



UPDATE...

A Word from the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Billy Morrison

Veolia Nuclear Solutions

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. 2019 is off to a great start and we are engaged on a number of important issues with DOE. Our partnering groups—with EM, NNSA and small businesses—continue to be an effective mechanism for discussing and resolving key challenges with EM and NNSA leaders.

Our EM partnering group met with Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Anne White in early December to discuss EM's new End-State Contracting Model and the small business partnering group will hold its next meeting with EM leadership later this month.

We've also had some recent changes on the Board of Directors, welcoming two new board members this fall: Los Alamos National Laboratory Deputy Director for Operations Kelly Beierschmitt and Waste Treatment Plant Project Director Valerie McCain.

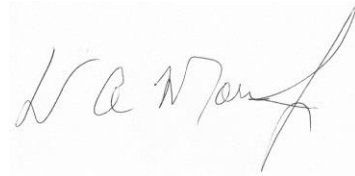
Valerie has held a variety of project management and leadership roles both on projects and corporate offices in her 28-year career at Bechtel and prior to her current role, Valerie was Project Manager on the Uranium Processing Facility Project at Y-12. She replaces Brian Reilly, who moved on to another job for Bechtel outside the DOE market. I want to thank Brian for his contributions to the board during his time with us and wish him well on the new job.

Kelly has worked more than 30 years in the service of critical DOE missions and prior to joining LANL served as the Deputy Laboratory Director for Science and Technology and Chief Research Officer for Idaho National Laboratory. He replaces Sue Stiger as LANL's representative on the EFCOG board after the changeover in lab management to Triad in November.

Sue has been a tremendous asset to EFCOG during her years of service, including a very successful stint as Chair. So much of the success that EFCOG has experienced in recent years was built on Sue's tireless work and we wish her nothing but the best as she moves on from the board. Thanks Sue!

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. 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 12.

Thanks so much for all your hard work and best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive 2019!



Billy Morrison
Chair, EFCOG

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Waste Management Working Group (WMWG)

Chair – Sonny Goldston, Jacobs

Vice Chair – Renee Echols, Firewater Associates

Secretary – Tammy Monday, Perma-Fix Environmental Services

DOE Liaisons – Mark Senderling, Mark Gilbertson

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsor – Billy Morrison, Veolia Nuclear Solutions

On October 23, 2018, EFCOG provided comments to DOE on the proposed definition of High-Level Radioactive Waste (HLW) in a letter from Billy Morrison, Chair of EFCOG and Sonny Goldston, Chair of the EFCOG Waste Management Working Group (WMWG). This effort was discussed at the EFCOG WMWG meeting in Nashville (in concert with the Perma-Fix meeting). EFCOG member companies were encouraged to also provide comments to DOE as well.

The Winter EFCOG Working Group meeting has been scheduled for February 11-12, 2019 in Washington, D.C. at the Forrestal Building. As part of this, we will discuss the status of cost saving and regulatory reform initiatives which have been worked over the last year. The main topic of the WMWG presentation is to convert the HLW definition in DOE Order 435.1 to a Risk Based definition, and developing requirements for Consolation of wastes, and Classification.

The EFCOG WMWG participated in the Near Surface Disposal Workshop in Knoxville the week of Dec 3, 2018. Renee Echols (the EFCOG WMWG Vice Chair) gave the presentation concerning DOE complex wide LLW disposal facility status and technical bases from an EFCOG perspective. The Knoxville meeting was with representatives from Canada and the UK in an effort to transfer and communicate LLW Disposal information in a Workshop setting. The Canadian representatives from AECL asked if they could join the EFCOG WMWG. We are exploring that possibility. Also, the AECL representatives plan to attend the next EFCOG meeting at the March Waste Management 2019 conference in Phoenix.

On June 4, 2018, the WMWG briefed the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the Academies) Committee. The Committee has been asked to conduct a study titled *Independent*

Assessment of Science and Technology for the Department of Energy's Defense Environmental Cleanup Program. The subject of the briefing was EFCOG activities concerning the DOE nuclear waste programs and challenges.

