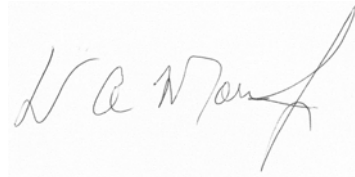
EFCOG will again join with the Nuclear Energy Institute and Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association in supporting a series of briefings for the House Cleanup Caucus on Capitol Hill in the spring and summer of 2018;

EFCOG will hold its annual meeting at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C., June 5-6, 2018;

EFCOG will partner with the Energy Communities Alliance and the Department of Energy for the fourth annual National Cleanup Workshop, set for Sept. 11-13, 2018 in Alexandria, VA.

It has been a pleasure working together in 2017 and I look forward to more great things in 2018.

Thank you for all your hard work and happy holidays!



Billy Morrison
Chair, EFCOG

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Safety Working Group

Chair – John McDonald, WRPS

Vice Chair - Jan Preston, Fluor Federal Services

Secretary - Alice Lewis, PNNL

DOE Liaison - Pat Worthington

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Lincoln Hall, L&L Associates, Michael Lempke, HII

A joint DOE/EFCOG task team was formed to make recommendations on how EM contractors can use a single NQA-1 approved supplier process. The approach currently used by contractors can be significantly improved. Recommendations were identified by the team in a report ([Task Team Report](#)) to achieve the vision of a single approved supplier process within two years. Conservative estimates identified enough potential efficiency and cost savings to make this a worthwhile activity to pursue. The Master Approved Supplier List (MASL) is the single DOE database used by contractors for supplier audits. While there are opportunities for improvement, MASL provides an adequate approach for contractors to share supplier audit information. In fact, some contractors have achieved a high level of use and benefit from MASL. MASL is recommended to be used for EM contractors to achieve a single approved supplier list. Challenges exist in achieving full EM contractor MASL participation, improving MASL software usability, and improving supplier audit scheduling and coordination among contractors. Recommendations include improving usability of the Master Approved Supplier List (MASL), strengthening accountability and infrastructure to manage the supplier audit process by EFCOG contractors, and strengthening the audit process and third party acceptance of supplier audits performed by others. Nuclear Industry Assessment Committee (NIAC) membership is recommended and may also realize additional savings. Related information is discussed in the report and attachments.

The Welding Task Team under the *Engineering Practice Subgroup/Safety Working Group* completed two best practices that support Waste Management as well as other DOE site activities: [#201 – Welding Program Ownership](#) and [#200 – Incidental Welding: Welding Activities Not covered by a Code or Standard](#). Welding practices and documentation affect most elements of DOE, including Waste Management, where welding is involved in both the facility construction/repair and in many waste

containers. The Welding Task team, led by Gary Cannell of Fluor, recognized that over the years inconsistencies in interpretation and application of Welding code Rules (ASME, AWS) relative to welding program ownership and documentation have developed between sites. This can be a particular issue in Waste Management where waste may be shipped from one site to another. This best practice provides guidance to all sites, developed by the welding experts from multiple sites to improve consistency. The Incidental Welding activities best practice is equally important as many waste container closure welds may fall into this category. The best practice defines the five steps and activities generally associated with performing Incidental Welding activities. Any time a weld is rejected, especially if during or after a shipment, it is both costly to investigate and can impact the Departments' credibility to safely transport and dispose of waste.

Waste Management Working Group

Chair – Sonny Goldston, CH2M Plateau Remediation Company

Vice Chair – Renee Echols, Firewater Associates

Secretary – Tammy Monday, Perma-Fix Environmental Services

DOE Liaison – Mark Senderling

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsor – Moses Jaraysi, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company;

Billy Morrison, Veolia Nuclear Solutions

Assistance to DOE in DOE 435.1 “Radioactive Waste Management” Training, Assist/Assessment Program, and development of the DOE 435.1 Update.

The WMWG provided a draft presentation to assist with explanation of the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) Citation and Evaluation requirements and guidance that was also reviewed and the development assisted by the WMWG. 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.

DOE Order 435.1, Manual and Guidance Training was conducted at Los Alamos the week of May 23 partially in response to investigations into the TRU waste shipped to WIPP from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) that resulted in the WIPP shutdown. Training was also conducted for DOE-HQ in August and again later in the year. Training was also conducted at the Nevada Nuclear Security Site and at Idaho Operations Office. Training has been requested to be conducted at Hanford and is expected to be given at other sites in the future.

The WMWG has worked to develop an Assistance/Assessment Plan and Criteria for DOE O 435.1 and assist visits has taken place at LANL and Oak Ridge. Also, a review of RWMB's from around the DOE Complex has begun at DOE request. DOE-EM and NNSA expects assist visits around the complex and has requested EFCOG support.

The Technical Standard Guidance for Disposal Authorization Statements and Tank Closures was approved 5/3/2017 by Robert Seifert. The WMWG participated in drafting a Technical Standard Guide for Disposal Authorization Statements for DOE Low Level Waste Disposal Facilities and Tank Closures. As the Technical Standard went to RevCom, the WMWG commented on the Standard and assisted DOE in resolving the comments from around the DOE Complex.

