

Fire Protection Subgroup Annual Report 2004

1. Introduction

Executive Summary

The Fire Protection Subgroup continues to provide a forum for members to ask questions and to disseminate information. In the last year approximately four requests were received from people who had heard about the group and wanted to be added to the group distribution list. This interest in joining the group is considered an endorsement of the group and what it is accomplishing. In addition, the group has completed tasks such as reviewing DOE Orders, developing benchmarking information, sharing specific information on issues of interest to multiple sites and responding to questions asked by group members.

Purpose of the working group (mission statement)

The Fire Protection Subgroup provides leadership for the efficient and cost-effective implementation of Fire Protection Programs as requested by the Department of Energy (DOE) and EFCOG member companies. The purpose of the Task Group is to promote excellence in the development, implementation and continuous improvement of Fire Protection programs at the Department of Energy sites by sharing information and by facilitating the application of Fire Protection "Best Practices".

Objectives

The objectives of the Fire Protection Subgroup are to:

- a. Promote, coordinate and facilitate the active exchange of successful programs, practices, procedures, lessons learned and other pertinent information of common interest to Fire Protection.
- b. Promote sharing of management and technical information among DOE contractors.
- c. Identify techniques and benchmarked practices that enable cost-effective and accelerated implementation of Fire Protection processes and programs.
- d. Facilitate coordinated contractor input to DOE on Fire Protection related issues.

Scope

- a. The Fire Protection Subgroup operates within the scope of the EFCOG Working Group Operating Manual.
- b. The areas of contractor interest covered by the Fire Protection Task Group include:
 - site, facility and activity level processes that implement the Fire Protection Program
 - identification of cost effective approaches to the implementation of Fire Protection requirements

- sharing of information on how specific Fire Protection issues are handled at various sites

c. Areas of interest include both nuclear and non-nuclear facilities.

2. **Membership**

The Fire Protection Subgroup has approximately 40 members representing 23 sites/contractors. The sites/contractors represented include:

- Pantex
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
- Hanford
- Kansas City Plant
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Sandia National Laboratory
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Nevada Test Site
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Oakridge National Laboratory
- Oakridge Waste Treatment Project
- Oakridge Y-12 Plant
- Waste Treatment Plant
- Savannah River Site
- Washington Group International
- Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
- Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
- Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Brookhaven National Laboratory
- Rocky Flats
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Waste Treatment Plant Project (Hanford)

The Subgroup chairman is Richard Lewis of the Savannah River Site.

3. **Objectives and Achievements**

The Subgroup focused on the following areas during the reporting period:

- Implementation of Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) for selected Fire Systems.
- Benchmarking of Fire Protection Resources in the DOE Complex.
- Development of a list of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) technical committee members working at DOE sites.
- Development of specific comments on the Draft DOE Order 420.1B.

To support the efforts of the Subgroup four telephone conference calls were held. The conference calls were conducted on the following dates:

January 29, 2004 – Discussed active issues and received questions from the group for further discussion. Twelve group members participated in the call.

April 21, 2004 – Continued discussions on active issues and discussed final plans for the meeting scheduled for June 2004. Ten group members participated.

September 29, 2004 – Discussed benchmarking efforts and Maximum Possible Fire Loss (MPFL) issue. Thirteen group members participated.

December 8, 2004 – Call was to discuss comments on the draft DOE Order 420.1B. Approximately ten group members participated. Comments were forwarded to DOE-HQ.

A meeting of the Fire Protection Subgroup was held during the DOE Fire Safety Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 23, 2004. The focus of the meeting was to discuss benchmarking results and to hear a presentation on D&D activities at Rocky Flats. Sixteen group members participated.

Deliverables/accomplishments for the year included:

- Developed a list of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) committee members working at DOE sites.
- Generated benchmarking information on fire protection staffing and costs across the DOE complex.
- Developed consensus comments for DOE Order 420.1B.
- Shared information with other DOE sites to assist in implementation of Reliability Centered Maintenance.

4. Planning for the Next Year

The Fire Protection Subgroup intends to begin the year by identifying new initiatives that may be appropriate for the group to address. The greatest benefit of the group has been the increased communication within the fire protection community. To assist in this communication, telephone conference calls will continue to be conducted approximately once per quarter, a meeting of the Subgroup will be held, if possible, in conjunction with the DOE Fire Safety

Workshop or other forum and the email distribution list and contact list will be maintained.

5. Lessons Learned

Lack of funding for travel to allow Subgroup members to participate in face-to-face meetings continues to hinder the exchange of information and the development of better working relationships.

The great diversity (size, staffing, types of facilities, etc) among the various DOE sites requires adjustments on how fire programs are implemented.

The establishment of the Fire Protection Subgroup has increased the communication between members of the Fire Protection community substantially. The overall response to the Subgroup and its activities has been very positive.

6. Effectiveness Evaluation

The Fire Protection Subgroup has attempted to identify opportunities for cost savings by sharing information on Reliability Centered Maintenance, providing comments to DOE-HQ on proposed revisions to DOE Orders that may increase costs and by increasing communication between DOE Sites to share lessons learned.

7. Recommendations

The Fire Protection Subgroup should continue to function in 2005.