

## WM2014 Conference Panel Report

### PANEL SESSION 051: Energy Facility Contractors Group Knowledge Portal

**Co-Chairs:** *Susan Stiger, Bechtel Systems and Infrastructure, Inc./Los Alamos National Laboratory*

**Panel Reporter:** *Mark Frei, Longenecker and Associates, Inc.*

#### Panelists:

1. **John McDonald**, *Washington River Protection Solutions*
2. **Sonny Goldston**, *EnergySolutions*
3. **Joe Yanek**, *Fluor Government Group*
4. **Paul Henry**, *Los Alamos National Laboratory*

This panel session focused on the contributions that the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) has made in support of the Department of Energy's missions. The session opened with **Susan Stiger** (Chair of EFCOG) providing an overview of EFCOG, whose mission is to promote management and operational excellence in all aspects of the operation, management, and integration of DOE and NNSA facilities in a safe, environmentally sound, efficient, and cost-effective manner. EFCOG she explained has been in operation for more than 20 years now sharing best-in-DOE solutions and lessons learned to meet mission needs across the complex. She explained that the organization and its approximate 100 member companies and 12 Working Groups focus on the 'critical few' – operational excellence, management effectiveness, and membership. She then summarized the recent key achievements in EFCOG, and shared the current information on performance metrics for EFCOG, which shows that EFCOG continues to provide added value to the member companies and to DOE. She indicated that EFCOG is now interfacing with the National Laboratory Chief Operating Officers and DOE Field Managers Council to maximize performance of the contractors. She concluded reminding the audience that the upcoming annual meeting, to be held in Washington DC, will be on June 12-14, 2014.

#### **Summary of Panelist Presentations**

**John McDonald** represented the Integrated Safety Management and Quality Assurance Working Group, and discussed EFCOG's initiative on safety culture. After a brief overview of DOE's safety culture philosophy, he provided the work EFCOG has done in support of DOE since 2010 including helping formulate the response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 2011-1 regarding safety culture at the Hanford Site's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, and developing training and assessment guides for safety conscious work environment. EFCOG continues to provide training and forums for information exchange on safety culture to assist in the improvement of safety culture across the complex. Mr. McDonald also presented a summary of activities and achievements in the work planning and control area. EFCOG developed a work planning and control guide that was complimented recently by the DNFSB, has been performing site assist visits to facilitate work planning and controls at the activity level, and supported DOE's Office of HSS in responding to DNFSB/Tech-37 issues.

**Sonny Goldston** represented the Waste Management Working Group and discussed a number of topics that this working group has been involved in during FY 2012 and 2013. He first presented the most critical support that they have been providing to DOE – namely, the support of the

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Environmental Management (EM) program's update of DOE Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management; this support has included performing assessments of where improvements are warranted based on over 10 years of the Order's implementation in the field, as well as providing direct input on requirements and Guide updating – WMWG's focus the past year has been on waste classification, consolidation, waste incidental to reprocessing, and low-level waste authorization. He also discussed the successful workshop held at last year's WM Symposium on the issue of waste incidental to reprocessing, the support WMWG is providing West Valley on classifying for disposition various cleanup debris and waste, the support provided to DOE-EM on the low-level waste federal review group, the help being provided to DOE-EM to sort out the differences in contamination limits in Department of Transportation regulations versus DOE regulations, and input to DOE-EM on the incidents of suspect counterfeit bolts used in tie-downs for shipping low-level waste for disposal.

**Joe Yanek** represented the Business Management Working Group and discussed recent achievements in support of DOE. First, the BMWG supported the Sustainability Performance Office and the Office of Property Management by providing the various approaches and databases used in vehicle fleet management. Next, BMWG provided input to DOE's Chief Information Officer on recommendations on cyber security regarding a risk management framework process under the new DOE Order 205.1B. BMWG also provided input to DOE's OAPM on using risk-based subcontractor audits to save money without affecting performance. BMWG also developed a complex-wide course catalogue in collaboration with DOE's National Training Center; it also developed methodology for determining course equivalencies between DOE facilities - when fully implemented, this initiative will save significant training costs and lead to operational effectiveness. Finally, BMWG provided input to DOE on training standards.

**Paul Henry** represented the Project Management Working Group and discussed the initiatives completed and underway to address the key issues affecting implementing DOE Order 413.3B, Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets. One area of focus of this working group recently has been on the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) – certification, reporting, and surveillance – and ways to improve it; surveys have been taken that will lead to meaningful actions and best practice promulgation to enhance the value of EVMS. He then described the white paper developed on baseline change proposals and contingency, which are two critical management tools and processed in Order 413.3B. He also described their recent work on escalation and inflation to assure consistency in sites' application of these factors in project cost estimating. The PMWG also initiated an acquisition strategy initiative in cooperation with the DOE Field Managers Council regarding considerations for application of fixed price variations on DOE capital asset construction projects.

**Susan Stiger** then opened up the session for questions from the audience. An attendee was interested in looking at some of the PMWG's deliverables discussed by Paul Henry, including the various white papers – which are available as they are completed on the EFCOG's PMWG website.