

DMCC PROGRAM TELECONFERENCE 07-01
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007; 11:00 AM-11:45 AM

Teleconference 07-01 Participants

Rob Addis, SRNL
Vic Cassella, BNL
Kirk Clawson, INL
Dorothy Cohen, ORISE
Gina Deola, SNL
Dick Englehart, DOE/HSS-31
John Harris, OROO
Pat Hayes, DTRA
Scott Johnson, LANL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental
Judith Ryland, ORISE
Walt Schalk, ARL SORD (NTS)

Teleconference Highlights

I. Roll Call

Carl Mazzola conducted a roll call and acknowledged that thirteen (13) individuals involved in the DMCC program were present. Ten (10) individuals participated in the October 31, 2006 teleconference. The teleconference was called to order and Carl thanked Dorothy Cohen for setting up the call.

II. Administrative Matters

Carl Mazzola and Walt Schalk led the discussion on four DMCC administrative matters.

A. Previous Teleconference Highlights and Action Items

Carl Mazzola indicated that this is the third DMCC teleconference, and these teleconferences will continue to be held on a once every two month basis. The minutes of the October 31, 2006 teleconference have been developed and posted on the DMCC portion of the EMI SIG web page.

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B. DMCC Action Item Status

Carl Mazzola briefly discussed the latest updated DMCC Program Action Item (AI) listing. At the time of this teleconference, 20 action items were open, and the progress on these AIs will be discussed in today's conference call. The existing DMCC AI list will be updated on the basis of information exchange during this teleconference and other relevant events.

C. American Nuclear Society (ANS) Topical Meetings on Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP & R)

Carl Mazzola indicated that the 10th EP & R meeting continues to move forward and is in the final planning stages. It will take place at the Hotel Albuquerque, in Old Town Albuquerque, NM, March 8-12, 2006. A Call for Papers will be out shortly, and as soon as it is ready, it will be forwarded for posting on the DMCC list serve. Paper reviews are scheduled for the summer 2007.

D. DMCC Annual Report

Carl Mazzola mentioned that the second annual report of DMCC activities has been developed and is presently under NA-41 review. Once NA-41 comments are incorporated, it will be finalized and posted on the web page.

III. Assist Visit Status

Carl Mazzola and Walt Schalk discussed the status of the ongoing DMCC Assist Visit (AV) program, which includes activities at eight DOE/NNSA sites.

A. Pantex

AI 06-01: Chuck Rives was not available to discuss possible DMCC support to a planned Pantex self-assessment of its meteorological program. Pantex had its last AV in April 1997. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

B. Hanford

AI 06-02: Cliff Glantz, Hanford, had earlier indicated that a DMCC AV may be requested some time in the future once the determination of the upcoming bid for meteorological monitoring services is established. Carl Mazzola contacted Carl Berkowitz, the week of November 13, 2006 and there was strong interest to having an AV. A follow-up discussion is scheduled for January 31, 2007. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

C. Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

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AI 06-03: Kirk Clawson, INL, had earlier indicated that he intends to formally respond to the DMCC regarding its September 2004 AV observations and recommendations. Kirk mentioned that the AV provided him a strong platform to discuss the limitations associated with the flat funding ARL FRD has been receiving since the late-1990s. Although DOE/ID agreed in principle to increase the funding level, the Continuing Resolution (CR) is making that reality difficult to achieve. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

D. Nevada Test Site (NTS)

AI 06-04: Ed Forness, DOE/NV, had earlier indicated that NTS may be interested in an AV in the spring or summer of 2007. No further discussion at this teleconference. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

E. Oak Ridge Reservation: Y-12

AI 06-05: Tom Bellinger had earlier indicated that he has an interest in a follow-up to the May 2004 Y-12 AV. Tom was unavailable to discuss this further. John Harris mentioned that the CR is adversely affecting Oak Ridge with a suspension of pay raises, no money for travel, and a suspension of bonuses. In addition, there is only limited funding for the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), and this facility may unfortunately sit idle in FY07. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

F. Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

AI 06-09: Joel Siegel, WIPP, had earlier indicated that he has not yet had an opportunity to address the August 2005 AV observations and recommendations due to present program manpower constraints. DMCC will be discussing a follow-up AV for the summer 2008 timeframe, which is the general three-year frequency for follow-up AVs. Joel was unavailable to discuss this further. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

G. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

AI 06-08: An AV was performed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in August 2006, representing the 11th AV performed by the DMCC since April 1996. The final report has been submitted to LANL. Scot Johnson had indicated he was very pleased with the AV and has already begun work on selecting an improved three-dimensional mass-consistent atmospheric transport and dispersion model, adding a meteorological tower and instrument surveillance program and augmenting the meteorological data quality assurance. Gina Deola, SNL, and Scot agreed to exchange copies of their AV reports. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

H. Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)

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AI 06-14: A Statement of Work (SOW) to perform an AV at BNL was sent to Vic Cassella on October 15, 2006. BNL is evaluating its funding options and when it would like the AV performed. However, it is severely constrained by the CR which is resulting in BNL reductions in force. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

IV. DMCC Projects

Carl Mazzola led the discussion on the five active DMCC projects and provided an update on them.

