



Update...

A Word from the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke
Huntington Ingalls Industries

The EFCOG Board and I were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our friend and colleague Valerie McCain on March 26 after a short illness. Val was a respected industry leader in the DOE complex. She was particularly proud of her role as Bechtel National's Project Manager on the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) --- one of the largest nuclear construction projects in the world and a project key to DOE's cleanup mission. Val was a dedicated member of the EFCOG Board, sharing her leadership and expertise to help ensure success across DOE's important missions. I know she will be deeply missed by all of those who had the privilege to know her. Please keep her family in your thoughts.

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2023, key issues for DOE are coming into focus. The Department is requesting record FY24 budgets for NNSA, EM and the Office of Science, necessitating an increased focus on efficient and effective management to ensure success. NNSA is continuing to move forward with its Enhanced Mission Delivery Initiative, and EM is continuing to grapple with challenges to long-term success, including workforce development. The backdrop for all of this continues to be macroeconomic issues that have the potential to complicate and impact operations.

Fortunately, EFCOG continues to be well-positioned to aid DOE and its program in navigating these issues and achieving mission success in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. We are continuing to advance initiatives to benefit DOE missions and engage with key decision-makers. Most recently, our new Conduct of Operations Working Group held its first meeting in late March at Oak Ridge.

During this first quarter, EFCOG and its member companies enjoyed a productive 2023 Waste Management conference, where we had the opportunity to meet with EM Senior Advisor Ike White and members of his headquarters and field leadership teams, including the new EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jeff Avery. In our discussions with EM leadership, we continued to work on approaches to compile five-year projections to aid in EM in one of its pressing long-term challenges—developing the next generation of cleanup workers—as well as discussed payment terms in the current macroeconomic climate.

EFCOG was also well represented throughout this year's conference. I was pleased to serve on a panel with EFCOG Board members and discuss our strategic priorities and the activities of the various EFCOG working groups. EFCOG also conducted a joint panel with EM and the Energy Communities Alliance on workforce issues, and the Waste Management and Communications working groups held meetings in conjunction with the conference.

EFCOG also co-sponsored the first of this year's House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus briefings. These events provide an excellent opportunity to engage with key Congressional champions of DOE's missions, including new House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee Chair Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), who serves as a Co-Chair of the Caucus with Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV). We've also increased our engagement with the DOE Inspector General's Office and re-engaged with the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Newsletter highlights

Message from the EFCOG Chair - Project Delivery Working Group – Cybersecurity Working Group
Special Topic update – Upcoming Events

Looking ahead to the coming months, the next House Cleanup Caucus briefing—a discussion on EM’s technology development efforts—is scheduled for May 23 in Washington, D.C. I encourage you and your companies to attend if possible. The 2023 EFCOG Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 21-22 in Washington, D.C. We’ll also be holding a Supply Chain workshop with EM in connection with this year’s meeting. In addition, we are moving forward with elections for membership on the EFCOG Board of Directors.

This year is certain to be a challenging one, but also one full of opportunity for EFCOG and our members. We have the ability to continue to demonstrate the value we provide to DOE and to our member companies. Thank you for your continued support!

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Project Delivery Working Group (PDWG)

Chair – Amy Basche, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions

Vice Chair – Ryan Dodd, Navarro Research and Engineering

Working Group Coordinator – Craig Hewitt, Washington River Protection Solutions

DOE Liaison – Paul Bosco

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Bob Miklos (Idaho National Laboratory) and Karen Wiemelt (Jacobs Engineering Group)

Project Spotlight

With all our day-to-day activities it’s easy to become focused on our strategy and process, sometimes looking past our achievements.

In this addition of the EFCOG Newsletter we focus on one of our prime directives of “Project Delivery”, shining the spotlight on the Washington River Protection Solutions Tank-Side Cesium Removal project.

Hanford Resumes Tank Waste Processing



Workers with contractor Washington River Protection Solutions performed additional maintenance and repairs inside the Tank-Side Cesium Removal System during a planned outage before resuming treatment of tank waste at the Hanford Site.

Newsletter highlights

Message from the EFCOG Chair - Project Delivery Working Group – Cybersecurity Working Group
Special Topic update – Upcoming Events

RICHLAND, Wash. – The [EM Office of River Protection](#) (ORP) and contractor Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) have resumed processing tank waste through the Tank-Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) System at the [Hanford Site](#) following a second, planned maintenance outage.

The treatment system has processed more than 25,000 gallons of waste in the past week, treating a total of 406,000 gallons of radioactive liquid waste since it [began operations](#) early last year.

During outages, workers change out filter columns that remove radioactive solids during waste processing, perform maintenance and apply lessons learned from operations.

Many improvements to the treatment system during outages over the last year came from recommendations made by workers and contractor and federal staff on the project team.

“The cesium removal system is a demonstration project, and this is the first time we are treating tank waste on an industrial scale at Hanford,” said Delmar Noyes, ORP assistant manager for Tank Farms Project. “We are learning, strengthening our processes and adding improvements that we can use in future, similar systems.”



