



# Update...

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

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke  
Huntington Ingalls Industries

Thank you for another successful EFCOG annual meeting—our first in person after two years of virtual annual meetings!

It was wonderful to see so many of you in person and collaborate on sharing lessons learned and best practices that enable safe, efficient delivery of the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration missions.

During the meeting, we were able to hear directly from DOE Senior Advisor for Environmental Management Ike White, NNSA Associate Principal Deputy Administrator Jim McConnell, Acting Director of the DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Kelly Cummins and a host of other senior DOE and NNSA leaders on key initiatives for the year ahead. In addition, we spent a half-day with the Working Group chairs to discuss how best to prioritize their activities and ensure continued strong alignment with EFCOG's overarching objectives.

In June, we completed our election cycle and I would like to congratulate Mike Schlender of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on his return to the Board after serving as a Board member in the past. In addition, six current members were re-elected to the board:

- Sandra Fairchild, UCOR
- Val McCain, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Billy Morrison, Veolia Nuclear Solutions
- Frank Sheppard, Jr., N3B
- Jeff Stevens, BWXT Technical Services, Inc.
- Mark Whitney, Amentum

EFCOG also has a fantastic group of Working Group chairs to lead their subject areas in the year ahead:

- Cybersecurity, chaired by Bridgitte Mase of Boston Government Services
- Project Delivery, chaired by Amy Basche of Washington River Protection Solutions
- Safeguards and Security, chaired by Ray Hubbs of Consolidated Nuclear Security
- Safety, chaired by Jan Preston of Fluor Federal Services
- Training, chaired by Shayne Eyre of Idaho National Laboratory
- Waste Management, chaired by Renee Echols of Firewater LLC

I am honored to have been re-elected chairman at the June annual meeting and I'd like to congratulate Sandra Fairchild of UCOR on her re-election as Vice Chair and Kelly Beierschmitt of Los Alamos National Laboratory on his re-election as Vice Chair-elect. We truly have an outstanding group of Board members and officers to take EFCOG forward.

Thank you for all your hard work.

## ***FEATURED WORKING GROUP REPORTS***

### ***Cybersecurity Working Group (CSWG)***

*Chair – Bridgitte Mase, Boston Government Services, LLC*

*Vice Chair – Randy Durbin*

*DOE Liaison – Jeanne Beard*

*EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Robert Wilkinson (Hanford Mission Integration Solutions), Mark Peters (Brookhaven National Laboratory)*

The Cybersecurity Working Group conducted a large virtual Cybersecurity Workshop in October of 2021 with 198 participants in attendance and is in the process of planning the upcoming meeting to be held in the Fall of 2022. Of note this year, we are in the process of launching the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence which will be a key method to leverage cybersecurity resources and address urgent cybersecurity issues and initiatives across the sites. We presented to the DOE community at DOE’s Cybersecurity innovation conference on 6/14/22, which resulted in a full room of attendees holding the highest number of attendees for all the conferences in that tract. Additionally, in conjunction with Los Alamos National Laboratory, we supported the planning of and served in key facilitator roles for the execution of a ransomware exercise that was held at the end of June.



One key area of focus this year has been to improve Cybersecurity visibility and awareness across the sites. As a result, the CSWG created a guideline for Cybersecurity metrics that should be collected and shared with site managers to allow for a concise but comprehensive view of the cybersecurity risk structure. Additionally, we have reviewed Executive Order 14028 focused on Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity

and are supporting efforts to meet the requirements. The Executive Order and associated notices come with a variety of significant requirements that facilitate the removal of barriers to threat information sharing between government and the private sector, modernize and implement stronger cybersecurity standards, improve software supply chain security, establish a cybersecurity safety review board, create a standard playbook for responding to cyber incidents, improve detection of cybersecurity incidents, and improve investigation and remediation efforts. Subsequent, related OMB memoranda’s were reviewed to include M-22-01, “Improving Detection of Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities and Incidents on Federal Government Systems through Endpoint Detection and Response,” M-22-05, “Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Guidance on Federal Information Security and Privacy Management Requirements,” M-21-31, “Improving the Federal Government’s Investigative and Remediation Capabilities Related to Cybersecurity Incident,” M-21-30, “Protecting Critical Software Through Enhanced Security Measures,” and M-22-09, “Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles.”

## ***Waste Management Working Group (WMWG)***

*Chair – Renee Echols, Firewater Associates, LLC*

*Vice Chair – Tammy Monday, AVANTech*

*Secretary – Jeff England, NAC International*

*DOE Liaison – Betsy Forinash, 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 prime contractors, subcontractors, radioactive waste treatment companies, technology providers, and disposal companies. The WMWG is organized into Subgroups that focus on specific waste management areas and challenges.

The WMWG held a workshop in conjunction with the Radwaste Summit in June 2022 that focused on two of our Subgroups and the work they are undertaking. The Challenging Waste Subgroup, led by Tammy Monday, discussed information related to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and progress on sodium bearing wastes. For sodium bearing wastes, the Subgroup's facilitated collaboration between sites that have sodium as well as other reactive metal contaminated wastes is furthering development of technologies and disposition paths for these challenging waste streams.

In late 2021, the WMWG was asked to assist the DOE with PFAS information gathering and sharing. The Challenging Waste Subgroup is working collaboratively with DOE managers in charge of PFAS initiatives - Josh Silverman, DOE Director of Environmental Protection and EHS&S Reporting, and Rob Seifert, Director Office of Subsurface Closure EM4.12. PFAS is a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used throughout the world for their resistance to heat and grease, and their non-stick and weather proofing properties. PFAS were first produced on an industrial scale for use in uranium separation activities during the Manhattan Project, and thousands of chemical formulations have since been developed. DOE Undersecretary David Turk issued a policy memo in September 2021 where he detailed the Department's plans to work with sites and stakeholders to identify and address PFAS risks and liabilities starting first with firefighting foam. In this memo, Mr. Turk stated, "the release of PFAS into the environment is a topic of growing national concern, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said that the scope of PFAS contamination in the United States and the potential threat to the public health makes the Federal Government's task to address this contamination particularly challenging and urgent." The WMWG is working with our member companies, many of whom have significant experience and expertise working in this area, and DOE to assist with information sharing and development of best practices for characterization and disposition.

The WMWG Transuranic Subgroup, led by Dan Pancake, also participated in the workshop. Subgroup discussions centered around the Transuranic (TRU) community waste minimization best practices that have demonstrated success for reducing waste shipped to WIPP. Also discussed was information related to

certification of waste streams for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) disposal that could contain potentially non-conforming items (e.g., nitric acid rags) and the path forward for deploying Shielded Container Assemblies (SCAs) at sites where Remote Handled (RH) TRU will be generated, and dispositioned. The TRU Subgroup is working to forecast production of SCAs for sites that will use these containers to ship RH TRU in the future.

The WMWG holds two to three annual working meetings and workshops as well as conducts monthly conference calls that provide opportunities for communication, consultation, and direction with DOE Liaisons/Sponsors and our EFCOG membership. The next in person meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Cleanup Workshop in September 2022.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<a href="#"><u><i>ECA Forum: Hosting New Nuclear Development</i></u></a>	August 3-5, 2022
<a href="#"><u><i>National Cleanup Workshop</i></u></a>	September 21-23, 2022