

EFCOG Safeguards and Security Working Group (SSWG) FY2026 Workplan

Working Group Mission

It is the mission of the Safeguards and Security Working Group (SSWG) to continuously improve Safeguards & Security (S&S) performance across U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), to include the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) by focusing on the protection of Nuclear Material (NM) and Special Nuclear Material (SNM), sensitive information, classified matter, assets, and personnel. The SSWG adds value by bringing together the best and brightest DOE/NNSA and industry S&S professionals to analyze issues and develop cost-effective solutions that bring clarity and continuous improvement to the DOE/NNSA missions.

The SSWG is currently comprised of four subgroups which include: Program Planning and Management (PPM), Information Security, Physical Security and Protective Force, and Material Control and Accountability (MC&A).

The SSWG primary objectives are to:

- Enable the successful execution of DOE/NNSA missions and programs by promoting security practices that deliver efficient, safe, and secure outcomes.
- Provide a forum for the active exchange of ideas, approaches and lessons learned among contractors and industry that:
 - Enhances collaboration through the sharing of innovative technologies and methods, and
 - Encourages interaction between DOE management and contractors on complex wide objectives, issues, and projects.
- Serve as a consensus board for emerging security directives proposed by DOE and for the interpretation and consistent application of existing DOE directives.
- Assure the goals of EFCOG and DOE are met through effective planning and execution.
- Promote continuous improvement and professional development by sharing information among contractors through vehicles such as websites, workshops, and subgroups.

The SSWG will focus on key areas to address current or emerging challenges and to deliver efficiency and effectiveness in the deployment of S&S Programs. Today's evolving mission and security environment requires us to keep pace with new and emerging threats requiring innovative thinking and new approaches to traditional security. To truly be innovative, it will require a significant shift in how security has been implemented in the past. This could include working with the DOE Office of Policy

to evaluate requirements as currently written and/or reshape our risk management views based on the most probable threats. DOE leadership has stated the Department needs to move with a higher sense of mission acceleration. This will include evaluation of S&S areas that may add additional time/delays to overall mission success. Even though the landscape is shifting to higher risk tolerance and mission acceleration, security requirements still must be met. The SSWG will look at ways to accelerate the mission using effective risk management and development of efficient security processes.

Activities

The SSWG leadership team will conduct group conference calls as necessary to discuss performance of the working group; to include status of key actions, deliverables, and emerging issues. When the conference calls are conducted, they will be scheduled to last one hour and typically involve the working group leads.

For the same purposes noted above, each of the four SSWG subgroups (and the respective task teams within have routine meetings with their members. These working groups may further develop additional sub-topical area task teams to work specific activities with SMEs from across the DOE sites to work on specific topics. These meetings consist of deliverable action assignments and status, sharing of activities, initiatives, and lessons learned across the sites, policy, and benchmarking.

The SSWG will hold an annual working meeting to bring Contractor, Federal and Industry members together in a face-to-face forum to address a strategic topic(s) of broad interest to the S&S community. This meeting provides an opportunity for each of the subgroups to hold breakout sessions where task deliverables are reviewed, edited, deliberated on, and emerging issues identified. Attendance at these meetings involves about 175 personnel. Meetings are held at DOE Sites to reduce overall costs and to facilitate other related business activities.

FY25 Accomplishments

In 2025, the SSWG focused on key areas to address current and emerging challenges and deliver efficiency and effectiveness in the development of S&S Programs. A new chair was appointed for the SSWG working group, as well as co-chairs for the Program Planning and Management subgroup.

In 2025, the SSWG addressed the following issues:

