

DMCC PROGRAM TELECONFERENCE 06-01
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2006; 11:00 AM-12:00 M

Teleconference 06-01 Participants

Rob Addis, SRNL
Tom Bellinger, BWXT/Y-12
Dorothy Cohen, ORISE
Cliff Glantz, PNNL
Scot Johnson, LANL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental
John Merrick, DOE/SR
Darryl Randerson, ARL SORD (NTS)
Judith Ryland, ORISE
Walt Schalk, ARL SPRD (NTS)

Teleconference Highlights

I. Roll Call

Carl Mazzola conducted a roll call and acknowledged that 10 individuals involved in the DMCC program were present. The teleconference was called to order and Carl thanked Dorothy Cohen for setting up the teleconference call.

II. Administrative Matters

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

A. Introduction of New DMCC Chairman

AI 06-07: Carl Mazzola introduced Walt Schalk, who assumed the role of DMCC Chairman on August 1, 2006. Darryl Randerson was chairman from December 2, 1994 through July 31, 2006. Walt responded positively to a call for candidates for the voluntary DMCC Chairman position and was selected by a panel of DOE sponsors to be DMCC Chairman. Walt briefly provided his vision for where he planned to take the DMCC over the next several years and how he intended to accomplish this. **ACTION ITEM CAN BE CLOSED.**

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B. Previous Teleconference Highlights and Action Items

Carl Mazzola mentioned that this is the first DMCC teleconference. It will be modeled after the successful teleconferences that are being conducted by the Subcommittee for Consequence Assessment and Protective Actions (SCAPA) and the Hazards Assessment Subcommittee (HAS), both of which are also under the Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG) umbrella. DMCC teleconferences will be held on a once every two month basis, or more frequently, if activity status demands it.

C. DMCC Action Item Status

Carl Mazzola briefly discussed the latest updated DMCC Program Action Item (AI) listing. At the time of this teleconference, 13 action items were open. The progress on these AIs will be discussed in today's conference call. The existing DMCC action item list will be updated on the basis of information exchange during this teleconference.

D. 13th Nuclear Utility Meteorological Data User Group (NUMUG) Meeting

Carl Mazzola alerted the DMCC members to the upcoming meeting of a commercial nuclear meteorologist trade group, NUMUG. Dorothy Cohen will be posting the NUMUG Meeting agenda on the DMCC list serve.

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

Carl Mazzola mentioned that the 10th EP & R meeting continues in the planning stages and will take place in Albuquerque, NM, March 8-12, 2006. A Call for Papers is under preparation. As soon as the Call for Papers is ready, it will be forwarded for posting on the DMCC list serve.

III. Assist Visit Status

Carl Mazzola and Walt Schalk discussed the status of the ongoing DMCC Assist Visit program.

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 Assist Visit in April 1997.

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B. Hanford

AI 06-02: Cliff Glantz, Hanford, indicated that a DMCC Assist Visit may be requested some time in the future once the determination of the upcoming bid for meteorological monitoring services is established.

C. Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

AI 06-03: Kirk Clawson, INL, has indicated to Carl Mazzola that he intends to formally respond to the DMCC regarding its September 2004 Assist Visit observations and recommendations. Kirk was unable to participate in this teleconference, but intends to actively support it in the future.

D. Nevada Test Site (NTS)

AI 06-04: Ed Forness, DOE/NV, has indicated to Carl Mazzola that NTS may be interested in an Assist Visit in the spring or summer of 2007.

E. Oak Ridge Reservation: Y-12

AI 06-05: Tom Bellinger was unavailable to discuss the progress regarding the May 2004 Assist Visit observations and recommendations. He had earlier indicated to Carl Mazzola that he has an interest in a follow-up Assist Visit.

F. Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

AI 06-09: Joel Siegel, WIPP, indicated that WIPP has not yet had an opportunity to address the August 2005 Assist Visit observations and recommendations due to present program manpower constraints. DMCC will be discussing a follow-up Assist Visit for the Summer 2008 timeframe, which is the general frequency for follow-up Assist Visits.

G. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

AI 06-08: An Assist Visit was performed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on August 8-9, 2006 by Walt Schalk and Carl Mazzola. This represented the 11th Assist Visit performed by the DMCC since April 1996. Scot Johnson discussed the value-added of the Assist Visit relative to his meteorological program. A report has been drafted and is targeted for submission to LANL on September 14, 2006.

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IV. DMCC Projects

Carl Mazzola led the discussion on the active DMCC projects and provided an update on the following four projects.

AI 04-05/04-06: Work on Atmospheric Sciences and Releases of Hazardous Materials (ASRHM) compendium has not moved forward due to funding constraints. ASHRM is intended to replace Atmospheric Sciences and Power Production (ASPP) which was published in 1984, but contains materials developed in 1980 and 1981. Therefore, it is essentially 25 years old. A 215-section table of contents and section description was developed for NA-41 in June 2005. The next step was to obtain 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). 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). However, no agency has moved forward with any funding interest although each entity would like to have the final product. Once sufficient funding is secured, 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. **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 who in May 2005 indicated she would write a letter requesting information and developing protocols for ingestion. Cost for accelerated ingestion per a recent communiqué from DOC indicates that it is prohibitive to do this at this time. Therefore, DOE will wait until DOC can handle its data, a time for which has not been scheduled. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-10: DOE/EH-41, now 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. DOE/HHS-21 plans to next have a contractor develop a crosswalk of the summary section with DOE O 231.1, environmental monitoring programs. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-11: DMCC develops the DOE Meteorological Programs appendix for OFCM on an annual basis and has been doing so since 1997. The appendix includes research and operational program highlights from 15 NNSA/DOE sites. Work on the OFCM FY08 Annual Federal Plan is scheduled to begin in January 2007. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

V. DMCC Issues

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Walt Schalk and Cliff Glantz led the discussion on t active DMCC Issues and provided an update on the following two DMCC issues.

