Waste Management Working Group
FY2026 Annual Work Plan

Working Group Mission and Scope

The Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) is chartered to leverage the expertise and experience of contractors for the benefit of the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the WMWG is to seek out and promote the best management and operating practices, cost effective technologies and disposal options for all radioactive waste streams generated at DOE facilities whether destined for DOE owned or commercial disposal facilities. The WMWG is focused on complex wide integration and technology information sharing that supports cost effective and efficient waste disposition options. This enhances complex wide communication and maintains a priority on safety, environmental stewardship, and security. The scope of the working group includes cradle-to-grave waste management that begins at waste generation and goes through final disposition.

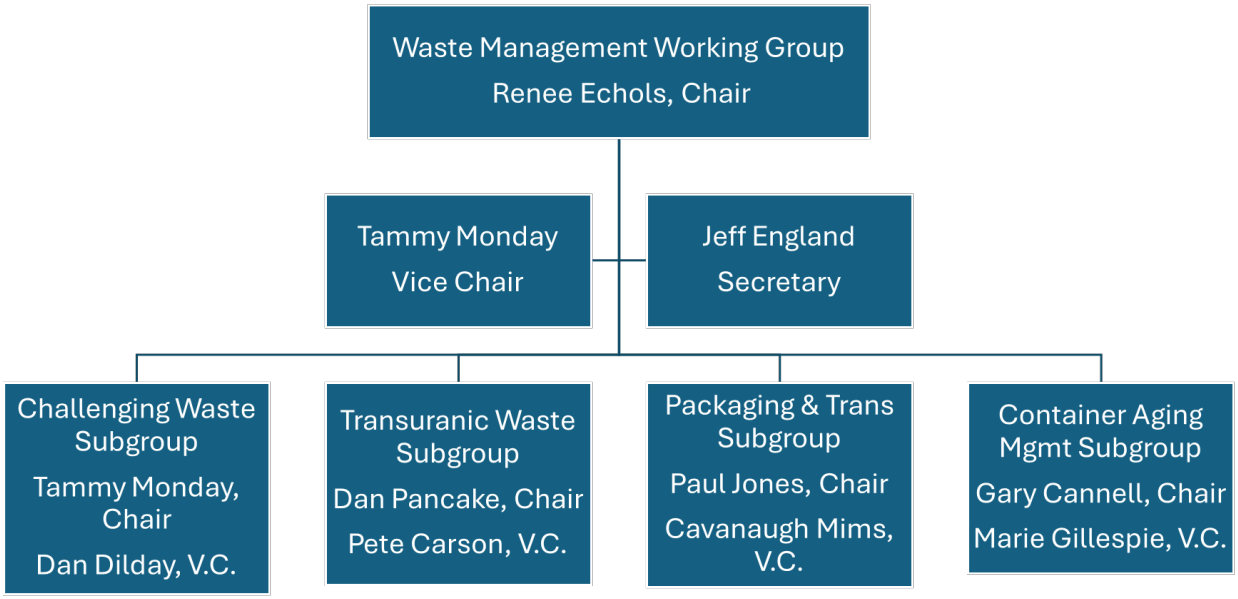
For FY26, the WMWG will ensure it conducts its work with consideration for DOE's new governance model that focuses on streamlining mission completion. DOE is seeking innovative approaches that will deliver cost savings and project acceleration while reducing transactional oversight and allowing more resources to go toward mission execution. EFCOG is partnering with DOE to support its streamlining initiatives. EFCOG's goal is to deliver DOE's critical missions in national security, environmental cleanup and scientific research, faster and cheaper, while maintaining requisite levels of safety, security, and quality. EFCOG's working groups focus their work in concert with EFCOG's four Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic Workforce Management
- Predictable Infrastructure Management
- Safe, Secure, Efficient and Effective Operational Excellence
- Technology Utilization for Future Mission and Operation Execution

The WMWG has developed our Tasks and Deliverables for FY26 to align with these EFCOG strategic initiatives while also incorporating DOE's streamlining (?) approach to mission completion by incorporating the basic elements of that approach as much as possible. Specifically, the WMWG will identify opportunities to share best practices, lessons learned, identify innovative technologies, and commercial practices that will deliver efficiencies for mission performance.

