

WM2012 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 51 – Energy Facility Contractors Group

Co-Chairs: Joe Yanek, *Fluor Government Group (USA)*
Susan Stiger, *Bechtel Group Inc. (USA)*

Panel Reporter: Mark W. Frei, *Longenecker and Associates (USA)*

Panelists:

1. John McDonald, *Washington River Protection Solutions (USA)*
2. Tim Flake, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (USA)*
3. Mike Mason, *Bechtel National (USA)*
4. James Rooney, *ABSG Consulting (USA)*
5. Cynthia Williams, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (USA)*
6. Kevin Kostelnik, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (USA)*
7. Rick Millikin, *CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (USA)*
8. Sonny Goldston, *EnergySolutions (USA)*

On average, approximately 25 to 35 people were present to hear this session. Following introductions by the Chair of the EFCOG Board of Directors, **Joe Yanek**, he provided an overview of the EFCOG – including mission, organization and history, summary of recent accomplishments through the 13 Working Groups, best practices, the critical few, top deliverables for CY2012, challenges and opportunities. Eight panelists then followed Joe by addressing some key initiatives from their respective Working Groups.

John McDonald presented for the Integrated Safety Management and Quality Assurance Working Group's efforts on the safety culture project, including the background on the pilots run at various DOE sites to determine a consensus set of principles and implementation practices (and associated attributes) that would take worker safety to a higher level. He described the joint task team with DOE, and the current activities underway, including training and DNFSB 2011-1 Implementation Plan support.

Tim Flake, also of the Integrated Safety Management and Quality Assurance Working Group, discussed the work planning and controls initiative that has been underway since FY 2011. This initiative is useful for contractors for all hazardous planned work at DOE sites. He described the participants within EFCOG and DOE, the current focus, the scope and the schedule of activities leading up to an early May 2012 final guideline to DOE.

Mike Mason presented the status and plans of the joint supplier evaluation project in the Integrated Safety Management and Quality Assurance Working Group. He covered the organization of the task team, background and goals of this project and the phased integration proposal. He discussed the barriers identified to date that would prevent successful implementation across DOE of the JSEP initiative and concluded with next steps that will lead to a project plan for execution.

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James Rooney presented on behalf of the Safety Analysis Working Group the expert unreviewed safety question determination initiative. After describing the SAWG's organization and the upcoming Safety Analysis Workshop in May hosted by Los Alamos National Laboratory, he provided background on this project, noting that up to ten man-years of effort are devoted to USQ determinations (such as at the Y-12 National Security Complex) and that the goal of this project is to streamline the process to save costs while still maintaining compliance with 10CFR830. He then described the expert USQ determination process based on the pilots conducted prior to FY 2012 and the training now available on the EFCOG SAWG website.

Cynthia Williams provided an overview of the Contractor Assurance Working Group's efforts to support the NNSA's governance initiative. After presenting the CAWG's organization chart, she described in detail the governance scope, critical factors in the governance model, and roles and responsibilities with a focus on M&O contractors – with the key being moving decision authority closer to the work, such as HQ to the field. She then went on to describe effective contractor assurance systems as part of effective governance – requirements, analysis, effectiveness reviews (validation and affirmation), and what governance is not.

Kevin Kostelnik presented the efforts he has focused on as Deputy Director of the Joint DOE-EFCOG American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Project Team. Working closely with DOE's Office of Environmental Management, EFCOG has focused on lessons learned and best practices from the various activities funded by the ARRA within EM's cleanup program – mainly D&D of excess facilities, waste disposition and soil and groundwater cleanup activities. A forum was established for the exchange of this information, using three focus areas: Health and Safety, Worker Training and Workforce Transition. Over the time span of October 2009 to February 2012, 62 health and safety lessons learned were identified and disseminated and 42 project management lessons learned were also identified and disseminated. Training of new workers who were executing ARRA work scope was emphasized throughout this time period, taking advantage of lessons learned.

Rick Millikin described the efforts of the Project Management Working Group in supporting DOE in its issuance of DOE Order 413.3B, Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets, and of the revision to Project Reporting and Assessment System (PARS II) and in its activities devoted to putting in place corrective actions to address findings from DOE's root cause analyses of poor performance of projects and contracts. He described the PMWG's organization, as well as the peer review support the PMWG has provided DOE over the past year.

Sonny Goldston presented on behalf of the Waste Management Working Group the significant effort this group has made in support of DOE's Office of Environmental Management project to update the Radioactive Waste Management Order, 435.1 He presented the WMWG organization chart, how the project utilized the concepts of the ISMS feedback loop to inform what should be addressed in the Order update, the 2010 complex-wide review of how the existing Order has been implemented with a focus on

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positive outcomes and problem areas. He then described the revised Order including its form and content, the general requirements for all radioactive waste types, and specific requirements for high-level waste, transuranic waste and low-level waste. He concluded with the schedule for completing the Order revision within DOE.

Sue Stiger, Vice-Chair of the EFCOG Board of Directors, provided a summary of what was presented by Joe Yanek and the panelists, and opened the session up to questions.

There were three questions from the audience, including how subject matter experts were being utilized in the expert USQ process, clarification of the importance of the one-year storage limit on newly generated LLW that has a disposal path, and how well is Order 413.3B being implemented across the complex.

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