



UPDATE...

A Word from the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke
Huntington Ingalls Industries

As we begin the new year, I want to thank our board, member companies and working groups for your hard work in support of EFCOG. It's an honor to work with you in support of DOE's vital missions.

EFCOG is off to a tremendous start in 2020 as we focus on bringing our activities and outcomes into even closer alignment with the stated goals of DOE and NNSA leadership. With your help, we are taking important steps forward on our four near-term strategic objectives:

- Addressing human capital issues to ensure future mission needs can be met
- Addressing supply chain issues for nuclear projects
- Improving the quality of data and performance assurance
- Improving risk communication and stakeholder relations.

Notably, EFCOG held a working session at DOE headquarters in December to discuss lessons learned and best practices that could be shared from recent data quality and performance assurance issues at Portsmouth and Y-12. A task team including Ted Sherry (CNS), Kim Lebak (N3B), Cheryl Cabbil (AECOM), Alice Doswell (Fluor), JD Dowell (FBP) and Christine Gelles (Longenecker & Associates) provided their analysis and led a very fruitful discussion with the EFCOG board and DOE leadership.

We are making progress on our other objectives as well, with a separate task team led by Sandra Fairchild and Linda Kobel providing recommendations on risk communication and stakeholder relations to EM leadership in November and an effort led by Morgan Smith to pull together and analyze funding needs human capital development initiatives across the complex. As for supply chain, a charter for a new board-level task team to address that important challenge has been submitted to the board and is currently under review.

The progress EFCOG is making across all of our initiatives is built on the hard work and tireless energy of our five Working Groups—Waste Management, Safety, Project Delivery, Safeguards

and Security and Training. The contributions provide the foundation for everything we do and I want to express my thanks to the chairs and all the working group members.

As a reminder, the annual election for board members is coming up this spring. The first step will be the call for nominations, which will go out in February with nominations due April 1. Election polls will open on April 15 and close on May 20. We will also be looking for nominations for our annual awards, with the call for nominations set to go out in February and nominations due April 13.

We've had a change on the board as well. John Clymo has retired from Sandia National Laboratories and has stepped down from the EFCOG board. I want to thank John for his substantial contributions to EFCOG and we wish him all the best in this next chapter. Replacing John on the board is David "DJ" Johnson, Honeywell's Vice President in charge of Honeywell Federal Solutions. We look forward to having DJ's expertise on the board.

Thanks so much for all your hard work and best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive 2020!

Michael Lempke
Chair, EFCOG

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Waste Management Working Group

Chair – Renee Echols, Firewater Associates, LLC

Vice Chair – Tammy Monday, Studsvik, Inc.

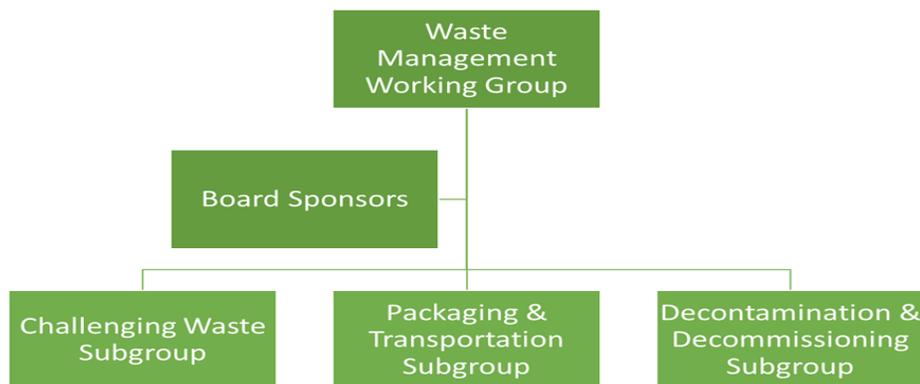
Secretary – Jeff England, NAC International

The Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) is chartered to leverage the expertise and experience of contractors to the DOE. The purpose of the WMWG is to seek out and promote best management and operating practices, cost effective technologies, and disposal options for all waste streams generated at DOE facilities whether destined for disposition at DOE or commercial facilities. The WMWG is focused on complex wide integration and technology transfer while supporting cost effective and efficient waste options. This will be achieved in a way that enhances complex wide communication and maintains a priority on safety, environmental stewardship and security. The scope of the working group includes cradle-to-grave waste management considerations including waste generation, especially from all DOE activities including facility deactivation & decommissioning (D&D) programs.

WMWG Structure and Subgroups

The WMWG recently underwent an organizational restructure with the retirement of the long-time chair Sonny Goldston. The former Vice Chair Renee Echols (Firewater Associates) was promoted to the chair position, which facilitated a review of the structure of the working group, its subgroups, and the tasks the group were pursuing. From that review and with the support of

her board sponsors and DOE EM, the group’s structure was streamlined, and tasks were reprioritized to align with DOE needs. This new structure was documented in the WMWG 2020 Work Plan. Other WMWG management changes were Tammy Monday (Studsvik) was promoted to Vice Chair and Jeff England (NAC International) to Secretary. Our newest Board Sponsor is Billy Morrison (Veolia).



