Highlights
Meeting of the BWG
Wednesday May 6, 2009; 9:30 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time

Participants:

Samuel Bigger, NNSA
Jayne-Anne Bond, ATL International
Dave Brekke, SNL
Dorothy Cohen, ORISE
Doug Craig, ATL International
Cliff Glantz, PNNL
Michael Heitkamp, SRNL
Jim Jamison, SAIC
Natalie Jouravel, SNL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental
Dan Marsick, DOE/HS-11
Dina Matz-Siegel, LANL (Teleconference)
Rocky Petrocchi, URS
Jim Powers, NA-41
Frank Roberto, INL
Diane Rodi, ANL
Joe Terranova, BNL
Tom Tuccinardi, ATL International

I. Roll Call

Frank Roberto conducted a roll call and acknowledged that 18 individuals were present.

II. Discussion

Frank Roberto led a BWG discussion that included the following three topics:

1. **Overview of BWG activities**: Frank Roberto summarized the BWG activities since the last working group meeting:

    a. The BWG provided 12-14 biotoxins to the CEWG for PAC/TEEL development in fulfillment of AI 08-02, and these are awaiting NA-41 approval.

    b. The BWG has also entered into a formal alliance with the American Biosafety Specialists Association (ABSA) with the signing of an agreement in principle for both parties.

    c. AI 08-01 was closed by providing information to NA-41.

    d. The status of AI 06-06 was discussed, which is a report to identify the state-of-the-science and establish gaps and needs of the fate and transport of biological releases. The report contains information on indoor air quality models (e.g., COMIS, CONTAM), the use of Infectious Dose (ID) as a health indicator, and that a laboratory release is usually not a full inventory release.

    e. Biosafety in Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) fifth edition may be the best solution to characterizing risks at DOE/NNSA facilities with BSL-2 and BSL-3 facilities.

f. Jim Powers will request an OUO draft paper from JPO on the study of indoor dispersion of a bacillus in which billions of spores were released. This paper recommends using CONTAM for modeling spore fate and transport.

g. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regulate, but doesn't provide any guidance after a release. Its maximum possible risk model indicates a zero risk. BWG has used the model for close-in releases rather than the workhorse steady-state Gaussian plume model.

h. There is a need to develop lessons learned from laboratory-acquired infections.

2. **Federal Biosecurity Working Group**: Diane Rodi presented her work on the Federal Biosecurity Working Group which was chartered on January 9, 2009 per Executive Order 13496, "Strengthening the Biosecurity of the United States." The group will look at transportation, inconsistencies in regulatory oversight and inspections, and the Congressional and Public Interest in BSL-3 and BSL-4 Laboratories. DOE has no BSL-4 laboratories. However, LLNL has two small BSL-3 laboratories on the same floor; ORNL has a BSL-3 facility that is operating as a BSL-2; and LANL will have a BSL-3 facility up and running by January 2010. The WG is working on a DOE/HS SharePoint web site, and Dave Thomason, DOE/SC is the point of contact. There will be a public consultation meeting May 13-14, 2009 at Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD. The final report is due to President Obama by July 9, 2009.

3. **Nanotechnology**: Dan Marsick discussed his work with identifying health and safety risks from nanoparticles. This work is through the Biosurety Executive Committee which has NNSA – HQ, LLNL, LANL, DOE/SC, Deputy Secretary's Office, DOE/HS (as consultant) and other consultants, as necessary, as its membership. This committee is to develop a directive that leverages existing stakeholder knowledge, existing laws, codes and BMBL, and existing knowledge of highly hazardous work for others. A nanotechnology notice was published on January 5, 2009 which addressed requirements for Federal laboratories, Contractor Requirements Document (CRD) and a statement that it must be added to contracts. Dan explained why DOE needs biosurety policy oversight of BSL-3 labs at NNSA sites, and why DOE needs a nanotechnology policy. He indicated that DOE has critical interests in the nanotechnology area, and a major role in the federal research and development initiative. For example, in FY07, $258M was spent at DOE facilities and research projects. These DOE-supported research activities span a broad range of nanotechnologies and the DOE user facilities provide state-of the-art resources to the science and technology community via peer-reviewed allocation of instrument time, staff support, and collaboration. Lastly, Dan discussed the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) program of research to study exposure mechanisms, effectiveness of engineering controls, and the toxicity of engineered nanomaterials. At the present time, nanoparticle nomenclature is not sufficiently described, there are no convenient methods to measure or assess nanoparticle exposure, there is insufficient knowledge concerning nanoparticle exposure, effectiveness of control approaches have not been evaluated, and knowledge concerning nanoparticle risk is inadequate for risk assessments.

III. Next SCAPA BWG Meeting

Frank Roberto indicated that next SCAPA BWG teleconference has not yet been scheduled. The next SCAPA BWG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010 during the next EMI-SIG meeting in an east coast city.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. PDT. Frank thanked everyone for their time and their contributions.