

Waste Management EFCOG Meeting Minutes
Phoenix, AZ
Thursday, March 5, 2009

Attendees:

Sonny Goldston	Steve Loftus	Roger Seitz
Jerry Long	Bryan Schreiner	Gordon Quillin
Charlie Johnson	Kathy Johns-Hughes	Percy Fountain
Jim Blankenhorn	Brody Orchard	Cherri DeFigh-Price
John Ciucci	Bob Giroir	Jerry Cunningham
Bob Miklos	Roy Schepens	Dick Blauvelt
Pan Horning	Dean Lobdell	Jeannette Hyatt
Susan Krenzien	Mark Keefer	Christine Gelles
Mark Frei	Brian Mathis	Ty Blackford
Michael Spoerner	Jim Beck	Luke Reid
Miles Smith	Nancy Rothermich	Jhon Carilli
Elmer Wilhite	Lisa Harvego	Susan Stiger

Billy Morrison opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and acknowledging the following:

Pam Horning – EFCOG Executive Committee Chair
Christine Gelles – EFCOG WMWG Sponsor
Bob Giroir – WMWG Board Sponsor

He briefly covered focus areas discussed in the EFCOG WMWG meeting held in LBNL in January. Specifically:

- Noting our plans to issue a white paper on waste classification to Frank Marcinowski/Christine Gelles. Details of this to be discussed in Sonny Goldston's presentation
- WMWG participation in the update to 435.1. To be covered by Marty Latourneau.
- Development of the WMWG Website.
- Identification of peer review opportunities; aligning of quarterly meetings with specific facility requests

Billy Morrison then covered the planned agenda and introduced Christine Gelles to give a sponsors statement.

Christine Gelles, from the DOE Office of Disposal Operations covered the following items. Ms. Gelles stated that she was excited about the formation of the WMWG and expects to be able to draw upon the collective expertise of the group.

Stimulus

- The stimulus should allow us to go after some of the waste that was traditionally lower priority and therefore not fully funded within target budget constraints.
- Expect increased activities in solid waste disposition/characterization.
- Entire organization to manage/handle stimulus costs and reporting criteria – Cynthia Anderson

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- Christine matrixed to new Stimulus project team – Major focus is for WM jobs created and jobs retained.
- Milestones development and near term completion will also be focus area.
- Corporate metrics for WM activities will be tracked by EM Stimulus team and other oversight entities.
- Many SWD activities unfunded, we see opportunities
- Base EM Program \$6B focused on higher risk – tank waste disposal optimization
- With Stimulus funding, 90% footprint reduction by 2016. Focus also on job creation.
- Reaching out to regulators, NRC DOT to support stimulus money

Disposal Facility Outlook

- NV challenges to use of NTS persist. DOE concluded required consultation activities with Dept. of Interior in December 2008, and notified NV. A formal “relinquishment” process is in motion to permanently withdraw approximately 700 acres in Area 5.
- Total volumes to government sites/on-site vs. commercial disposal - decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Focus on best value for the government per DOE Order 435.1.
- Waste operations questions NTS Area 5 – issues being addressed
- Potential for construction of new MLLW Trench at NTS
- Timing for resumption of normal MLLW profiling and shipments to NTS Area 5 still undefined. Discussions continue between DOE and NV. Design for new mixed LLW Trench discussed with regulators – no technical issues expected. Funding must be identified.
- Site wide EIS – committed to state to do new one; NTS cost ~ 8M – not an issue
- Disposal Rates MLLW are still in discussion

Disposition-Related Acquisitions

- Complex-wide MLLW Treatment contract still in development. Vehicle to be easily acceptable to generators
- 2 year extension exercised on “Ohio contract” – prime LLW disposal contract with ES Clive
- 2 year (going for) extension for Oak Ridge – Prime MLLW disposal contract with ES Clive
- Departmental decisions related to planned WCS Federal Disposal facility still pending. Use of facility will be determined through competition based on disposal rate.
- EFCOG Role – DOE will request support in the areas of advise, suggestions and reviews – There will be high frequency of real-time discussions
- Greater than class C LLW EIS – Christine’s office developing draft EIS currently. Numerous DOE facilities evaluated as possible disposal locations. Will keep EFCOG informed.
- Need to discuss/ identify how communication and what type of dialogue on how EFCOG will assist DOE-EM to keep up-to-date information
- Sites are to submit Collection of cats/dogs (difficult waste streams) to Christine

Waste Management EFCOG Meeting Minutes
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Thursday, March 5, 2009

Marty Letourneau, DOE, discussed the following:

- 80 letters to regulators informing them what is being done with stimulus money
- 435.1 – complex wide update – EFCOG important vehicle for support in development of revision.
- EFCOG has been involved in 435.1 from beginning - been issued for ten years – need improvement via lessons learned.
94.2 DNFSB recommendation initially achieved
2nd item addressed – complex wide review vulnerability
- Initial 435.1 resolved the following issues: Waste being generated without path for disposition ~ waste being properly stored ~ 2nd and 3rd generation of performance assessments
- Problems should be minimal, therefore does not require rewrite – improvement will be achieved in the form of a revision. However, it should be noted that some sites (AMWTF) do not have radioactive waste management basis
- EFCOG assist in achieving proficiency – provide information in parallel to generator sites focusing on open honest information
- Will supply mechanism (Templates) for EFCOG to supply information
- Draft templates will be out in 2-3 months
- Draft out in 2-3 weeks for EFCOG review
- EFCOG boots on ground will certainly facilitate a more effective review
- Funding mechanisms for EFCOG need to be addressed
- Letter to address \$ to support work will be sent to all Site Managers
- Letters from Inez Triay to Sites discussing need for supplying support to the 435.1 update.