The EFCOG Packaging & Transportation Subgroup's report of hazardous including radioactive shipments occurrence reporting lessons learned has been finalized. The report was transmitted to DOE on 2/21/18. The purpose of the EFCOG P&T effort, as requested by HQ DOE EM Office of Packaging and Transportation, is to determine the extent to which mechanisms such as, the DOE Occurrence Reporting and Processing System, Office of Environmental, Health, Safety and Security Operating Experience Lessons Learned and the Operating Experience data bases, can be utilized to compile information associated with significant Packaging and Transportation events throughout the DOE complex. Additionally, the objective of this report is to analyze the data and disseminate this information to DOE Transportation and Packaging Organizations DOE complex-wide with the goal of reducing these sorts of errors in the future.

The EFCOG report which studied the MLLW and LLW challenges in the DOE Complex for EM was transmitted to DOE on 9/4/18. Workshops continue to be held to investigate and document the problematic LLW/MLLW from the complex, including one held at the EFCOG meeting in Nashville in concert with the Perma-Fix Workshop. DOE-EM participated along with the key EFCOG Contractor members. The discussions focus on the reactive wastes (sodium) and mercury.

Also, at the Nashville EFCOG meeting the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) LLW disposal program discussed that problems that have existed in the complex with the use of the 9979 container or other containers to ensure that they were safe from the build-up of gases in the containers due to radiolysis. NNSS provided to the EFCOG and DOE an example of how disposal sites can determine if containers are safe for disposal. Guidance is expected that can be added to DOE Order 435.1 Guidance.

The EFCOG WMWG worked with DOE, and Energy Communities Alliance to conduct a WMWG meeting at the DOE Cleanup Workshop in Alexandria, VA the week of Sep 10th, 2018.

The WMWG participated in the DOE-EM Assist Visit to WIPP August 13-17. The Assist Report was signed by EM on 9/5/18. The meetings went well, and the WMWG worked with WIPP to improve several areas that are expected to be implemented soon. WMWG worked with them to develop a WIPP Radioactive Waste Management Basis (RWMB) for LLW and TRU. When approved by the DOE Field Office Manager this will be their first RWMB. Also, DOE is expected to request DOE O 435.1 training at WIPP in the future. The WMWG also did an Assessment/Assist at LANL earlier in the year.

The WMWG participated in conducting training for DOE Order 435.1, "Radioactive Waste Management" at LANL, DOE-HQ, Hanford, NNSS Nevada, and Idaho.

The EFCOG WMWG participated in the onsite Richland review of the IDF Performance Assessment as part of the LLW Disposal Federal Review Group (LFRG) Review Team the week of January 8th, 2018. Review was focused on the need for the PA to support the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) publication for DOE and other stakeholder reviews. A conditional Operating Disposal Authorization Statement became effective on June 29, 2018.

The WMWG continued to serve on the DOE LLW Disposal Federal Review Group (LFRG) Review team to assess the Idaho Remote Handled LLW Disposal Facility readiness for an Operational Disposal

Authorization Statement. The Change Control Process was reviewed, and comments provided. The final LFRG report, the Operational DAS, and the compliance evaluation report to the Assistant Secretary has now been approved. The ODAS was signed by HQ on May 14, 2018.

The EFCOG WMWG continues to provide technical resources to the LFRG reviews of the Oak Ridge EMWMF Cell 6 expansion and new LLW disposal Cell, the Environmental Management Disposal Facility.

The Technical Basis for the Technical Standard for Characterization of Dry Active Waste was transmitted to DOE-Argonne and EM on 8/29/18. This is a precursor to preparation of the Technical Standard.

Best Practice 198 Stakeholder Engaged Structured Decision Making is posted on the EFCOG website to facilitate early and timely collaboration among National Laboratories for managing challenging new waste streams. The Best Practice developed and published a process for sustainable structured decision analysis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EFCOG ANNUAL AWARDS – Call for Nominations	February 8 – April 12, 2019
EFCOG BOARD Elections - Call for Nominations	February 15 – April 1, 2019
EFCOG Winter Working Group Meeting, Washington DC (<i>by invitation – Contact the Working Group Chairs for more information</i>)	February 11-12, 2019
EFCOG Annual Meeting Washington, DC (<i>Registration opens March 11, 2019</i>)	June 4-5, 2019
June Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, Washington, DC	June 5, 2019
National Cleanup Workshop, Alexandria, VA	September 10-12, 2019
September Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, Washington, DC	September 11, 2019