

EFCOG Environmental Subgroup Conference Minutes

March 11, 2004

1:00 P.M. (Mountain Time)

Participants: B. Bozzo, J. Doughty, R. Fox, R. Gurske, O. Haworth, S. Jackson, R. Kaldor, R. Landon, D. Lester, D. Stout, S. Woodbury, S. White, A. Villareal.

Subgroup Liaisons – (John Irving)

We still need liaisons for two groups below: Occupational Safety & Health & Quality Assurance.

IM Task Team – Orin Haworth
Best Practices Task Group – Gloria Cummins
Feed Back & Improvement – David Lester
Occupational Safety & Health -
Quality Assurance –

Orin Haworth & Gloria Cummins have made contact with their respective group chairs. Orin & Gloria will work with group chairs to identify items of interest to the Environmental Subgroup and vice versa. David Lester is working on making contact with the Feed Back & Improvement subgroup chair.

EFCOG Spring Meeting in Las Vegas – (Susi Jackson)

Environmental Subgroup will meet on May 12 and 13 at the DOE Facilities in North Las Vegas. Look to the EFCOG website for details.

We would like everyone that is coming to be involved in some kind of presentation, best management practice, lesson learned, etc. Send your ideas for the agenda to Susi Jackson.

Concerned expressed over travel budgets and the potential for low attendance. We have requested teleconference capabilities for Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon. However, face-to-face interaction is always more productive for the subgroup.

Great Ideas – (John Irving / All)

What are some *Great Ideas* that may turn into BMPs

Robert Fox discussed a practice of using auditors and personnel from other laboratories to assist in conducting audits of environmental laboratories. This may be especially beneficial to smaller facilities. Robert will consider preparing this as a BMP to discuss at the May meeting.

Task Team Status Reports –

Environmental Feedback (Richard Gurske and Roger Landon)

Several people are working on potential BMPs. John Irving encourages those with best practices to go to the website, download the BMP template and submit to Susi Jackson for presentation at the May meetings. Even if you are not in attendance, the subgroup could still review the information.

Richard is also looking at ways to get the regulatory compliance information onto the website. John Irving will discuss with Ed Yatsko.

Roger Landon would like to see an easier way to navigate through the website's BMPs. John Irving will discuss with Ed Yatsko.

EMS Experience (Al Villareal and Ron Reeves)

Al Villareal sent out a database containing EMS consultants used at responding sites. He will add to the database and resend as new information comes in.

Several sites are collaborating with others to help meet DOE Order 450.1. Darlene Moore and Al Villareal are using Ron Reeves from WIPP to help review Sandia's existing EMS documents as part of a gap analysis comparing EMS with DOE Order 450.1 & ISO 14001.

Susi Jackson is using Ted Doer from Los Alamos to look at LLNL's EMS.

John Irving is traveling to LANL to discuss INEEL's EMS experience.

Benchmarking is an important function that the Environmental Subgroup could participate in between sites. We took no actions, but this would be a good topic and part of the May meeting.

Environmental Subgroup Participation (Susi Jackson, John Irving & Alice Ikenberry)

Susi Jackson and John Irving did not report, but actions are still on schedule. The Environmental Subgroup website is current, the membership list is being worked, submitted a revised charter to the Working Group.

Pollution Prevention (William Bozzo and Al Villareal)

Bill Bozzo sent out a questionnaire related to P2 and DOE Order 450.1. To date, four sites have responded that all facilities are complying with all the requirements.

Bill mentioned (and sent out to the group) information about ORNL's P2 videoconference – one of the topics is funding for pollution prevention.

EMS Status (Alice Ikenberry & David Lester)

Dave Lester is working to complete the EMS paper and will get with Alice Ikenberry to make sure that it is ready for the May meeting.

DOE Guidance on 450.1 – (Steve Woodbury)

Steve Woodbury discussed the latest DOE Order 450.1 guidance to hit the street. Steve forwarded website to check on the status of each guidance document.

Here is the website from Steve -- <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/ems/guideschedule.html>