

Draft SCAPA Biosafety Working Group Teleconference Notes

Tuesday, July 17, 2007 -- Noon - 1:00 PM EST

Teleconference Participants

Dorothy Cohen, ORISE
Jim Powers, DOE/NA-41
Cliff Glantz, PNNL
Lori Manis, ORNL
Dina Matz, LANL
Frank Roberto, INL

Teleconference Highlights

1. Recap of EMI-SIG/SCAPA meeting in San Antonio

Summary meeting notes for the Biosafety Working Group were circulated on June 6, 2007. If you did not receive a copy of the Biosafety Meeting notes, contact Frank Roberto or Cliff Glantz, they will provide you with a copy of the document; [(Francisco.Roberto@inl.gov) or (cliff.glantz@pnl.gov)]. Presentations from the SCAPA meeting, particularly the Biosafety Session, are on the SCAPA website at <http://orise.ornl.gov/emi/events/recent/2007/meetinghighlights.html>.

2. Status of BioEMG - Dr. Powers

The Biosafety Emergency Management Guide (EMG) is now in the hands of the Director's personnel. Dave Freshwater told SCAPA that the release of this report is imminent. This is good news, particularly after the surprising set of comments on the draft EMG submitted through the RevCom system. These comments were made after the Biosafety Working Group provided their internal comments and guidance on the draft EMG and modifications were made accordingly. The Biosafety Working Group will ensure they provide value to NA-41 on biosafety issues. We want to be able to anticipate problems and provide appropriate guidance to NA-41 early in the review cycle of any documents.

Comments on the guide were received through the REVCOM process and at the request of the Biosafety Committee. Comments received represent opinions on how guidance should be documented, what it should address, and how many pages it should contain. Some late reviewers focused on the appropriateness of the Order requirements rather than on the guidance. The underlying objection to the Order is the criterion that requires the implementation of a Hazardous Materials Program if the facility is governed by the Select Agent Rules. Of course the Order was not the directive being reviewed at this time having been issued in 2005. The majority of the comments were helpful in correcting errors and clarifying confusing and misleading guidance.

Jim Powers (NA-41) attempted to respond to all comments with useful guidance even when the appropriateness was in question. The response to the Order comments, in particular, emphasizing the role of "commensurate with hazards" is implementing a Hazardous Materials Program.

If there is interest in supporting or contributing to SCAPA's work in the biosafety area, we will invite a number of reviewers to join our working group. It may be helpful to re-engage a LLNL Biosafety Officer (i.e., Brynte Johnson; 925-423-8076; johnson316@llnl.gov) to participate in our working group (LLNL involvement has been minimal since Glen Funk retired). Frank Roberto contacted two of LLNL's emergency management team to promote encouragement of LLNL's

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biosafety staff to participate in the working group. Cliff mentioned that he may try to see Brynte Johnson when visiting LLNL in mid-August.

Jim Powers will notify us when the Biosafety EMG is officially released.

3. Status of Action Item 06-06: Transport and Dispersion of Biological Agents/Toxins for BioEMG, and recommendations

To address this issue Cliff presented information on several key indoor air quality models at the SCAPA annual meeting in San Antonio. Frank is currently looking at these models for potential application at INL. His focus has been on the CONTAM indoor air quality model, but he is also considering potential applications for a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) model. A CFD model might be useful in developing source term information for a release to the outside environment. This source term information coupled with an air dispersion model (e.g., NARAC) will permit assessing risks to co-located workers and the public.

We need to provide Jim Powers with a summary of state of the art dispersion modeling capabilities for biological agents/toxins. We also need to identify where additional work or tools are needed.

4. AI 06-17: Interface with DOE Nanotechnology Initiative

The interface of our working group with the DOE Nanotechnology Initiative was discussed at the July SCAPA teleconference. We are receiving information from Dan Marsick on the issue. Unfortunately, new directives on nanotechnology are on hold because of objections from the Office of Science. There are guidelines for nanotechnology safety that DOE sites are using (see links on our website). More technical information is needed. Concern exists that nano-materials can penetrate living systems and interfere with biological processes. We want to be sure that we are appropriately capturing nanotechnology issues related to biosafety.

5. AI 07-08: Biosafety EMG support (new)

The working group wants to be available to support NA-41 in dealing with emerging biosafety issues. Jim Powers agreed it is an excellent idea to have the BioSafety Working Group's knowledge and experience, particularly:

- Site-based operational expertise
- As a resource NA-41 can utilize when needed

6. AI 07-07: NARAC BioWarfare Modeling (new)

The working group wants NARAC to better support our biosafety issues. Currently, NARAC provides biowarfare source terms. We need them to provide potential biological source term information for accidental releases at DOE sites. Cliff will move forward on this with NARAC management at LLNL while attending the NARAC-training session (August 15-16, 2007) and the upcoming NARAC User's Group meeting (August 17). He will also provide our working group members with information on the NARAC User's Group meeting. Cliff is working with NARAC to initiate a "Web broadcast" of the meeting (e.g., Microsoft's Live Meeting) including a teleconference hook-up so DOE personnel may participate in the meeting from their offices/sites. Offsite personnel using the Web broadcast system will be able to hear the meeting and see the NARAC features being discussed. Cliff will ensure that the BioSafety Working Group and other interested SCAPA members will receive invitations to the Web broadcast of the NARAC User's Group meeting.

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7. Recommended speakers for ANS 10th/11th Topical Meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response, Mar. 9-12, 2008, Albuquerque NM

The working group brainstormed ideas on invitees to participate in the Biosafety Session at the upcoming ANS 10th/11th Topical Meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Red = Dina's action items Blue = Cliff's action items Black = Frank's action items

Following are some possibilities:

- Several Emory University faculty members along with former CDC officials. Specifically, two former CDC Chief BioSafety Officers. Potential invitees include Lee Alderman, [Sean G. Kaufman](#) (MPH, CHES, Director of Programs) - sgkaufm@sph.emory.edu; and Henry Mathews.
- Invite a CDC person working in the area of emergency response
- Invite a DHS/Coast Guard representative from their office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (Dina recommended Jose Ignacio)
- Lynn Fondren (SNL-NM)
- The BSO at the University of New Mexico biosafety program (Judy Pointer)
- John-Olaf Johnson with NNSA in the Albuquerque Field Office
- Betina Stopford – SAIC – public health
- CONTAM model speaker and someone who can talk about CFD modeling – Cliff's action item
- Representative of the health care sector - Cliff Glantz will work on identifying someone at DHS Risk Assessment meeting in Washington, D.C..
- Jim Powers will give a HQ perspective, subject to approval from Dr. Fairobent

The BioSafety Working Group will attempt to contact the above individuals this week. The deadline for abstracts is August 1, 2007. Cliff has permission from the conference organizers to submit abstracts a little later than the August 1 deadline, if absolutely necessary.

We should make contact with the potential invitees this week. The deadline for abstracts is August 1, 2007. Cliff has obtained permission from conference organizers to submit abstracts after the August 1 deadline, if necessary, but no later than Aug. 10, 2007.

8. Recommended venue for meeting of all BWG membership: American Biological Safety Association annual meeting, Nashville, TN, Oct. 7-10, 2007

We are planning a SCAPA BioSafety Working Group meeting at the ABSA meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Dina will not be able to join us, but this should be an appropriate venue for a working group meeting. Please confirm with Frank Roberto if you are planning to attend so we can organize a meeting during the conference.

9. Open discussion

No new issues were raised – we have enough action items on our plate already!