John Lehr – EFCOG Waste Management Working Group, prepared statement.:

John was very pleased with what he read in the WMWG charter. – Don't change a thing!

- Fostering communication among member organization and promoting lessons learned are two activities that are extremely valuable
- Encouraging WM program benchmarking with other sites is another high value activity from a HQ perspective.

Encourage continued efforts on wastes without disposition paths and examination of solution for materials being managed as wastes (some sites (Y-12) seem to have resolved this, but some sites still have a problem.

In NA-50 – Assoc. Administrator for Infrastructure and Environment, we are championing the concept of “Site Stewardship”.

- FYP Budget Line
- Incorporate Nuclear Materials Integration Office activities (NA-58) and Environmental Projects and Operations activities (NA-56) – Long term stewardship,

Waste Management EFCOG Meeting Minutes
Phoenix, AZ
Thursday, March 5, 2009

NEPA processes/actions; even though NA56 does not control Waste Mgmt. dollars in NNSA, we are fostering inclusion of WM status of the NNSA sites as part of an index or "State of the Sites" indicator for NA-1. This would tell him the readiness of the NNSA sites to carry out its mission responsibilities: LTS, NEPA, NM Consolidation, TD, Proj. Mgmt, FIRP status and WM status (inventory status, regulatory health, waste issues, WM facility status).

Sonny Goldston discussed the following focus areas:

Sonny Goldston presented for discussion a review entitled, "Disposal Boxes and Their Contents (Black Box Waste Form/Matrix) as Low Level Waste". The presentation prompted a discussion on the classification of radioactive waste forms and when it is appropriate to take container weights into account when determining if a waste form is transuranic waste (TRU) or Low-Level Waste (LLW). It is recognized in the DOE Order 435.1 Guidance that actions taken to process a waste stream for safety or technological reasons that are justified, may result in the waste being reclassified after processing as LLW. This is the case with the contaminated waste forms that include containers that are themselves contaminated. If a box is emptied of its contents as part of the TRU repackaging campaign and then the contaminated box is determined to be discarded, the box will be a radioactive waste and must be classified as LLW or TRU. The box (if determined to be no longer of use and is to be discarded) was then an integral part of the waste form before its contents are removed. Therefore, emptying the box and generating a separate TRU waste stream does not reduce the volume of box waste to be disposed and the repackaging processing will generate both radiological and industrial risk that would be avoided by not repackaging. Rather, risk would be significantly reduced if the waste form were not repackaged and was disposed as LLW if it can be demonstrated that the waste form is below 100 nCi/g and it meets the LLW disposal waste acceptance criteria as derived from the DOE Order 435.1 Performance Assessment for LLW disposal.

The WMWG discussed formulation of a policy to describe when it is and when it is not appropriate to take the entire waste form into account when classifying the waste form as TRU or LLW. The discussion was joined by DOE representatives from DOE-HQ and DOE NTS. Goldston took the action to develop a draft policy paper for discussion with the WM EFCOG Members and DOE-HQ for possible issuance by DOE.

Billy Morrison presented the WMWG Website noting that it currently has the following:

- List of the members
- List of sponsors
- The WMWG Charter
- Previous meeting minutes
- A section called, "Ask the Waste Management Working Group" – this section lists the questions along with submitted responses

Billy Morrison discussed the following High Level Waste actions:

Waste Management EFCOG Meeting Minutes
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Roy Schepens has agreed to lead the HLW Sub-Group to modify our charter to include HLW and to develop HLW focus areas.

Morrison then covered action items that were discussed at the previous Working Group meeting.

Other Actions:

- He requested the Working Group members to send a Bio emphasizing their career and WM experience. Due: 4/21/09
- Waste Management Working Group will have monthly conference calls on the second Wednesday of each month. (Not to include months where we have scheduled meetings) The first conference call will be scheduled for 4/14/09. (For conference call connection dial 1-866-427-0083, Room number *1694057*)
- Work with Marty Letourneau to provide strategy for WM Working Group support of 435.1 update. Responsible Individual: Sonny Goldston Due Date: 4/30/09
- Conduct an ISMS review of waste repackaging efforts with NTS and provide a lessons learned report. Responsible Individuals: Billy Morrison & John Ciucci Due Date: 7/31/09

Billy Morrison adjourned the meeting for all nonmembers and then asked for a motion to nominate Dick Blauvelt and Ty Blackford to join the WMWG. Elmer Wilhite made the motion, it was seconded by Sonny Goldston and approved by the WMWG with no one opposing.

Morrison adjourned the meeting.