Subgroup	Focus
Challenging Waste Subgroup	Facilitate information sharing and collaboration on challenging wastes around complex
Packaging & Transportation Subgroup	Provide SME support in packaging and transportation of DOE generated radioactive wastes
Decontamination & Decommissioning Subgroup	Promote best practices for D&D projects around the complex

A new Challenging Waste Subgroup, led by Tammy Monday, was established with the purpose to identify and share potential disposition pathways for challenging wastes from around the complex. This Subgroup’s purpose is to continue to support DOE with its programmatic top to bottom review in the waste management area. Two former subgroups – the High-Level Tank Waste and National Laboratory Subgroups – were consolidated into this new group. Consolidation of these Subgroups is intended to ensure that work is consistent and collaborative, all waste streams are considered, and information sharing can be improved.

Accomplishments in FY2019

In 2019, the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Subgroup, led by Dan Macias (UCOR) issued a Best Practice entitled “Facility Cold & Dark/Deactivation Process Step Considerations”. This comprehensive 63-page best practice was developed to assist D&D teams with preparing a thorough Cold & Dark/Deactivation (C&D/D) plan to prepare a facility for demolition. A well planned and executed C&D/D plan can reduce risk to the workforce, the public, and the environment and increase confidence that the project can be accomplished within time and budget. This effort was an in-depth collaboration among all major D&D contractors that support DOE, and represents state-of-the-art practices and lessons learned for D&D projects around the complex.

In response to a request by EM and its Field Offices, the WMWG established an Onsite versus Offsite Task Team, led by John Wrapp (UCOR) to analyze onsite versus offsite disposal costs for low-level radioactive waste streams. The purpose of the analysis is to ensure that DOE has the necessary tools to compare onsite disposal costs with those of offsite disposal (commercial or NNSS). For 2019, the Task Team will validate onsite cost inputs to RI/FS' for Oak Ridge and Paducah and provide a report to EM on these. In addition, the Team has solicited new large volume pricing from the commercial sector that will be provided to DOE. Task team members include representatives from DOE, prime contractors, commercial disposal companies, Nevada National Security Site, Packaging, Transportation, and other related subject matter experts, and is led by John Wrapp.

The National Laboratory Subgroup, now incorporated into the Challenging Waste Subgroup, developed a process for sustainable structured decision analysis. This effort developed a set of guidelines and a tool kit for waste managers at National Laboratories to have a catalog of diverse solutions that could be used before generation of problematic waste streams using Decision Analysis. The group issued a Best Practice to facilitate early and timely collaboration among National Laboratories for managing challenging new waste streams, which is important due to the nature of waste streams generated from research. In addition, this Subgroup continued to work on finalization of the Technical Basis for the Technical Standard for Characterization of Dry Active Waste. The expected result is to introduce consistency for characterization of low-level waste among waste generator sites. Implementing consistent guidance on methodologies, techniques, procedures and documentation can result in cost savings and improve accuracy of or validate waste characterization activities.

The Packaging & Transportation (P&T) Subgroup, led by Jim Portsmouth (CHPRC) collected and compiled waste transportation incident data and issues that resulted in a summary of lessons learned. Inputs were collected by P&T members as well as through soliciting inputs from CTMA, the TMC, HQ Occurrence Reports, and from NNSS waste generators. Emphasis was 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.

Initiatives in FY2020

The Onsite vs Offsite Disposal Task Team is expected to continue its work with developing the cost model to compare costs of low-level waste disposal in onsite cells versus use of offsite disposal facilities. This initiative is necessary to ensure that the government is maximizing its resources in a manner that is cost effective and compliant with regulatory requirements.

The WMWG will continue to support EM with Regulatory Reform initiatives as needed. Assistance in the areas of waste classification, DOE order modification, and technical assistance for initiatives such as the High-Level Waste interpretation will continue. Assistance to DOE is expected to continue in the areas of DOE Order 435.1 Training and Assist Visits. In addition, assistance to NNSS to support waste acceptance compliance will be ongoing. Assistance to the DOE LFRG is expected to continue for completion of the Oak Ridge, Hanford, and Portsmouth LLW Disposal Site Reviews.

The Technical Basis for the Technical Standard for Characterization of Dry Active Waste is expected to be completed in 2020, and once finalized will be an available tool that will inform waste generators on waste characterization and classification best practices.

The new Challenging Waste Subgroup will finalize a tracking tool to identify challenging waste streams across the complex that have similar disposition needs (e.g., sodium bearing wastes). This tool will ensure that sites are aware of disposition options and provide an opportunity to work collaboratively to disposition wastes more cost effectively.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EFCOG Annual Meeting *save-the-date*	June 2-3, 2020
National Cleanup Workshop *save-the-date*	September 16-18, 2020