



Update...

A Word from the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke
Huntington Ingalls Industries

I hope you and your loved ones continue to be safe and healthy during this challenging time. I am heartened to see the increases in vaccinations day by day and look forward to continued partnership with DOE and NNSA as we successfully navigate operational challenges from COVID.

EFCOG's participation in the virtual Waste Management conference was a success, with participation from EFCOG board members and member companies on a host of panels that featured important discussions with the Department of Energy and other stakeholders. In particular, EFCOG's joint panels with DOE Office of Environmental Management leadership on removing barriers to entry for companies interested in the DOE market and lessons learned from operations during the COVID-19 pandemic were especially useful.

As we move into the second quarter, EFCOG will continue to focus on addressing DOE and NNSA's biggest risks—an evolution that will make us an effective partner to the Biden Administration and new Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm. As a reminder, we've structured our major board activities and Working Group support around four strategic priorities:

1. Safe, Secure and Effective Operations
2. Ensuring the Long-term Availability of Critical Equipment, Supplies and Infrastructure
3. Assuring that Projects are Completed on Cost and Schedule
4. Recruiting, Developing and Retaining the Right People to Ensure Future Mission Needs are Met

Additionally, we continue to put a significant amount of attention on sharing lessons learned and best practices on safely meeting mission goals amidst the COVID pandemic. Our next lessons learned webinar is set for April 14 and it will discuss how virtual technology can be successfully deployed in the current COVID operating environment and beyond. The discussion will feature speakers from EM, Science and NNSA, focusing on how virtual technology has been used in training and transitions, and where further opportunities exist.

As a reminder, the annual election for EFCOG Board members is coming up in May. The first step was the call for nominations, which went out in February with nominations due April 1. The election will then take place electronically from April 15-May 20. We will also be looking for nominations for our annual awards, with nominations due April 13th. More information on our awards—the Award of Excellence, Appreciation Award and Teamwork Award—can be found at www.efcog.org.

The EFCOG annual meeting is set for June 9-10, and out of an abundance of caution, we've decided to once again hold the meeting virtually. We have a number of confirmed speakers including Charles Verdon, acting NNSA Administrator, acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Ike White and Juston Fontaine, Deputy Director for Field Operations at the DOE Office of Science. I hope you will plan to attend and take advantage of what is sure to be a valuable discussion.

Stay safe!

WORKING GROUP REPORT

Waste Management Working Group (WMWG)

Chair – Renee Echols, Firewater Associates, LLC

Vice Chair – Tammy Monday, Studsvik, Inc.

Secretary – Jeff England, NAC International

DOE Liaison – Mark Senderling DOE EM 4.2

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Billy Morrison, Veolia

The Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) focuses on promoting best waste management and operating practices from generation to disposal; development and use of cost-effective technologies that are compliant and improve site clean-up; and, sharing information for treatment and disposition options for a large variety of complex waste streams generated at DOE facilities. The working group is comprised of waste management subject matter experts from DOE, site prime contractors, and commercial treatment, technology, and disposal companies.

Over this past year, the WMWG has undertaken initiatives that focused on our 2021 annual work plan as well as performed tasks that supported the waste management community and our DOE sponsors. This work has been performed by the at-large membership or for specific tasks through Subgroups. Subgroups are organized by the following specialty areas: Decontamination and Decommissioning, Challenging Wastes, and Packaging and Transportation. In 2021, a new Transuranic Waste Subgroup was established with the intent to bring together EM and NNSA TRU wastes generators to share information and collaborate on initiatives that are complementary to the National TRU Program and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

The WMWG continues to identify and develop waste management best practices in areas identified during the DOE EA-31 complex wide assessment. The goal is to select best practices that could be applicable to sites across the DOE Complex that could be implemented as process improvements at multiple sites. A total of 4 best practices have been developed thus far.

The WMWG provided waste management programs COVID-19 lessons learned as part of EFCOG’s ongoing initiative with DOE to ensure that work is performed safely and compliantly. One of these lessons learned focused on ensuring that waste containers were kept in safe and regulatory compliant configurations while site operations were suspended.

The WMWG holds two to three annual working meetings as well as conducts monthly conference calls that provide opportunities for communication, consultation, and direction with DOE Liaisons/Sponsors and our EFCOG membership. The largest meeting is the annual meeting held in conjunction with the WM Symposia Waste Management Conference, which was conducted virtually on March 11, 2021. The next in person meeting is tentatively scheduled in conjunction with the National Cleanup Workshop in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>EFCOG Annual Meeting</i>	June 9-10, 2021
<i>Other EFCOG event info is found at www.efcog.org</i>	
<i>National Cleanup Workshop</i>	September 8-10, 2021