In accordance with DOE O 435.1, assist the DOE Office of Waste Disposal (EM 4.22) with their top-to-bottom macro assessment of DOE's LLW/MLLW management activities. Identify potential issues and opportunities for integration. The initial activity requested is to survey all major sites and submit survey results to HQ.

The initial effort involved generating a survey that could be distributed to major sites and a few minor sites. Surveys were sent to prime contractors – UCOR, CHPRC, Fluor Paducah, Fluor Portsmouth, SRNS, LANS, CHBWV, and Fluor Idaho. 100% of surveyed sites provided responses by June 2017, which were submitted to DOE HQ. The WMWG provided an analysis of the survey responses at the National Cleanup Workshop in Sept. 2017. As a result, the EFCOG Director Sponsor recommended and DOE agreed that one or more workshops should be conducted with the sites selecting the 1 or 2 most problematic waste streams or issues for review and analysis. The subject matter experts on these wastes or issues should be present to discuss and design a path forward for each one. A follow-up workshop will take place in association with the Permafix Workshop in Nashville, TN on Nov 30, 2017.

Develop overall performance standards for use by DOE sites when conducting rad release surveys on commercial transporter equipment and vehicles.

In a Packaging & Transportation (P&T) Subgroup meeting help in conjunction with the Contractors Transportation Management Association Annual Workshop, the types of activities that should make up the rad release survey protocol complex wide was agreed upon. It was developed into a best practice in FY2016. The title of the best practice #190 is: "Non-DOE owned transport equipment return to service inconsistencies". The P&T Subgroup continued this effort by providing consultation and training in the implementation of this protocol (in coordination with the EFCOG Safety Working Group Rad Protection Subgroup).

Provide technical support and consultation to the Portsmouth Onsite Disposal Cell PA/CA LFRG Review for Disposal Authorization and future DOE LLW disposal activities at other DOE sites in the future (e.g. Paducah, Oak Ridge, Hanford ORP Integrated Disposal Facility).

As a result of the LFRG review (assistance provided by the EFCOG WMWG), DOE issued a preliminary Disposal Authorization Statement (DAS) for the Onsite Disposal Facility. This is being assisted by the WMWG consultation on the new Technical Standard Guide approved in FY17 with assistance from the WMWG. The CERCLA ROD was approved by the State and EPA, so the Onsite Disposal Facility is approved to move to final design and construction. The EFCOG is assisting DOE as part of the LFRG Review and the Portsmouth contractor in the development of the DAS Technical Basis Documents that must be reviewed by the LFRG and approved by the DOE-EM. The development and approval of the Operational Performance Assessment must be done before a final DAS can be issued and the facility can become operational. The EFCOG WMWG is expected to continue to provide assistance by review of all the Technical Basis documents for the DOE LFRG. In addition, the WMWG provided a review of the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) draft CERCLA Crosswalk and the draft UDQ Changed Conditions procedure.

The WMWG is supporting the LFRG IDF review team whose review is being conducted at Hanford. The WMWG is providing technical input into the review of the Performance Assessment that has been written to support the Operational Disposal Authorization Statement for IDF.

The EFCOG WMWG Packaging & Transportation Subgroup will collect and compile relevant waste transportation incident and issues information from DOE sites in order to produce a summary of recent lessons learned. Inputs will be collected by EFCOG P&T members as well as through soliciting inputs from CTMA, the TMC, HQ Occurrence Reports, and from NNS waste generators. Emphasis will be placed upon highlighting recent transportation activities that have resulted in corrective actions by waste generators – resulting in development of a lessons learned summary that is applicable to multiple sites and generators.

A team was formed at the Contractor Management Transportation Association (CMTA) meeting in May. Collection of relevant transportation incident/issues data has begun. Data compilation and a Lessons Learned Summary are expected to be posted by December 2017.

The WMWG National Laboratory Subgroup will continue to develop consistent methodologies for a draft DOE Technical Standard for characterization of dry active LLW (debris, LSA, SCO). These methodologies could be implemented through issuance of a DOE Technical Guide for characterization of surface contaminated LLW. DOE has requested that the WMWG coordinate this important activity.

A draft Technical Basis document is in preparation to support the Technical Standard for characterization of dry active LLW (debris, LSA, SCO). A draft DOE Technical Standard will be prepared during FY2018 for Complex-wide review and comment.

Meetings and Conference Calls

The WMWG conducted two meetings. One in association with the Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, AZ and one in association with the DOE /EFCOG National Cleanup Workshop in Alexandria, VA. They were well attended and accomplished much to move our programs forward. In addition to the face-to-face meetings the WMWG conducts monthly conference calls to manage and coordinate operational tasks and focus areas. Several of the tasks may require additional conference calls or perhaps small face-to-face meetings with team members and the DOE experts involved in that particular task.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

March 12, 2018	Working Group Workshop
March 13, 2018	Working Group Chairs Meeting
June 5, 2018	Working Group Chairs Meeting
June 6, 2018	EFCOG General Session
September 11-13, 2018	National Cleanup Workshop