



**Highlights**  
**BWG Teleconference 09-02**  
**December 10, 2009; 1:00 p.m. EST**

**Participants**

---

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Marta Bleich, ANL                | Frank Roberto, INL |
| John Gaff, ANL                   | Diane Rodi, ANL    |
| Lori Manis, ORNL                 | Gary Winner, ANL   |
| Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental |                    |

**I. Roll Call**

---

Frank Roberto, Chair, conducted a roll call and acknowledged that seven individuals were present.

**II. Discussion**

---

Frank Roberto provided a year-end review of the 2009 BWG activities:

1. Submitted a request of 15 biotoxins to the SCAPA Chemical Exposure Working Group (CEWG) for PAC/TEEL development in fulfillment of AI 08-02. NA-41 approval is still pending; moving forward will be based on TEELs Advisory Group (TAG) input.
2. Entered into a formal alliance with the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) with the signing of an agreement in principle for both parties.
3. Completed the AI 06-06 report that addressed modeling source terms from laboratory operational emergencies. This report is posted on the BWG web site.
4. Supported the Federal Biosecurity Working Group, per Executive Order 13486, "*Strengthening Laboratory Biosecurity of the United States.*" The group looked at transportation, inconsistencies in regulatory oversight and inspections, and the Congressional and Public Interest in BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories. Recommendations are to increase biosafety at BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories and that the two-person rule should not necessarily be a hard-and-fast rule. The final report was sent to President Obama on July 9, 2009, for decisions on acceptance of these recommendations and whether new regulations are needed for select agents. Harmonization of rules would be less onerous on BSL facilities.



5. Worked with Dan Marsick, DOE/HS on the DOE Biosecurity Executive Team associated with DOE P 434.1 and provided input and headquarters communications affecting biosafety policy. This order prohibits location of BSL-4 facilities on DOE properties.

### **III. BWG Website**

---

Changes to the content and structure of the BWG web page content are proposed. All 46 BWG members are asked for additional suggestions. The BWG website URL is:

<http://orise.orau.gov/emi/scapa/biosafety-wg.htm>

### **IV. 2010 BWG Tasks**

---

Frank outlines four key issues listed on the BWG website along with BWG's progress on all issues. Input on these issues and suggestions for new items to benefit the biosafety and emergency management communities across the DOE/NNSA laboratories are solicited. The key issues are as follows:

1. Developing biosafety tools for the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center associated with modeling laboratory releases;
2. Developing a White Paper on selected biosafety technical items in DOE G 151.1-1, Part V;

**Note: Dr. Powers approved the BWG's collecting best practices on the BWG website as an acceptable approach to this tasking.**

3. Establishing an approach for biosafety in emergency response considering all reasonable and feasible scenarios including laboratory-acquired infections; and,
4. Following-up to PAC/TEEL development of the 15 biotoxins.

### **V. SCAPA/EMI SIG Annual Meeting**

---

The next EMI SIG meeting will be in Las Vegas, NV, May 3–7, 2010. During that meeting, BWG will convene separately and will also participate in the SCAPA meeting. Suggestions for presentations must go through the EMI SIG Steering Committee review process by January 7, 2010.

### **VI. ABSA September 2010 Meeting**

---

Frank encourages the BWG to also consider presenting technical papers at the next ABSA meeting scheduled for Denver, CO, September 30–October 6, 2010.



## **VII. Round Robin**

---

**INL:** Frank shared that INL conducted tabletop exercises for two biosafety operational emergency scenarios. The first exercise involved a spill of a biological agent as a consequence of a worker collapsing within a biocontainment laboratory. The fire department was the first responder and performed decontamination and surveillance. The second exercise was a lab-acquired infection that resulted in lab worker's illness several months after exposure.

**ANL:** Diane Rodi reports that the Ricketts Center received approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOE to bring select agents into the new regional biocontainment laboratory.

**ORNL:** Lori Manis states that since no work with regulated select agents and toxins was conducted at ORNL during FY09, exercises involving biological operational emergencies were not held.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

---

The meeting adjourned at **1:51 p.m. EST** with thanks for everyone's attendance and contributions.