- Information Security

- Restructure / Split the Information Security Working Group into Operational Security (OPSEC) and Classified Matter Protection and Control Sub-working groups.
 - Conducted multiple OPSEC meetings with a focus on CUI implications, threat analysis, and a review of activities related to the current threat landscape.
 - Information sharing about NNSA specific activity involving a multi-site crawl for critical information in collaboration with NEA to support future activities effecting both NNSA and DOE OPSEC programs.
 - Increased working group participation to 17 sites/contractors with ~41 representatives.
 - Supported initiative to improve the DOE CMPC Marking Guide.
 - Conducted multiple CMPC meetings with a focus on impacts of policy challenges for complex digital environment (e.g., marking dynamic files, adapting to Artificial Intelligence), and automated applications used to assist with implementation of CMPC requirements.
- Material Control and Accountability
 - Presentation on 3-D printing capabilities and utilization in NMC&A.
 - Multiple meetings that resulted in the completion of Seal Guide.
 - Presentation of implementation of pre-disposition Material Balance Areas at LANL.
 - Conducted multiple meetings with a focus on TID use in Category III/IV MBAs.
 - Focused discussions about the challenges, and on how various sites are implementing DOE 474.2A order requirements for OANM.
 - Hanford Site Specific PI Templates were provided and reviewed.
 - There were highly successful joint meetings between the MC&A Accounting WG and the MC&A Measurement/Measurement Controls WG.
- Program Planning and Management
 - New chair and co-chairs identified for PPM working group

FY26 Tasks and Deliverables

The emphasis on conducting DOE mission work with a culture of urgency has made its way to all facets of DOE programs. The SSWG will embrace the concept of providing safe and secure support to the DOE mission using a risk based common sense approach to security. This will coincide with current initiatives such as Project Velocity and NAP or SD rewrites. The table below reflects this focus.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	Key Characteristics	TASK	DELIVERABLE/DATE
<u>Strategic Workforce Management:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Statutory Authorities • Safety and Risk Management • Continuous Improvement • Stakeholder Engagement • Performance Metrics and Accountability • Transparency, Consistency and Reporting • Training and Development 	Develop MC&A (Accounting) Best Practices / Lessons Learned	Lessons Learned Presentation during the Safeguards and Security annual meeting – April 2026
<u>Technology Utilization for Future Mission and Operation Execution</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Statutory Authorities • Safety and Risk Management • Continuous Improvement • Stakeholder Engagement • Performance Metrics and Accountability • Transparency, Consistency and Reporting • Training and Development 	Analyze applications and tools (e.g., AI) used by OPSEC and CMPC programs and identify how they can be leveraged for internal program use to assist with implementing federal requirements.	Share the analysis results to include highlighting the tools and resources currently utilized at various sites; identifying their benefits and challenges; identifying potential recommendations for dissemination at the local site level or to federal points of contact at the DOE and NNSA.
<u>Technology Utilization for Future Mission and Operation Execution</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Statutory Authorities • Safety and Risk Management • Continuous Improvement • Stakeholder Engagement • Performance Metrics and Accountability • Transparency, Consistency and Reporting • Training and Development 	Evaluate new technologies to enhance MC&A compliance and efficiencies.	Present results of evaluation of new technologies during the Safeguards and Security annual meeting – April 2026
<u>Safe, Secure, Efficient and Effective</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Statutory Authorities 	Collaborate with Nuclear Security	Develop an integrated activity list of NSIE

<u>Operational Excellence</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Risk Management • Continuous Improvement • Stakeholder Engagement • Performance Metrics and Accountability • Transparency, Consistency and Reporting • Training and Development 	Information Exchange (NSIE) on efficiencies that can be shared across DOE.	and EFCOG initiatives. Ensure representation across working groups. Share share status and outcomes across groups. – Establish by June 2026
<u>Safe, Secure, Efficient and Effective Operational Excellence</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Statutory Authorities • Safety and Risk Management • Continuous Improvement • Stakeholder Engagement • Performance Metrics and Accountability • Transparency, Consistency and Reporting • Training and Development 	Expand the membership of the SSWG to encompass all topical areas to ensure the entire S&S program is represented.	Establish additional working groups to include all 6 S&S topical areas. – September 2026.
<u>Safe, Secure, Efficient and Effective Operational Excellence</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Statutory Authorities • Safety and Risk Management • Continuous Improvement • Stakeholder Engagement • Performance Metrics and Accountability • Transparency, Consistency and Reporting • Training and Development 	Share lessons learned across DOE for the current policy rewrite efforts focused on operational efficiency and mission acceleration.	Present the current status and major mission acceleration successes of initiatives such as Project Velocity and the NAP/SD rewrites. – April 2026 (annual meeting) and September 2026 (end of FY summary)