

DEACTIVATION & DECOMMISSIONING AND FACILITY ENGINEERING WORKING GROUP 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Chair: Bob Richardella, Time Solutions

Vice-Chair: Lance Mezga, University of Tennessee-Battelle (Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

INTRODUCTION

Vision - The Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) and Facility Engineering (DD&FE) Working Group provides leadership to focus on improving safety and reducing D&D life cycle costs across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex.

Purpose: The DD&FE Working Group's intent is to facilitate the objectives of the EFCOG by partnering with the Office of Deactivation & Decommissioning and Facility Engineering in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) in identifying and addressing key opportunities for improved performance in D&D safety and project execution across the DOE complex through application of experience, including lessons learned, and technology transfer.

Objectives - The DD&FE Working Group is committed to the following objectives:

- Promote, coordinate, and facilitate the active exchange of successful D&D programs, practices, procedures, technology and other pertinent information of common interest which have been effectively utilized by contractors and subcontractors for DOE facilities as well as in nuclear power plant decommissioning and other environmental cleanup scenarios
- Identify, analyze and produce for distribution through EM important lessons learned that could in a safe manner reduce life-cycle costs of EM's D&D Program
- Develop D&D case studies for future workshops and training courses

Scope - The DD&FE Working Group scope is defined as follows:

- The area to be addressed by the DD&FE Working Group is facility D&D, including soil and groundwater remediation topics where they integrally relate to facility D&D.
- The DD&FE Working Group will facilitate interaction with outside agencies and organizations regarding application of D&D principles and methods in the DOE complex.
- Facilities will be covered from the point of ceasing their operating mission through their final declaration of cleanup status. However, activities during the operating mission that prepare for efficient and safe D&D when the mission ceases will be also be within the scope.
- The DD&FE Working Group will communicate with other EFCOG Working Groups to avoid duplication of effort.
- While the DD&FE Working Group will not lobby, advocate independent positions, or try to change DOE policy, D&D practices as applied to DOE missions may be discussed and suggestions for improvement made to the DOE.

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIP

The DD&FE Working Group's membership fell from 18 active participants to a low of 8 active participants in

March 2009. This drop in membership was due to contractor realignment at the operating sites and to the start of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects across the DOE complex. Through aggressive recruiting, the number has steadily risen and the DD&FE Working Group now consists of 22 active members. The members come from 14 member EFCOG companies, and represent the national laboratories and major DOE sites and projects in the complex.

ORGANIZATION

Leadership in the DD&FE Working Group is comprised of:

Chair: Bob Richardella, Time Solutions

Vice-Chair: Lance Mezga, University of Tennessee-Battelle (Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

Secretary: Kent Dorr, CH2MHill Inc.

There are no subgroups on this DD&FE Working Group, but there are 4 task groups or teams with leads follows:

- Best Practices Task Group Lead: Mike Auble, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- ARRA Support Task Team Lead: Kent Dorr, CH2MHill Inc.
- D&D Knowledge Resource Center Implementation Task Team Lead: Bob Richardella, Time Solutions
- D&D Promotional Products Task Team Lead: Anne White, Bastet Technical Services

EFCOG Sponsoring Director: Pete Knollmeyer, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

DOE Sponsor: Paula Kirk, EM

Regarding succession planning, the current DD&FE Working Group leadership was installed in March 2009. Terms are usually for one year, and the Vice-Chair normally succeeds the Chair.

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the DD&FE Working Group's focus this fiscal year on these goals:

- improving the identification, dissemination and implementation of D&D Best Practices across the DOE complex, and
- identifying transformational changes that can be made to positively affect safety and the D&D baseline over the long term,

the DD&FE Working Group achieved the following during FY 2009:

- Four task groups or teams were formed to focus attention on the following initiatives:
 - Identification and development of solutions to problems that arise as a result of execution of ARRA-funded projects;
 - development of D&D promotional products with the goal to assure continued funding for D&D projects after ARRA funded projects are complete; and
 - establishing stronger technical support relationships with Florida International University (FIU) and the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) centers, with the goal being to enhance the ability of these organizations to support the D&D community.

The progress made in accomplishing the DD&FE Working Group's objectives was guided by interactions of the full DD&FE Working Group as follows:

- Held monthly telephone conferences
- Conducted in March 2009 the Winter DD&FE Working Group meeting in Phoenix, Arizona
- Conducted in August 2009 the Summer Working Group meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho
- Held numerous Task Group and Team telephone conferences were also conducted

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The next meeting of the DD&FE Working Group is being planned to be held in conjunction with the Waste Management 2010 Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona in March 2010. The meeting will be held on Tuesday (March 11) of the conference, rather than Thursday as was the case last year, as a way to bolster attendance.

The DD&FE Working Group will sponsor a technical information exchange meeting for the general D&D community. Current plans are to have the meeting at a major construction equipment manufacturer's plant in Illinois in the Spring. Demonstrations of demolition equipment will be provided and participants will have the opportunity to demo the equipment themselves.

The DD&FE Working Group will identify site points of contact and subject matter experts in D&D techniques. These individuals will support the FIU Knowledge Management data base development and be a resource to the help lines at the ALARA centers. The DD&FE Working Group is committed to developing up to six best practices during FY 2010.

The DD&FE Working Group will compile a primer for ARRA reporting based on the experience gained over the past year at the operating sites. This information will be made available to the Hanford ALARA center and the FIU Knowledge Management database project.

EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION

The effectiveness of the DD&FE Working Group was impacted by a 60% drop in active membership as noted above. Membership has been increased significantly, and the DD&FE Working Group is back to working on tasks that will have positive impact on the D&D community.

LESSONS LEARNED

The DD&FE Working Group lost a significant number of members in the last 12 months. This was due to a number of factors, including realignment of the prime contractors at a number of sites resulting in reassignment of staff to other functions not related to D&D. In addition, initiation of the ARRA projects had a significant impact on the ability of DD&FE Working Group members to perform their assignments and remain active in the DD&FE Working Group. The lesson learned is that recruitment for the DD&FE Working Group must be an ongoing activity, every bit as important as completing the business of the Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The DD&FE Working Group should continue functioning in 2010, pursuing the plans described above as structured with Task Groups and Teams ensuring an on-going focus on specific initiatives.