

DMCC PROGRAM TELECONFERENCE 08-01
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008; 2:00 PM-12:00 M EST

Teleconference 08-01 Participants

Tom Bellinger, BWXT Y-12
John Ciolek, Alpha TRAC
Kirk Clawson, INL
Dorothy Cohen, ORISE
Pat Hayes, DTRA
Cliff Glantz, PNNL
John Harris, ORNL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental
Judy Ryland, ORISE
Walt Schalk, NTS (Chairman)
Steve Vigeant, Shaw Environmental

Teleconference Highlights

I. Roll Call

Carl Mazzola conducted a roll call and acknowledged that eleven (11) individuals involved in the DMCC program were present. The teleconference was called to order and Carl thanked ORISE for setting up the call.

II. Administrative Matters

Carl Mazzola led the discussion on three DMCC administrative matters.

A. Previous Teleconference Highlights and Action Items

Carl Mazzola indicated that this is the seventh DMCC teleconference. The minutes of the December 4, 2007 teleconference have been developed and will be posted on the DMCC portion of the EMI SIG web page.

B. DMCC Action Item Status

Carl Mazzola briefly discussed the latest updated DMCC Program Action Item (AI) listing. At the time of the last teleconference, nine (9) action items were open, and the progress on these AIs will be discussed in today's conference call. The assist visits have been moved from the action item list to a status table. The existing DMCC AI list will be updated on the basis of information exchange during this teleconference and other relevant events.

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

Carl Mazzola mentioned that the 10th EP & R meeting will take place at the Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town Albuquerque, NM, on March 9-12, 2008 (see <http://cimar.mae.ufl.edu/rbsd/>). The following sessions of interest to the NA-41 DMCC program:

1. Emergency Response Systems & Equipment (Carl Mazzola and Steve Vigeant);
2. ENSEMBLE Atmospheric Modeling/Monitoring for EP & R in Europe (Bob Buckley and Stefano Galmarini);
3. Consequence Modeling & Assessment for EP & R – I (Rob Addis);
4. Consequence Modeling & Assessment for EP & R – II (Brad Schrader);
5. Consequence Modeling & Assessment for EP & R – III (Doug Osborn);
6. Software Quality Assurance for EP & R (Cliff Glantz); and,
7. Severe Weather Planning for Key Facilities (Walt Schalk)

Carl indicated that there will also be training sessions on Sunday, March 8, 2008. These will include Chemical Dispersion and Consequence Assessment, RADTRAN, and three other topics.

Lastly, Carl mentioned that the 11th Topical meeting on EP & R has been established and is planned to occur in Knoxville, TN, sometime in March 2010.

III. Assist Visit Status

Carl Mazzola discussed the status of the ongoing DMCC Assist Visit (AV) program.

Pantex Site

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. Chuck Rives may move forward with a self-assessment once the DMCC Assist Visit Guide is issued and may supplement his team with a DMCC member.

Hanford Site

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 has been in periodic contact with Carl Berkowitz since November 13, 2006. The trigger will be based on the upcoming procurement on the Hanford meteorological program management, which has been delayed another year. Carl Mazzola will follow up in March 2008 to discuss an assist visit before the procurement as a baseline of the program.

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Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

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. DOE/ID agreed in principle to increase the funding level, but model development has been slow. Kirk mentioned that he will not likely have a follow-up Assist Visit until 2010 due to funding constraints. However, Kirk will develop a formal response to the 2004 Assist Visit by the end of the fiscal year.

Oak Ridge Reservation: Y-12

Tom Bellinger had earlier indicated that he has an interest in a follow-up to the May 2004 Y-12 AV and Robert Gee has requested NA-41 to fund a follow-up assist visit in the March-April 2008 timeframe. Carl mentioned that the assist visit has been scheduled for the week of April 7, 2008.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

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. No further discussion during this teleconference.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

An AV was performed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in August 2006. 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. LANL indicated no need for follow-up until 2009. LANL is experiencing significant budget shortfalls.

Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)

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. BNL is quite interested, but has no funding. Gus Vazquez may be asked to assist in the funding of this assist visit. No further discussion during this teleconference.

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Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL)

At the 2007 DMCC Meeting, Chuck Hunter indicated an interest in an Assist Visit at Savannah River site (SRS). Subsequent discussions resulted in an agreement for a monitoring program assist visit in summer 2008 and a consequence assessment program assist visit in summer 2009.