AI 05:01: Walt Schalk discussed the lightning safety program at NTS. Walt indicated that in October 2002, thunderstorms in the vicinity of the NTS resulted in a safety and health problem with a worker. Members of the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) that were interested in lightning safety, met at NTS in early 2003 to examine the DOE/NV lightning protection program adequacy. The resultant work to improve lightning safety at DOE and NNSA sites resulted in two 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. DNFSB has had the final report for more than a year and has yet to respond. Since this report is useful to many, if not all, DOE and NNSA sites, Walt Schalk will make it available to DMCC members. This activity will be monitored until DNFSB formally responds. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

AI 06-12: Cliff Glantz discussed the recent DOE initiative regarding Software Quality Assurance (SQA). There are three levels, as defined in the DOE O 414.1C and DOE G 414.1-4 that should be assigned to different types of consequence assessment models and hazard assessment models. Level A is of the highest concern and is associated with safety software. Cliff believes from his discussion with Central Registry and reading of the order and guide and how safety software is defined, that this SQA initiative may ultimately impact the meteorological data that is used as input for consequence assessment and hazards assessment codes. Cliff will be making a 5-10 minute presentation at the NUMUG meeting in St. Louis, MO on October 12, 2006 on this topic. DMCC may ultimately develop White Papers on this topic and meet and discuss it with software vendors. Cliff also stated that the HOTSPOT code was selected as the 8th model for inclusion in the DOE/EH Central Registry Toolbox, and work on this effort is expected to be completed by October or November, 2006. **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 in which DMCC has interest.

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AI 04-11: Carl Mazzola discussed the status of ANSI/ANS-3.11 (2005) and other meteorological Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCSs). He indicated that at the 11/17/04 DMCC Program Meeting with NA-41, the status of that standard and five other standards in preparation (ANSI/ANS-2.3, ANSI/ANS-2.15, ANSI/ANS-2.16, ANSI/ANS-2.21, and ANSI/ANS-3.8.10) was discussed. 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. On 9/19/05, the ANSI/ANS-2.3 working group held first meeting. This standard is expected to be ready for consensus review in 2007.

A 10-member working group was established with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and NNSA representation to develop ANSI/ANS-2.15, ANSI/ANS-2.16, ANSI/ANS-2.21, and ANSI/ANS-3.8.10. A fifth meeting to review the ANS-2.15 first draft was held in June 2006. This standard addresses atmospheric transport and dispersion for routine releases of radiological materials and chemicals. The sixth meeting of that working group is scheduled for October 11, 2006, concurrent with NUMUG meeting. After ANSI/ANS-2.15 moves into the consensus review process, the other standards will be developed. **ACTIVITY PROCEEDING.**

VII. DMCC Web Page Report

AI 06-06: Cliff Glantz mentioned that the DMCC web page is undergoing a full redesign to increase its visual appeal and improve its functionality.

VIII. New Business: Round Robin

Carl Mazzola led a round robin discussion in which five DOE/NNSA sites participated in.

A. Hanford (Cliff Glantz):

There is a decreasing budget for meteorological services at Hanford which has led to the consideration of outsourcing the meteorological monitoring program, as part of the environmental monitoring program, to a smaller contractor with the hope of sAssist Visiting money. Cliff indicated that it is really the groundwater monitoring program that is driving this decision. In addition, Hanford meteorologists are looking at a single point of failure analysis due to a catastrophic event. Latly, Hanford is considering an ASSIST VISIT to attempt to help Hanford management focus more positively on the merits of the existing meteorological program.

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B. LANL (Scot Johnson):

Scot shared that the recent DMCC ASSIST VISIT provided valuable insights into the LANL meteorological program. Recent cutbacks have decreased the number of people involved in the meteorological program from 5 to 2.5 FTEs. This is leading LANL management to get back to basics. There are too many extraneous parameters that are being monitored at LANL. There is also a need for training individuals that are new to the program. Essentially the focus will be to learn what is needed to do and how to go about doing it. The DMCC 15 observations and recommendations go a long way towards providing a roadmap for that process.

C. NTS (Walt Schalk/Darryl Randerson):

NTS is still involved in the lightning protection concern with DNFSB. Air Resources Laboratory Special Operations and Research Division (ARL SORD) continues its interagency support of the NTS meteorological program providing operations support, performing research, and developing climate information of the area. Newer instruments have been installed and there have been some issues with vendor software. Staff are also looking for a better utilization of the mesonet by others and modelers. NTS is involved in an urban test bed program and hopes to upgrade to 100 stations in strategic areas and have the data ingested by MADIS.

D. SRS (Rob Addis/John Merrick):

AI 06-13: No discussion on the SRNL meteorological program. Rob and John 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 asked if any other DOE or NNSA sites would be interested in participating and will send information about the initiative over the DMCC list serve.

E. WIPP (Joel Siegel):

The DMCC ASSIST VISIT of August 2005 was briefly discussed. There are many observations and recommendations to improve the existing program, but WIPP is tight on time and limited in resources.

IX. Next DMCC Conference Call

Carl Mazzola tentatively scheduled the 2nd DMCC Conference call of 2006 for **Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. EDT.**

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X. Adjourment

The teleconference was adjourned at **12:09 p.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, 1 AI was closed, and 5 new AI were opened, making a total of 17 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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