AI 04-05/04-06: The Atmospheric Sciences and Releases of Hazardous Materials (ASRHM) compendium is intended to replace Atmospheric Sciences and Power Production (ASPP), which contains materials developed in 1980 and 1981. A 215-section table of contents and section description was developed for NA-41 in June 2005 along with a cost estimate. Efforts on obtaining funding from other interested stakeholders, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of defense (DoD), Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Interior (DOI) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has not yet reached fruition. NA-41 presented this project on November 18, 2005 at an Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Supporting Services and Research (ICMSSR) meeting of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM), but no agency has moved forward with any funding interest; although each entity indicated that it would like to have the final product. Once sufficient funding is secured to support this project, a review panel will be established to refine the table of contents and contents description. After that step, a bid process for the selection of contractors to develop the sections will begin. No further discussion at this teleconference. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 04-09: At the 2004 DMCC Meeting, NNSA and DOE meteorological program managers expressed interest in providing its meteorological data for ingestion in the Meteorological Acquisition Data Ingest System (MADIS). Positive responses were received from nine DOE/NNSA sites and forwarded to Patti Miller, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who in May 2005 indicated she would write letter requesting information and developing protocols for ingestion. Cost for accelerated ingestion per a recent communiqué from the DOC indicates that it is prohibitive to do this at this time. Therefore, DOE will continue to wait until NOAA can handle its data, which has not been scheduled. No further discussion at this teleconference. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

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AI 06-10: DOE/HHS-21 funded the revision of Chapter 4 of DOE/EH-0173T, which was issued in February 2005. The revised summary and revised references was issued in February 2006. There are more than 30 cross-references to ANSI/ANS-3.11 (2005), giving this technical document essential equivalence to ANSI/ANS-3.11 (2005). DOE/HHS-21 plans to next have a contractor develop a crosswalk of the summary section with the DOE O 231.1 section on environmental monitoring programs. No further discussion at this teleconference. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-11: DMCC has been developing the DOE Meteorological Programs appendix for the OFCM Annual Federal Plan on an annual basis since 1997. The appendix includes research and operational program highlights from 15 NNSA/DOE sites. A memo was sent to the 15 DOE/NNSA meteorological program managers to assist in the development of the OFCM FY08 Annual Federal Plan, with input due February 9. Carl Mazzola indicated that if no new input is received, the previous version will be used for the FY08 report. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-16: Carl Mazzola discussed that NA-41 has expressed willingness to support the development of a DMCC product and at an earlier teleconference, he asked for suggestions. It was decided that a worksheet to enable meteorological program self-assessments will be developed. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

V. DMCC Issues

Walt Schalk and cliff Glantz led on the three active DMCC Issues and provided an update on them.

AI 05:01: Walt Schalk discussed the lightning safety initiative that he just completed and which he presented at the 2006 DMCC Meeting. Members of the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) that were interested in lightning safety, met at NTS in early 2003 to examine the adequacy of the DOE/NV lightning protection program. The resultant work to improve lightning safety at the DOE/NNSA sites resulted in two NOAA reports which addressed the existing NTS lightning safety program. This included the issuance of lightning alerts, frequency of forecasts, and lightning events. A lightning focus group was formed at NTS which evaluated the existing capabilities versus the available technologies. Pantex, as well as the Kennedy Space Center (KSC); the latter having the premier lightning protection system, were visited by the focus group, which ultimately determined that the lightning protection program at NTS was more than adequate. NTS management formally responded to the DNFSB and implemented a lightning protection order which mandated the issuance of lightning alerts. DNFSB has had the final report for more than a year and has yet to respond. Since this report is useful to all DOE and NNSA sites, Walt Schalk has made it available to DMCC members through a web page posting. The NTS Order was also posted on the web site. **ACTIVITY CAN BE CLOSED.**

