



**Highlights
BWG Annual Meeting
May 5, 2010, 7:00 a.m. PDT**

Participants

Jayne-Anne Bond, ATL	Frank Roberto, INL
Dan Conners, PNNL	Therese Rolfe, SNL
Dave Freshwater, NA-41	Joe Terranova, BNL
Cliff Glantz, PNNL	Tom Tuccinardi, ATL
Michael Heitkamp, SRNL	Gary Winner, ANL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental	Jamie Wright, Y-12
John Nasstrom, LLNL NARAC	Ken Young, LLNL
Jim Powers, NA-41	

Roll Call

Frank Roberto conducted a roll call, acknowledged that 15 individuals, representing nine DOE/NNSA sites, were present, and brought the meeting to order. He mentioned that Diane Rodi, who provided significant support to BWG, had taken a new job outside of the DOE complex and expressed his gratitude for all of her fine work.

Administrative Matters

SCAPA May 2010 Meeting

Frank briefly reviewed the Biosafety session of the SCAPA meeting and his discussion on the use of the HPAC code.

PAC/TEELs for Selected Biotoxins

Frank 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. A draft report has been prepared outlining a new procedure for determining PAC/TEEL values for biotoxins. This report is under NA-41 review. Once approved, the report will be distributed to the TEEL Advisory Group (TAG) and the BWG for review. The CMM project team will also review the document and provide feedback on non-lethal, organ-specific impacts.

The new procedure places human data first and then rat data, although it recognizes that in some cases human data may not be applicable because of the nature of the study. It is unlikely that the new method for developing biotoxin PAC/TEELs will be part of PAC/TEEL Revision 26; instead the method will likely be implemented for PAC Revision 27.

Frank stated that PAC/TEELs will ultimately be developed for about 30 specific biotoxins using the methodology outlined in the draft report. The BWG submitted a list of 15 toxins (none of the three 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 website, including the SCAPA and biosafety-related web pages. The redesigned website has been released to the public. Some modifications/corrections will be required on the new web pages. Dina Metz commented that she liked the look of the new SCAPA Biosafety web pages.

ABSA September 2010 Meeting

Frank stated that the SCAPA BWG 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, which is scheduled to be held October 4 – 6 in Denver, CO. The BWG will be presenting a paper at that forum.

ABSA also provides training immediately before the Denver conference. The list of ABSA courses is posted on the ABSA conference website (<http://www.absaconference.org/>).

Biosafety Plans

Frank pointed out that DOE O 151.1C provides the impetus to finalize the site biosafety plans.

Biotoxin Transport and Dispersion Modeling

Frank mentioned the AI 06-06 report, "Transport and Dispersion of Biological Toxins." The report looks at indoor and outdoor transport and dispersion modeling of biotoxins and other biological materials that could possibly be accidentally released in the laboratory. He referred to the HPAC code (which he discussed in more detail at the SCAPA meeting) as a potentially useful transport and dispersion model tool.

NARAC is considering doing more to develop the capability to address a release of non-weaponized bioagents but is still in the information-gathering stage. Currently, when considering weaponized bioagents, NARAC does account for some processes that determine how long biological materials will stay active. For example, NARAC models the ultraviolet degradation for anthrax (including factoring in lower degradation rates at night). NARAC is willing to work with the BWG to allow testing to support selected studies of bioagent transport and diffusion. With respect to indoor dispersion, Frank referred to the talk given by Dr. Lorenzetti on the COMIS code at last year's SCAPA meeting. Unfortunately, the COMIS code is no longer being supported, and the use of the National Institute for Standards and Technology's CONTAM model is now recommended.

Emergency planning hazards assessments (EPHAs) are developed for chemical and radiological releases using simple, conservative models. It was asked if there is a need for simple,

conservative modeling of bioagent impacts. One BWG member commented that we might benefit from having a biosafety version of EPICode.

New Projects

Frank asked for suggestions for new projects. Carl Mazzola indicated that the transport and dispersion codes used for biotoxins should take advantage of the enhanced horizontal and vertical dispersion coefficients of ARCON96.

Round Robin

BNL: Joe Terranova inquired whether EPHAs are required for BSL-3 facilities. He reported that perfluorocarbon tracer tests have been conducted at BNL to support studies of indoor transport dispersion. The tests have been conducted with the HVAC system turned on and off. Additional studies will be conducted this summer with both indoor and outdoor releases. NARAC has volunteered to provide modeling support for this experiment. Joe will present results of these tests to SCAPA and give a formal presentation at next year's meeting. On the subject of EPHAs, Ken Young responded that there are no criteria for classification since only Operational Emergencies can occur.

SRS MOX: Carl asked if any new biosafety regulations are on the horizon, and Frank indicated that none are expected. Most of the energy is being directed at biosafety.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 a.m. PDT. Frank thanked everyone for their time and contributions.