



**Highlights  
BWG Teleconference 10-1  
April 14, 2010, 2:00 p.m. EST**

**Participants**

---

Jayne-Anne Bond, ATL  
Jonathan Gaff, ANL  
Cliff Glantz, PNL  
Michael Heitkamp, SRNL  
Lori Manis, ORNL  
Dina Matz-Siegel, LANL

Deborah Newby, INL  
Jim Powers, NA-41  
Frank Roberto, INL  
Dan Schabacker, ANL  
Tom Tuccinardi, ATL  
Gary Winner, ANL

**Roll Call**

---

Frank Roberto conducted a roll call and acknowledged that 12 individuals were present. Of particular note, Dan Schabacker (ANL) was participating in the Biosafety Working Group (BWG) teleconference for the first time. He assumed Diane Rodi's former position as ANL's biosafety officer. Dan's e-mail address is [dschabacker@anl.gov](mailto:dschabacker@anl.gov).

**Administrative Matters**

---

**SCAPA and EMI SIG May 2010 Meetings**

Cliff Glantz reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Subcommittee on Consequence Assessment and Protective Actions (SCAPA) annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV, on Monday, May 3, 2010, from 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Prior to the SCAPA meeting, other working groups will be meeting. SCAPA is planning a joint session with the Hazards Assessment Subcommittee (HASC) starting at 11 a.m. with a box lunch available at noon since there is a short time available before the afternoon session with the HASC starts at 1:15 p.m. The Biosafety session of the SCAPA meeting is scheduled to begin at 3:40 p.m.

In addition to participating in the SCAPA meeting, the Biosafety Working Group (BWG) will conduct a face-to-face meeting at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Plans are to broadcast a webinar or teleconference of the BWG meeting, so those who are unable to travel to the meeting venue can participate. The SCAPA meeting is also scheduled to be broadcast to members as a webinar.

## **PAC/TEELs for Selected Biotoxins**

Tom Tuccinardi reported that three biotoxins (i.e., saxitoxin; trichothecene mycotoxin (T-2); botulinum) are being assessed in detail to identify the most scientifically-defensible PAC/TEEL values for these compounds. In spite of delays since this work began almost a year ago, a draft report is currently under review by DOE/NA-41. Results of this assessment will be presented during the biosafety session at the SCAPA meeting. PAC/TEELs may ultimately be developed for about 30 specific biotoxins applying the methodology outlined in the report. The BWG submitted a list of 15 toxins (none of the 3 listed above) to NA-41 for consideration in October 2008.

## **New BWG and SCAPA Web Pages**

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) staff redesigned the EMI SIG and SCAPA web pages and released these new sites to the public. The redesigned web pages include the biosafety-related pages. Cliff Glantz reviewed the new PAC/TEEL and Chemical Mixture Methodology web pages and plans to review of the Biosafety-related web pages. He will forward his observations and recommendations for changes to ORISE for prompt implementation.

Dina Matz-Siegel commented that she liked the new look of the SCAPA Biosafety web pages. Frank expressed concern about the organization of these new web pages and missing content. In particular, Frank noted that the Biosafety Information webpage lacks sufficient introductory content. Also missing from the Biosafety homepage is a link to the BWG's recent white paper, *Transport and Dispersion of Biological Agents/Toxins (2009)*.

Another issue with the new web pages involves the status of the Biosafety password-protected web pages. These web pages include ANL training materials and other useful biosafety information. Cliff Glantz will check on the status of these web pages and determine whether password-protected material is still accessible and available through the SharePoint Site; as well as whether the current EMI SIG passwords will provide access to SharePoint.

Cliff and Frank will address Gary Winner's concern over the appropriateness of sharing sensitive ANL information on the new SharePoint site.

## **ABSA September 2010 Meeting**

The SCAPA Biosafety Working Group has a dual affiliation with the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) and has committed to share information on the ways DOE/NNSA sites are addressing biosafety issues. A forum for sharing this information is the 53rd Annual ABSA conference scheduled to be held in Denver, CO. Preconference courses are September 30 – October 3, 2010, while the conference is scheduled for October 4–6, 2010. Abstracts for presentation are due April 15, 2010.

Michael Heitkamp asked if members of the BWG are planning to attend the ABSA annual meeting. Frank responded that in the past more DOE biosafety officers attended the ABSA

annual meeting than the SCAPA meeting. One reason for this choice may be the valued-added courses offered at the ABSA Annual Meeting, which help biosafety officers achieve and maintain professional certification. Typically, the ABSA offers several half-day and full-day courses and a 2-day review course. Although expensive, these courses are quite worthwhile. The list of courses to be presented at the Denver, CO, conference is not yet posted on the ABSA conference website (<http://www.absaconference.org/>).

### **Fort Detrick Biotoxin Studies**

From his survey to develop effective PAC/TEEL values for biotoxins, Tom Tuccinardi learned that almost every key study on biotoxins originates at Fort Detrick. Accordingly, Tom requested contact information for the scientists doing biosafety work on biotoxins at Fort Detrick. Cliff and Frank suggested that Jim Estep, currently at Battelle Corporate, is a good starting contact. Jim is the former Lab Operations Director at the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center at Fort Detrick, MD. He also spoke at the SCAPA meeting a couple of years ago.

### **Round Robin**

---

**LANL**: Dina Matz-Siegel reported that LANL recently conducted a select agent exercise with involvement of the local county-run fire department. This was the first time that the fire department was involved in a select agent exercise. As part of the exercise play, the fire department tried to extricate a person from a BSL-2 laboratory and it was quite interesting watching them do their work. LANL also conducted some special biosafety training for its local fire department.

Dina will try to get the BWG access to the biosafety component of that training via the new SharePoint pages. Dina will also call into the BWG meeting in Las Vegas, NV, and share the results of this exercise and the associated fire department training.

### **Adjournment**

---

The meeting adjourned at **2:40 p.m. EDT**. Frank thanked everyone for their time and their contributions and wished everyone safe travel to Las Vegas, NV, where the next BWG meeting is scheduled.