

SCAPA BIOSAFETY WORKING GROUP TELECONFERENCE 07-01

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007; 1:00 PM-2:00 PM EST

Teleconference 07-01 Participants

Lynn Fondren (SNL)
Dorothy Cohen, ORISE
Jim Fairbent, DOE/NA-41
Cliff Glantz, PNNL
Fred Horn, BNL
Lori Manis, ORNL
Dina (Sassone) Matz, LANL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental
Jim Powers, DOE/NA-41
Frank Roberto, INL
Judy Ryland, ORISE
Ken Smith, ORNL
Gail Van Gorp, ANL
Gary Winner, ANL

Teleconference Highlights

I. Roll Call

Carl Mazzola and Cliff Glantz conducted roll call and acknowledged that 14 individuals involved in the SCAPA Biosafety Working Group (BWG) were present.

II. Old Business

A) Bioagent Transport Mechanisms

Frank noted that the BWG has made little progress in addressing NA-41's request to establish transport mechanisms for bioagents and concomitant protective actions. Most models in the literature, supported by research funding, are narrowly focused on bioterrorism and not representative of what is needed for bioagent transport vectors. Frank indicated a worst case scenario is a release of about 10^{10} microorganisms that aerosolize and are transported to a ventilation system for subsequent airborne dispersal. Carl added that Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has several good indoor air pollution models which are focused on public health impacts in "sick houses". Cliff said he will look into their application. He also asked a question to other participants regarding whether the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had developed any models. It was suggested that a comprehensive literature search be conducted, Jim Powers asked that the BWG look at laboratory reports, journals and contact key researchers for this search.

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It was decided to establish a BWG Subcommittee to conduct the literature search and compile all information derived from the search.

Gail Van Gorp said she would look into the subway modeling performed at ANL by Tony Policastro. It was also determined that another possible avenue was to see what existing Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models offer (e.g., FEM3). **ACTION**

B) BWG Charter

Frank indicated that the BWG Charter is complete and posted on the BWG web site.

III. New Business

A) DOE Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Interfaces

Cliff Glantz asked Jim Powers if there was any news from DOE/HQ that could be shared with the BWG, and whether OEM has received any comments on the draft Biosafety Emergency Management Guide (EMG). Jim indicated that the draft EMG was in RevCom and that no comments have been received yet. The RevCom review comments are due February 28, 2007.

B) DOE/NNSA Biosafety Program Survey

Cliff asked if the BWG wanted to conduct a short, informal survey to determine how each DOE/NNSA site is implementing biosafety-related emergency planning to identify best practices across the DOE/NNSA complex. There was unanimous agreement that such a survey would yield a benefit for all of the sites. Cliff stated a survey of consequence assessment programs is being undertaken by SCAPA for Sandia National Laboratory (SNL), 12 responses have been received at this time. Cliff will work with Frank Roberto on modifying the consequence assessment program survey questionnaire to address biosafety emergency preparedness program metrics.

ACTION

Cliff asked if the BWG should develop a forum for sharing information, where possible, on biosafety drills, exercises, and training.

1. There was agreement for a forum to share information
2. The BWG web page was determined the best place for this information to be placed.

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C) BWG Web Page

Cliff and Dorothy asked for feedback on BWG impressions of the new Biosafety-related SCAPA webpages (e.g., <http://orise.orau.gov/emi/scapa/biosafety.htm>, <http://orise.orau.gov/emi/scapa/biosafety-wg.htm>). Various suggestions were made to the current pages including Gail Van Gorp's suggestion to create a link to www.pandemicflu.gov. Additional information for future postings was also offered by committee members.

D) BWG Session at the EMI SIG Meeting

Cliff and Frank requested ideas for a biosafety session at the May 10-11, 2007 SCAPA meeting in San Antonio, TX, inclusive of presentations on site-related biosafety work. It was suggested that experimental data that has been measured to establish empirical parameters for characterizing bioagent releases would be a good topic.

1. Dina Matz suggested a presentation on how the 10 CFR 851 worker safety rule affects biosafety programs at DOE/NNSA sites, and how the sites are implementing this rule. She also mentioned that this should include a gap analysis showing the deficiencies in existing biosafety programs. Carl Mazzola mentioned that this would make a good panel discussion.
2. Gary Winner stated that a talk on work being done to develop emergency preparedness for select agents would generate a lot of interest.
3. Frank offered that Dan Marsick, who is heading the DOE nanotechnology initiative, may be willing to speak on a topic associated with the Biosurety Executive Team.

All of these initiatives need to be sent to Cliff by early the week of February 5, 2007, since he and Carl want to develop a draft agenda of the SCAPA meeting by mid-February, 2007. **ACTION.**

Cliff indicated that the BWG should invite a guest speaker, perhaps someone from CDC. However, it doesn't appear that a CDC speaker is available. Cliff mentioned that since the meeting is in San Antonio, TX, perhaps a tour of the Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) BSL-4 laboratory on Friday afternoon, May 11, 2007, would be interesting and informative. Commonality of program structure of the SWRI facility may provide useful insights to BWG members. Cliff will contact SWRI to see if this can be scheduled. **ACTION**

Frank Roberto stated that vendors, such as Idaho Detection Technology, may want to present. Jim Powers cautioned on vendor presentations as it gives the particular vendor an unfair advantage on others that do not participate.

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Frank mentioned that it would be helpful if a letter could be drafted requesting BWG member involvement in the EMI SIG and SCAPA meetings. Cliff will draft a letter that can be used by all BWG representatives as justification to support the EMI SIG and SCAPA meetings. **ACTION**

E) Biosafety Listserve

Cliff asked if people are receiving e-mails from the Biosafety list-server or are spam filters blocking their delivery. Frank Roberto has had trouble with the list-serve and it is believed that spam filters are the root cause. Cliff and Dorothy will investigate the cause and provide remedial action. **ACTION**

IV. Next SCAPA BWG Conference Call

Cliff Glantz indicated that the next BWG teleconference is targeted for sometime in March 2007.

V. Adjournment

The teleconference was adjourned at **2:00 p.m. EST**. Cliff and Carl thanked everyone for their time and their contributions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Mazzola

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