The WMWG work will be performed under four technical Subgroups:

1. Challenging Waste Subgroup
2. Packaging & Transportation (P&T) Subgroup
3. Transuranic (TRU) Waste Subgroup
4. Container Aging Management Subgroup



FY26 INITIATIVES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	SUBELEMENT	WMWG TASK	DELIVERABLE/DATE
Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Efficient Operations **TAMMY MONDAY**	**Utilizing graded approaches and commercial practices, when appropriate**	**Apply our group expertise input to DOE maintaining current complex wide Challenging Waste streams regulatory requirements and providing information on commercially available technologies.**	**1. Provide an updated list of Challenging Waste streams to EM4.2. Date – second quarter FY25.** **2. Provide Support on upgrades to BLDD -Awaiting further direction from EM.**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	SUBELEMENT	WMWG TASK	DELIVERABLE/DATE
Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Efficient Operations DAN PANCAKE	Use of data analytics to detect trends, avoid Ops problems	Provide technical forum and information sharing platform for TRU waste generator community.	1. Provide technical support for acceleration of RH TRU disposition specific to deployment of shielded container assemblies. Date – ongoing through FY. 2. Identify and share point-of-generation issues for challenging TRU wastes in existing and emergent programs. Date – ongoing through FY. 3. Complete, approve, and issue the Best Practice Paper, specific to TRU Waste Transportation activities within DOE and the National TRU Program. Complete 1/31/2026. 4. Complete white paper supporting LANL TRU waste shipping.
Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Efficient Operations PAUL JONES	Use of data analytics to detect trends, avoid Ops problems	Provide technical forum and information sharing platform for DOE, Contractor, and Transporter community related to radioactive waste transportation and packaging/containers.	1. Provide summary information related to FY24 transportation incidents as lessons learned. Date – Q2FY25.

Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, lessons-learned and needs among the various organizations involved with maintaining confinement integrity of radioactive materials containers subjected to extended storage. **GARY CANNELL**	**Achieving Sustainability**	▪ **Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, lessons-learned and needs among the various organizations involved with maintaining confinement integrity of radioactive materials containers subjected to extended storage.**	1. Expand use of the Hanford Lead Canister dry cask system throughout the Complex for mitigation and repair technology development / demonstration.

WMWG FY26 Tasks and Deliverables for Continuous Improvement:

a. Provide a platform for discussion and information sharing related to WIPP certification of waste that may encounter non-conforming items (e.g., nitic acid rags, batteries, etc.). Expand Point-of-Generation Characterization Support that will include working with generator sites and the Central Characterization Project (CCP) to identify areas of common challenges in packaging (e.g., liquid waste streams and small quantity site wastes that require treatment and Basis of Knowledge [BoK] evaluations).
b. Support efforts by CBFO and the WIPP prime contractor to accelerate the shipment and emplacement of currently certified RH TRU waste and continue to participate in strategic planning activities affecting long-term disposition of RH TRU Waste at WIPP.
c. For Challenging waste streams, continue Information sharing so that DOE sites are aware of commercial treatment and disposal options. This helps minimize cost and schedule by utilizing already established disposition pathways.
d. The Challenging Waste Subgroup will focus on the identification and resolution of challenging LLW, MLLW, TRU and HLW (i.e., tank waste) streams. Support DOE EM 4.2 organization by assistance with the identification and resolution of challenging waste streams. Continue to provide subject matter expertise to DOE related to EPA's list of emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS,1-4 Dioxane, etc.).

e. Provide continued support to DOE technical groups including the Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility Federal Review Group (LFRG) and the National TRU Program (NTP).

f. Provide technical support for the completion, response to comments, implementation and training associated with DOE Order 435.1 and future revisions (Radioactive Waste Management) with a focus on LLW disposal technical standards, etc.

