

# **Fire Protection Subgroup Annual Report 2005**

## **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, members have taken advantage of the communications aspect of the group to ask questions, get opinions and to share information. In addition, the group worked on tasks such as reviewing DOE Orders, discussing issues common to the complex, 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 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.
- e. Provide an efficient mechanism for DOE interfaces with senior contractor executives and subject matter experts responsible for the development, implementation and continuous improvement of Fire Protection Programs.

### **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.
- d. Issues will be addressed for all aspects of facility operation from initial construction through facility retirement/dismantlement.
- e. The Fire Protection Subgroup will not lobby, advocate independent positions, or try to change DOE policy.

## 2. **Membership**

The Fire Protection Subgroup has approximately 50 members representing approximately 26 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:

- Benchmarking of Fire Protection Testing, Inspection and Maintenance
- NFPA Technical Committee Members - How they interact with their respective sites and within the complex as a whole.
- Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) – How can we do more in the complex to implement RCM to reduce costs?
- Consistency of Equivalencies and Exemptions between Sites – How can we get consistency across the complex on the implementation of Equivalencies and Exemptions?

To support the efforts of the Subgroup three conference calls and one meeting were held. Conference calls and the annual meeting were conducted on the following dates:

January 26, 2005 – Conference Call. Discussed the drafts of 10 CFR 851 and DOE Order 420.1B. Comments on both documents were requested. Also discussed what initiatives the Fire Protection Subgroup should address in CY05. Fifteen members of the Subgroup participated in the Conference Call.

June 6, 2005 – Annual Meeting held in Las Vegas in conjunction with the NFPA World Safety Conference. Topics included Lightning Protection System maintenance, Reliability Centered Maintenance, Lessons Learned at Rocky Flats, Site Reports and a review of current initiatives. Nineteen members of the Subgroup participated in the meeting.

September 7, 2005 – Conference Call. Discussed DOE Complex NFPA Technical Committee members, the DOE Fire Safety Workshop and NFPA Convention in 2006, requirement to do internal obstruction investigations of wet pipe sprinkler systems, and the implementation of NFPA 1710.. Fourteen group members participated.

December 7, 2005 – Conference Call (planned). This will be the last conference call of the calendar year. Agenda items planned include selection of a new Subgroup chair, status of the 10 CFR 851 Rule to be issued, and identification of initiatives the group will address in CY06.

Deliverables/accomplishments for the year included:

- Developed a list of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) committee members working at DOE sites and initiated communication with the

committee members to encourage greater communication within the DOE Complex.

- Developed consensus comments for 10 CFR 851 (draft).
- Shared information with other DOE sites to assist in implementation of Reliability Centered Maintenance.
- Shared information on Equivalencies that might be of use to other sites.

**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 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 2006.