

February 6, 2002

Session 34: DOE Prime Contractors Round Table

Co-Chairs: Thomas Clements and Kenneth Guay

The second annual DOE Prime Contractor Round Table was again held at the Waste Management Symposia. This round table afforded the senior executive management from the major US Department of Energy EM sites prime contracting companies, the only opportunity to meet and discuss common issues.

Ten of the major sites were represented as shown below:

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Oak Ridge Reservation | Joseph Nemece | President, Bechtel Jacobs LLC |
| • Y-12 Natn'l Security Complex | Jim Kannard | Executive VP, BWXT Y-12 |
| • Fernald Site | Dennis Carr | Acting President, Fluor Fernald |
| • Idaho Natn'l Envr & Engr Lab | Paul Kearns | Vice President, BWXT Idaho |
| • Hanford Reservation | Norman Boyter | Vice President, Fluor Hanford |
| • Rocky Flats Envr Tech Site | Nancy Tuor | Chief Operating Officer, Kaiser-Hill |
| • Sandia Natn'l Laboratory | Robert Eagan | Vice President, Lockheed Martin |
| • Pantex Site | Terry Cox | ES&H Prog Mngr, BWXT Pantex |
| • Waste Isolation Pilot Plant | John Lee | President, Westinghouse TRU Soltn |
| • BNF Limited | Philip Strawbridge | VP & CEO, BNFL Inc. |

The topic of discussion focused on the recent release of the Top-to-Bottom review of the Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Program and the proposed FY03 Presidents Budget that would have significant implications for each of the EM sites. In summary, the Top-to-Bottom review found four major findings dealing with contract approach, lack of strategies for cleanup based on risk prioritization; business processes that do not support accelerated risk reduction; and EM scope that does not support cleanup and closure mission. The report identified recommended actions to address the findings. The proposed FY03 Presidents budget redirects and refocuses funding around the core DOE functions and establishes \$800M "reserve" funds to implement changes and support cleanup completion.

Each site representative first provided a brief site overview and site specific implications that addressed a summary of their site (mission, EM status) and site specific implications and opportunities to the new change in EM direction and approach. A panel discussion was then held that centered around three questions:

1. What are global barriers to implementing the new EM approach?
2. What are the key reforms that need to occur to allow the new EM approach to be successful?
3. What opportunities exist to support implementation?

A list of the concerns with issues and some topics discussed include the following:

- DOE Orders and EPA regulations provide barriers to cleanup (ORR)
- Governor of Nevada holding Yucca Mountain hostage and thereby delaying the opening (ORR)
- Opening of WIPP to accept RH TRU wastes (ORR)
- DNFSB issues (ORR)
- Sustained funding and uncertainties present each year. (ORR, Y-12)
- Linking of Waste Management to production and manufacturing operations (Y-12)
- Current EM contractors to work with NNSA or OS contractors to receive responsibility of newly generated wastes back (Y-12)
- Excess amount of nuclear safety requirements (Fernald)
- Flexibility should be afforded the contractor to manage the workforce (Fernald)
- Help with smaller quantity and hard to handle waste streams (Fernald)
- Review WACs and institute similarities between Yucca Mountain, Hanford, WIPP and NTS (INEEL)
- Reestablish trust between DOE and the regulators and stake holders (INEEL)
- Legacy CON OPS dealing with nuclear safety and DNFSB (Hanford)
- Provide training to DOE and prime contractors on contract management (Hanford)
- Reduce Risk (RFETS)
- Review and Reduce WAC requirements (SNL)
- Regulators should share some of the risks (SNL)
- Remove some of the regulator and oversight barriers (SNL)
- Provide continuity of management and direction by DOE and contractors (Pantex)
- Reassure the communities of the safety of the projects (Pantex)
- Standardization of opportunities (WIPP)
- Setting of expectations upfront between DOE and the contractor (BNFL)

The session will be held again next year at the Waste Management Symposia 2003.