



**Highlights**  
**SCAPA BWG Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 7:00 a.m. EDT**

**Participants**

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| Stuart Bayne, AWD Management Services | Katrina Panek, DOE-ASO                |
| Jayne-Anne Bond, ATL                  | Rocky Petrocchi, Petrocchi Associates |
| Darryl Bonner, Bechtel Jacobs         | Jim Powers, NA-41                     |
| David Brekke, SNL                     | Frank Roberto, INL (Live Meeting)     |
| Bill Gentile, DOE-LASO                | Dina Siegel, LANL                     |
| Cliff Glantz, PNNL                    | Richard Thomas, Intercet              |
| David Luke, TJSO                      | Tom Tuccinardi, ATL                   |
| Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental      |                                       |

**Roll Call and Introduction**

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Dina Siegel conducted a roll call and acknowledged that 15 individuals, representing nine DOE/NNSA sites, were present and brought the meeting to order.

**Discussion**

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***ABSA September 2011 Meeting***

Dina mentioned that the SCAPA Biosafety Working Group has a dual affiliation with the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) and is committed to share information on the ways DOE/NNSA sites are addressing biosafety issues. A national forum for sharing this information will be the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual ABSA Conference, to be held in Anaheim, CA, Oct. 27–Nov.2, 2011. A number of BWG members will attend this meeting. At last year's ABSA Conference, Frank Roberto presented a technical paper.

ABSA also provides training; the list of courses to be presented at the Anaheim conference is posted on the ABSA conference website (<http://www.absaconference.org/>).

Dina mentioned that in addition to its alliance with the BWG, ABSA has formal alliances with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### ***Participation on the Federal Experts Security Advisory Panel***

Dina stated that the BWG is working, at the request of Dave Thomassen, DOE Office of Science, with the Federal Experts Security Advisory Panel (FESAP). A formal report by that panel was submitted in November 2010. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services regarding biosafety inspections is in draft form.

FESAP developed 20 criteria for five different categories to determine which biological agents and toxins should be listed and which should be Tier I. Tier I agents are devastating to the economy, require low doses to weaponize, and are highly infectious. The list is Official Use Only and may not be posted on SharePoint.

Dina also mentioned that the Department of Justice performed a security risk assessment that addressed configuration control, management systems, and a risk assessment program. It determined that implementation of this type of program would be relatively easy for DOE laboratories but somewhat difficult for universities.

The FESAP report was officially released in June, 2011; details and other supporting information can be found at <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/boards/fesap/Pages/default.aspx>.

### ***Applied Biosafety Publication***

Dina stated that the article published by several members of the BWG describes the INL biosafety exercise plan that is used in response to biological accidents and the lessons learned from the exercises to improve the program. The ABSA President requested the authors submit an article after viewing a poster describing DOE/NNSA's approach to incident response planning and exercise development at last year's ABSA conference.

A review draft of the paper will be posted on the BWG web site or on SharePoint. Copies of the actual paper can be purchased from ABSA.

### ***Biological Toxin TEELs and HCNs***

Jayne-Anne Bond reported that a small team developed the most scientifically defensible process for developing TEEL values for biological toxin compounds. A draft report is under review by the TEEL and HCN development teams, as well as by Frank and Dina. The process will be applied to the 25 biotoxins for which the BWG requested TEELs.

Ricin is not one of the 25 biotoxins that is being considered. The Ricin TEEL value was removed from the PAC/TEEL database because of questions regarding the validity of the data. The EPA AEGL Committee has a draft AEGL for Ricin under consideration.

The White Paper also addresses how Health Code Numbers can be developed for these 25 biotoxins. Rocky Petrocchi stressed that with respect to development of a way of addressing exposure to a mixture of biotoxins, a credible scenario is needed or this is just a scientific

exercise. Two possibilities are a fire that destroys containment of several biotoxins in a laboratory without inactivating the bioagents, or a multiple release from a malevolent act.

### ***BWG Membership***

Dina stressed the importance of reaching out to the Biological Security Officers and Subject Matter Experts at all DOE sites and national laboratories. In addition, the existing membership list needs updating; perhaps through a letter requesting each site identify these points of contact.

### ***DOE Executive Biosurety Working Group***

Dina stated that BWG is involved in the DOE Executive Biosurety Working Group (WG). With respect to DOE P 434.1 on select agents, the WG is to comply with management problems identified in DOE N 420.7. This WG participated in the policy decision that there will be no BSL-4 facilities on DOE properties.

### ***Implementation of EO 13546***

Frank Roberto discussed the role of the BWG in response to the provisions of EO 13546.

### ***Annual Biosafety Exercise***

Frank Roberto announced an annual exercise to test the security and biosafety aspects at INL and a subsequent development of a document that catalogs any lessons learned. There has also been discussion on test response to impacts from external phenomena.

Frank questioned if this work can be supported with the EMI SIG Exercise Builder product that builds scenarios and fleshes out the structure of the exercise. Frank will inquire through the EMI SIG Exercise Committee.

### ***NARAC and Biotoxin Release Modeling***

Cliff Glantz reported on discussions with John Nasstrom about NARAC upgrades to be capable of addressing the consequences of a biotoxin release. Work is ongoing to incorporate biotoxin source terms and indoor air quality dispersion modeling into NARAC, but it is not the highest priority.

### ***11<sup>th</sup> Topical Meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response***

Frank Roberto briefly discussed the Biosafety Panel, on which he and Dina are participants, at this topical meeting on August 10, 2011, in Knoxville, TN. Gary Winner, ANL, may also participate on the panel.

## **Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at **7:45 a.m. EDT**. Dina thanked everyone for their time and contributions.