IV. DMCC Projects

Carl Mazzola led the discussion on the active DMCC project:

AI 07-02: At an earlier teleconference, Gus Vazquez provided a status on the DOE EH-0173T update and indicated that the balance of the chapters of this technical guide has been revised in a similar manner to Chapter 4, Meteorology. This will become a companion guide for the upcoming revision of DOE O 5400.5. The revision to this 1991 guide has been prepared and is undergoing HS-1 review and will soon be placed on Rev Com. It should be issued in the spring 2008 through Gus Vazquez' HS-22 organization. No additional discussion. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

V. DMCC Issues

Carl Mazzola and Cliff Glantz led the discussion on the active DMCC issue.

AI 06-12: With respect to the SQA associated with meteorological data acquisition, DMCC interest is in the more narrow area of meteorological monitoring software. Cliff Glantz updated the progress on this issue and mentioned that he will be presenting a paper at the March 2008 topical meeting on this subject and plans to develop a separate task force to address this. The value of this product is to have it available if NNSA/DOE site managers request it. It will be made available to commercial suppliers to ensure that they integrate it into the new instrumentation software. It will mimic the DOE G 414.1-4 approach and focus on the most important SQA elements which include configuration management, user's guides and documentation, and adequate verification and validation. Cliff plans to post the paper on the DMCC web page. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

VI. Status of Related Federal/Private Sector Programs

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

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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 2008. Carl added that after ANSI/ANS-2.15 moves into the consensus review process, the other standards will be developed. Recently, Cliff Glantz has accepted the co-chairman role and Carl Mazzola has asked for a path forward on the preparation of the standard. A draft for consensus review is expected by the end of the calendar year. Cliff indicated that Paul Fransioli, Matt White (Bechtel) and John Ciolek have now been involved in the process to move it along a little faster. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

VII. NNSA/DOE Site Initiatives

Carl Mazzola led the discussion and provided an update on the following three NNSA/DOE site initiatives.

AI 07-05: During the 2007 DMCC Meeting, Kirk Clawson agreed to make two ARL/FRD products, the INL Wind Pattern Study and INL Climatology Update, available to DMCC members. Kirk mentioned that the wind pattern study was rejected by a journal it was submitted to and he would like to keep it out of the public domain for now. The publication of the climatology is imminent and will be provided to DMCC members through a web page posting when it is available. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 07-06: During the 2007 DMCC Meeting, Walt Schalk agreed to make NTS-developed fire forecasting guideline which employs the Haynes Index and dry lightning probability. It will be made available to DMCC members before the next fire season. Kirk Clawson mentioned that INL will find it useful to have such a guideline. INL is presently using MM5/WRF wind forecasts with a United States Forest Service technique. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 07-08: During the 2007 DMCC Meeting, John Ciolek offered to provide the Observation System Simulation Experiment (OSSE) report that addressed locating meteorological towers to maximize their influence on wind field generation. John explained that the technique is based on a cumulative probability plot. Each sensor that is added to the array of sensors will reduce the error. John will provide the paper to be posted on the web page. **ACTIVITY CAN BE CLOSED.**

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VIII. DMCC Web Page Report

John Harris indicated his concern with the use of the names of the subject matter experts on web posted items. Cliff mentioned that we may need to go to a password protected page or remove the sensitive information. Dorothy indicated that the Hazards Assessment Subcommittee uses a password protected page.

08-01: John Ciolek discussed his concept of a DMCC Forum where members can post information or questions and receive replies. He will develop a prototype prior to the next conference call and then work with ORISE regarding implementation. John will also be presenting a paper on the topic at the upcoming May 2008 DMCC meeting. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

IX. New Business: Round Robin

Carl Mazzola led a round robin discussion.

Y-12: John Harris discussed the recent vehicular death at Oak Ridge, TN due to black ice. It became clear from subsequent discussion that it is very difficult to establish black ice conditions over a large area, especially when there are strong microscale differences in valley-mountain morphology. Kevin Birdwell, ORNL meteorologist, had difficulty in addressing all of the needs in real time since no set procedure was in place and instrumentation necessary to assist in the decision-making was cost prohibitive and therefore also not in place. A forecasting technique is badly needed and this can conceivably become a DMCC project.

INL: Kirk Clawson provided a web page that shows an excellent fire protection index. The URL is www.noaa.inel.gov/wrf/firehaz2.html. The technique is based on temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed.

X. Next DMCC Conference Call

Carl Mazzola tentatively scheduled the next DMCC Conference call for **Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. EST.**

XI. Adjournment

The teleconference was adjourned at **noon EST**. Carl thanked everyone for their time and their contributions.

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XII. DMCC Program Action Item (AI) Status

Based on the information exchange from the DMCC Meeting and this teleconference, one new AI was opened, and one AI was closed, making a total of 9 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