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AI 06-12: The work on the HOTSPOT code for selection as the 8th model for inclusion in the DOE/EH Central Registry Toolbox, and work on this effort is expected to be completed by February, 2007. MACCS2, an existing toolbox code, is planning to have its latest version looked at by the Central Toolbox Registry to close many of the items in its gap report. Cliff Glantz intends to place the toolbox code information on the web page, as well as DOE O 414.1C and DOE G 414.1-4. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-13: Rob Addis and John Merrick are involved in an initiative to utilize ensemble modeling techniques at DOE and NNSA sites to reduce the amount of uncertainty in consequence assessment modeling. There is European interest in an ensemble exercise in the United States and NARAC and NTS are also involved. Source terms and accident scenarios are being developed. Rob indicated that no DOE or NNSA sites have expressed interest in participating at this time. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

VI. Status of Related Federal/Private Sector Programs

Carl Mazzola led the discussion and provided an update on the following two Federal/private sector programs that DMCC has interest.

AI 04-11: Carl Mazzola discussed the status of ANSI/ANS meteorological Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCSs). Five (5) standards are in preparation (ANSI/ANS-2.3, ANSI/ANS-2.15, ANSI/ANS-2.16, ANSI/ANS-2.21, and ANSI/ANS-3.8.10). The ANSI/ANS-2.3 standard for tornadoes is outdated and does not account for NRC and DOE technical approach differences. In addition the standard does not address extreme straight-line winds. This standard is expected to be ready for consensus review sometime in 2007.

A 20-member working group was established with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and NNSA representation to develop the other four meteorological VCSs. A sixth meeting to review the ANS-2.15 first draft was held on October 12, 2006, concurrent with NUMUG meeting. This standard addresses atmospheric transport and dispersion for routine releases of radiological materials and chemicals. After ANSI/ANS-2.15 moves into the consensus review process, the other standards will be developed. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-15: The NRC presented its reasoning on the just-issued DG-1164 (i.e., Regulatory Guide 1.23 Revision 1) at the 10/12/06 NUMUG Meeting, which addresses meteorological monitoring requirements for civilian nuclear meteorological programs. NUMUG submitted two general and 37 specific comments to NRC and had a teleconference to resolve them in December 2006. RG 1.23 Revision 1 will be issued by March 31, 2007. **ACTIVITY CAN BE CLOSED.**

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VII. DMCC Web Page Report

AI 06-06: Cliff Glantz shared at the last meeting that the DMCC web page has undergone a full redesign to increase its visual appeal and improve its functionality; and went live in early-November, 2006. Cliff asked each participant to provide ideas for additional postings and web page structure. Since then substantial enhancements have been made to the website. Links have been provided to publicly accessible meteorology websites and atmospheric science research homepages for most of the DOE sites. Gina asked for pass code information.

ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.

VIII. New Business: Round Robin

Carl Mazzola led a round robin discussion that included two participants.

A. NTS (Walt Schalk)

Walt shared some good news. Under the previous M & O Contractor and DOE/NSO management, the role of the meteorologist in support of the emergency management program was severely curtailed. However, this role has been significantly augmented under the new DOE and M & O management, and the next exercise will be caused by a weather hazard. Walt asked what support other meteorologists were giving their site's emergency management program. Gina indicated her role was somewhat limited at SNL, but that was partially driven by the limited hours she has available to support that program. John mentioned that the Oak Ridge emergency management program was well-integrated with the meteorologists. This was also true at LANL, SRNL, and INL. Scot mentioned that funding from the emergency management organization was planned, but has not yet materialized.

Carl Mazzola indicated that the Subcommittee for Consequence Assessment and Protective Actions (SCAPA) was performing a benchmarking project on Consequence Assessment Teams to assist the SNL emergency management organization, and 12 responses have been received so far. Once they are evaluated, the resultant information will be shared with the DMCC. The benchmarking will likely reveal the vital role that a meteorologist plays in the emergency response program.

B. Pat Hayes (DTRA)

Pat indicated that DTRA has interfaced its data with MADIS and they have looked into ensemble modeling without the consequence assessment component. Pat will be willing to share the DTRA meteorological program at some future teleconference, and plans to participate in the May 2007 DMCC Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

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IX. Next DMCC Conference Call

Carl Mazzola tentatively scheduled the next DMCC Conference call for **Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. EDT.**

X. Adjournment

The teleconference was adjourned at **11:50 a.m. EDT.** Carl thanked everyone for their time and their contributions.

XI. DMCC Program Action Item (AI) Status

Based on the information exchange from this teleconference, two AIs were closed, and no new AIs were opened, making a total of 18 AIs.

The color-coding system used in the teleconference highlights are as follows:

- Existing AIs that are not closed are colored green;
- New AIs are colored yellow; and,
- AIs to be closed are colored blue.

Carl Mazzola will update the DMCC action item list based on the information exchange from this conference call.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Mazzola

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