During a planned maintenance outage, workers change out spent 27,000-pound filter columns in the Tank-Side Cesium Removal System and place them on a nearby storage pad.

Crews did more work during the second planned maintenance outage, which began in July 2022. In addition to performing required maintenance, they replaced a valve indicator, addressed two small leaks inside the treatment system, installed additional cameras inside the treatment enclosure to improve visibility for operators and added an area for workers to put on and take off personal protective equipment.

Newsletter highlights

Message from the EFCOG Chair - Project Delivery Working Group – Cybersecurity Working Group
Special Topic update – Upcoming Events

“The TSCR team is doing a great job of being cautious, putting safety first and stopping when encountering unexpected conditions,” said Wes Bryan, WRPS president and project manager. “This commitment to safety is expected as we learn, adapt to and overcome project challenges.”

In this [video](#), workers share the challenges and pride that come with working on the project.

The treatment system removes radioactive cesium and solids from tank waste, and delivers low-activity waste to a nearby million-gallon tank, where it is staged until it can be fed to the [Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant](#) for [vitrification](#), or immobilization in glass. The system is a key component in Hanford’s [Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste](#) Program to treat tank waste.

The federal and contractor TSCR project team was honored in January with a [2022 Secretary of Energy Achievement Award](#). The award recognized the team for significant accomplishments within DOE and the team’s dedication, strong coordination, innovative problem-solving and dedication to safety. The team completed TSCR construction and started operations three months ahead of schedule and \$29 million under the approved total project cost of \$164 million.

Cybersecurity Working Group (CSWG)

Chair – Bridgitte Mase, Boston Government Services

Vice Chair – Randy Durbin

DOE Liaison – Jeanne Beard

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Bob Wilkinson (Hanford Mission Integration Solutions) and Mark Peters (Brookhaven National Laboratory)

Members of the EFCOG CSWG were panelists at the Waste Management Symposium in February in Phoenix, presenting on Improving US Cybersecurity – Implementation of Executive Order 14028. The panel, chaired by Jeanne Beard, Director of the Office of Information Systems for Department of Energy Environmental Management, featuring Federal DOE panelists Robert Ganaway (DOE EM HQ), Lewann Belton (SRS), Christian Stauffer (DOE EM HQ), and contractor panelists Bridgitte Mase (Boston Government Services and EFCOG CSWG Chair), Todd Eckman (HMIS), and Joseph Bonner (Northwind). Panelists discussed the impact of EO 14028, implementation challenges, various initiatives underway across the complex to facilitate its implementation, and managing risk.

Additionally, with recent supply chain concerns where contract organizations may introduce risk to sites due to inconsistent implementation of basic cyber hygiene requirements defined in NIST SP 800-171; initiatives are underway to educate contractor companies on their responsibilities. The EFCOG CSWG has developed basic NIST SP 800-171 requirements training and will make training available to EFCOG members. In addition, the EFCOG CSWG is working with the EFCOG SQA Working Group to lead a Supply Chain Security discussion at the EFCOG SQA Spring meeting in early May.

Newsletter highlights

Message from the EFCOG Chair - Project Delivery Working Group – Cybersecurity Working Group
Special Topic update – Upcoming Events

FEATURED SPECIAL TOPIC AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Featured Special Topic

The EFCOG Board of Directors, in conjunction with the National Lab Directors’ Council Chief Operating Officers Working Group (NLDC/COO) sponsored an Operations Workshop on March 28-29 at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. A broad invitee list of both Federal and Contractor senior personnel attended. The discussions centered around the current major problem areas in the operations. Near-term immediate actions were identified, as well as longer-term tasks. EFCOG will utilize the longer-term tasks in creating the organizational structure for the new Operations Working Group.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>EFCOG Project Controls Subgroup Meeting</i> | April 10, 2023 |
| <i>EFCOG Worker Safety & Health Subgroup Spring Meeting</i> | April 11-13, 2023 |
| <i>EFCOG QA/ISM/CAS Spring 2023 Meeting</i> | May 1-4, 2023 |
| <i>EFCOG Safeguards & Security Working Group Annual Meeting</i> | May 2-4, 2023 |
| <i>House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus Event</i> | May 23, 2023 |
| <i>EFCOG Annual Meeting</i> | June 21-22, 2023 |
| <i>EFCOG Electrical Safety Workshop</i> | July 17-21, 2023 |
| <i>DOE/EFCOG Fire Protection Workshop</i> | July 31-August 3, 2023 |
| <i>National Cleanup Workshop</i> | September 11-13, 2023 |
| <i>Pertinent info related to these meetings can be found on the EFCOG home page: www.efcog.org</i> | |

Newsletter highlights

Message from the EFCOG Chair - Project Delivery Working Group – Cybersecurity Working Group
 Special Topic update – Upcoming Events