g. Provide continued technical consultation and support to DOE Packaging and Transportation (P&T) organizations. Efforts will include providing technical comments on issues pertaining to waste packages, radiation clearance surveys on commercial transport equipment and vehicles, and support to the Contractors Transportation Management Association (CTMA). A Packaging and Transportation Subgroup Lessons Learned Program will be established to provide expertise and best practices on Issues such as the inconsistency of procedures and risk associated with blocking and bracing, and new vehicle auto braking that can result in load shifts during transport.

h. Provide technical support to DOE Nuclear Energy (NE) and EM for spent nuclear fuel and High-Level Waste missions, as needed.

i. Continue to support DOE EM, NNSA, and RWAP on NNSS waste disposition issues as needed. Complete/issue rewrite of Order 435.1- manage waste by risk vs origin (significant impact on tank waste – remove WIR).

j. Identify waste disposition opportunities from Recycle Spent Fuel initiative.

k. Streamline requirements for problematic TRU waste to clear path for disposal to reduce landlord costs.

l. Leverage removal of DOE prohibition on recycling contaminated metals (including Nickel) to save disposal footprint and cost.

m. Leverage use of the appropriate regulatory framework for cleanup (e.g., use of CERCLA vs RCRA for clean-up:
    - Example - Place Hanford Site under one regulatory approach - CERCLA.
    - Consider establishing a regulatory clean-up standards task team.

n. Identify benefits of establishing TRU Processing Center for EM and NNSA sites at Idaho's AMWTP - smaller sites will not need to establish their own TRU Certification program, which maintains an asset, and provide cost savings to DOE.

o. Mercury contaminated waste at ORO - provide support to OREM technology development initiatives.

p. Support development of a shipping container to transport SMR/micro-reactors loaded with fuel.

WMWG Activities:

- Newsletters and Topical Papers:
    - WMWG White Paper on transportation of TRU waste in non-TRU packs.
    - The EFCOG Annual Report will contain a final year-end report from the WMWG describing the accomplishments and changes that have occurred due to emerging issues.

- Planned meetings

  The WMWG provides a forum for collaboration between DOE, site prime contractors, and commercial treatment and disposal companies (TSDFs) through WMWG group meetings, workshops, etc. to facilitate sharing of information that is useful. Improved communication is important and allows site waste managers to be informed what capabilities are commercially available. The WMWG also participates in waste management related user groups to stay abreast of current issues (e.g., NNSA's Community of Practice/Challenging Waste User Group meetings). 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 face-to-face meetings will be conducted in concert with other planned conferences/meetings to minimize travel and other costs. The overall management of the WMWG has, and is expected to continue, to take a considerable amount of time primarily performed by the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Subgroup Chairs. It is critical to the successful performance of the WMWG for the planning and coordination to be done in an effective and efficient manner. The resulting reports and best practices will be of benefit to DOE, its contractors, and the EFCOG organization, and thus provide tangible value to the waste management community.

  - WMWG Planned In person Meetings for FY26:
    - WM26 - Phoenix AZ – Thursday March 12, 2026
    - National Cleanup Workshop – September 23, 2025
    - First Wednesday of each month without an in-person meeting
  - Subgroup Meetings
    - The TRU Subgroup hosts virtual and in-person meetings at TRU Generator Sites that use (or plan to use) Shielded Container Assemblies (SCAs), while completing alternatives analyses and updating lifecycle estimates for the restart of RH TRU emplacement at WIPP.
    - The Aging Container Management Subgroup will hold bi-monthly virtual meetings and one in-person meeting at one of the committee-member sites (TBD).
    - The Packaging and Transportation (P&T) subgroup hosts 4 meetings per year. Meetings are scheduled as follows:
      - Virtual meeting on Friday October 3rd
      - In person meeting with additional virtual attendance on Thursday December 4, 2025, from 12 to 1:00 pm central time in conjunction with the Perma-Fix conference.
      - February meeting TBD virtual.
      - In person meeting at CTMA conference -TBD.