



# *Update...*

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## *A Word from the Chair...*

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke  
Huntington Ingalls Industries

As we reach the end of the year, I want to thank you for all you and your companies have done to support the success of the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration. Thanks to your efforts, EFCOG continues to provide important lessons learned, assistance and experience to enable DOE's vital national security, environmental remediation and scientific innovation missions.

Over the course of 2022, EFCOG delivered on a number of strategic priorities, including a new task group to assess supply chain vulnerabilities and a new task group to examine the need and availability of gloveboxes. EFCOG aided the Department in obtaining a better understanding of inflationary impacts across the complex, as well as a better understanding of sustainability opportunities within DOE to help the Department meet broader Biden-Harris Administration priorities.

I'm especially proud of what EFCOG has done this year to aid DOE in one of its largest long-term challenges -- recruiting and maintaining a diverse next-generation workforce. EFCOG worked with the DOE Office of Environmental Management this fall on the inaugural EM workforce summit, and from that EM has already taken several actions, including guidance to assist contractors in establishing workforce development programs and in developing long-term hiring projections. I know this is an area where EFCOG will continue to play an important role for DOE next year, and going forward.

I want to thank all of the members of EFCOG's working groups for their contributions this year. This includes assisting DOE offices with cybersecurity protections, helping the development of new EVMS assessment tools and assisting DOE as it works to examine the potential risks of PFAS materials at Department sites, among other important work. I'm excited for the new EFCOG Communications; Operations; and Sustainability & Environment working groups, and look forward to their contributions in 2023.

Looking ahead to next year, I want to remind you that the EFCOG Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held June 21-22 in Washington, D.C. The 2023 National Cleanup Workshop, for which EFCOG is a partnering organization with the Energy Communities Alliance and EM, is scheduled to be held September 11-13 in Crystal City, VA.

I hope you and your families all have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and a happy New Year!

## WORKING GROUP UPDATES

### Safety Working Group (SWG)

Chair – Jan Preston, Fluor Federal Services

Vice Chair – William (Bill) Mairson, Los Alamos National Laboratory (Triad)

