

**From:** Pam Horning [mailto:horning3@llnl.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:24 PM  
**To:** EFCOG Member  
**Cc:** EFCOG Working Group Chair; Safety Culture Team  
**Subject:** SAFETY CULTURE ENDORSEMENT

EFCOG Executive Council,

ISMS has had a significant positive impact on overall improvement within the DOE complex since its introduction in the mid 1990's. However, just as each organization is expected to live up to the ISMS principles of continuous improvement, periodic ISMS revitalization is necessary to account for new industry information and lessons learned; it is a never ending journey. **Safety culture is the vessel of continuous improvement in which the ISMS approach to doing work resides.**

In 2007, DOE and EFCOG identified an ISMS improvement opportunity that would involve increased emphasis on ISMS safety culture aspects. As a result, a joint DOE/EFCOG sponsored ISMS Safety Culture Task Team (the Team) was formed to address this issue. Based on review of external operating experience and internal DOE complex performance data, a compelling case developed for evaluating and improving safety culture characteristics for projects and other entities across the DOE Complex in order to provide a significant positive impact to overall mission performance and safety. The EFCOG Board of Directors recently endorsed the Team's recommendations and agreed to several pilot programs to test and refine the effectiveness of the proposed tools. The tools can be seen on the EFCOG Website ([http://www.efcog.org/wg/ism\\_sctt/index.htm](http://www.efcog.org/wg/ism_sctt/index.htm))

On January 16, 2009, Jeffrey Kupfer, then Acting Deputy Secretary of Energy, provided his endorsement and support of this effort (see attached letter). EFCOG is pleased to continue to contribute to DOE's strategy for safe mission accomplishment and continuous improvement.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to Glenn Podonsky and David Amerine for their leadership as Executive Sponsors of this effort and Pat Worthington and John McDonald for their leadership as Task Team Co-chair Leads as well as the numerous DOE and contractor representatives who contributed their time and valuable experience to the Team. As contractors in the DOE community, please show your leadership and involvement by embracing the attributes of a strong safety culture in your respective organizations.

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