Secretary – Frances Alston, BWXT

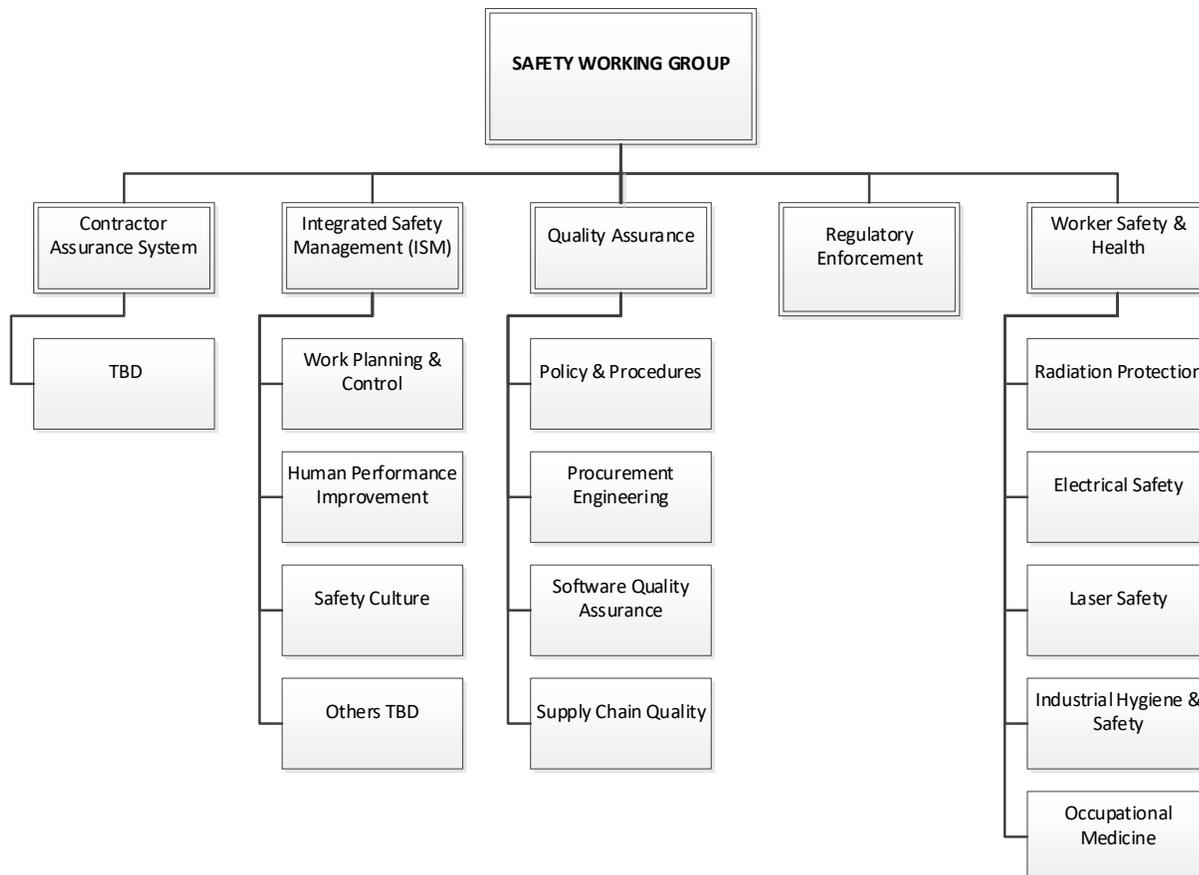
DOE Liaison – Garrett Smith

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Jack Craig, Atkins

### Overview

Immediately following the 2021 EFCOG Annual Meeting, the Board and SWG Leadership agreed to restructure the size of the Working Group to better enhance coordination and communication. This led to the SWG recommending that the Engineering Practices and Nuclear and Facility Safety subgroups be moved into a new Operations Working Group (to be established). The Contractor Assurance Task Team was elevated to its own Subgroup, from its former position within the ISM Subgroup. Previously, the EFCOG Board and SWG had concurred that, due to the high level of interest, the Sustainability and Environment Subgroup would be elevated a stand-alone Working Group.

The revised SWG, approved by the EFCOG Board and socialized with DOE/NNSA, is shown below:



As part of this restructuring, SWG Leadership proposed that EFCOG recognize that an important function of this Working Group is the sharing of lessons learned, as well as networking opportunities and professional and leadership development opportunities. This is why the groups called “Task Teams” had evolved into standing groups, rather than ad-hoc teams that came together to solve a problem and then disbanded.

In previous years, there has been a significant push for every Task Team to commit to multiple annual products (white papers, best practices, guides, etc.) for the SWG Annual Plan. While these products have had value, this expectation resulted in “quantity over quality” when the Board and DOE/NNSA client would have preferred to see the SWG Annual Plan contain fewer (and in some cases longer term) efforts focused on finding solutions to higher level operational challenges.

The SWG (with Board concurrence) has now converted the former standing Subgroup “Task Teams” into “Communities of Practice” or CoPs. These CoPs facilitate exchanges of information among CoP subject matter expert (SME) members; develop/publish CoP Best Practices (EFCOG website); support general staff development of SMEs who make up the CoP (networking, mentoring, CoP or Task Team assignments, etc.); and serve as a resource pool for emerging Tasks. Not all CoPs would be responsible for leading a Task each year – but some of their membership might be called to contribute to a Task led from within another CoP, Subgroup, or even a different Working Group.

The SWG is moving to shift the focus to a smaller number of “Tasks” to address higher-level operational challenges, going back to the concept that a “Task Team” is ad-hoc, single focus, and limited term. Candidate Tasks could come from SWG Subgroup/CoP membership, the EFCOG Board, and the DOE/NNSA client. The SWG’s Annual Plan will in future contain ongoing and new Task Team efforts, but not CoP commitments, and the Plan could evolve to add Tasks if they emerge throughout the year.

SWG and Subgroup Leadership will work together, and in coordination with our DOE/NNSA Liaison and Points of Contacts, throughout the first half of FY2023 to institutionalize these changes to achieve the intended benefits.

### ***\*NEW\* Communications Working Group (CWG)***

*Chair – Keith Wood, Amentum*

*Vice Chair – Dee Gray, Jacobs Engineering Group*

*Secretary – TBD*

*DOE Liaison – Erik Olds*

*EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsor – Mark Whitney, Amentum*

The EFCOG CWG is intended to promote excellence in all aspects of communications and stakeholder engagement to support DOE and NNSA missions. The group is working to develop and update best practices on specific communications topics, such as open-air demolition; conduct peer reviews of project-level communications efforts; provide ongoing training to communications staff across the DOE complex and assist with communications-related hiring and development. The group has held two in-person meetings in 2022.

## ***\*NEW\* Sustainability & Environment Working Group (SEWG)***

*Chair – Catherine Hurley, Argonne National Laboratory*

*Vice Chair – Suzanne Belmont, National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

*Secretary – TBD*

*DOE Liaisons – Josh Silverman & Scott Whiteford*

*EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Julie Baker, Alliance for Sustainable Energy (NREL)*

The SEWG promotes excellence in meeting DOE’s strategic sustainability and environmental performance goals by sharing information, operational experience, best practices, and lessons learned. To respond to DOE’s increased priorities around achieving net zero carbon emissions and addressing emerging environmental challenges, SEWG has recently been elevated to a full working group after functioning as a sub-group of the SWG for many years. The SEWG priorities for this year include holding a mini webinar series on strategies for decarbonizing federal facilities, formalizing task teams into sub-groups focused on promoting net-zero fleet, smart labs, and efficient federal facilities, and supporting DOE/NNSA contributions to land and habitat conservation goals in Executive Orders 14008 and 14072.

Members of the SEWG and DOE met at the Energy Exchange in Cincinnati, Ohio for the first in-person annual meeting since 2019.



**UPCOMING EVENTS found on page 5**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Nuclear Deterrence Summit</i>	February 13-15, 2023
<i>Waste Management Symposia</i>	February 26-March 2, 2023
<i>EFCOG Nuclear &amp; Facility Safety Annual Workshop</i>	March 13-17, 2023
<i>EFCOG Worker Safety &amp; Health Subgroup Spring Meeting</i>	April 11-13, 2023
<i>EFCOG Safeguards &amp; Security Working Group Annual Meeting</i>	May 2-4, 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: <a href="http://www.etcog.org">www.etcog.org</a></i>	