



**Highlights**  
**BWG Teleconference 12-01**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 12:30 p.m. EST**

**Participants**

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Lynn Fondren (SNL-A)	Frank Roberto, INL
Cliff Glantz, PNNL	Dan Schubacker, ANL
Lori Manis, ORNL	Dina Siegel, LANL
Carl Mazzola, Shaw Environmental	Joe Terranova, BNL
Jim Powers, NA-41	

**Roll Call and Introduction**

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Frank Roberto conducted a roll call and acknowledged that nine individuals, representing seven national laboratories, were present. Frank indicated that this was the first Biosafety Working Group (BWG) conference call of 2012.

**EMI SIG 2012 and SCAPA Meeting**

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Cliff Glantz stated that the 2012 Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG) meeting will be held at the Seattle Renaissance from May 14-16, 2012. The Subcommittee on Consequence Assessment and Protective Actions (SCAPA) meeting will take place on Monday, May 14, 2012. A joint session with the DOE Meteorological Coordinating Council (DMCC) and the Hazards Assessment Subcommittee (HASC) will start at 10:30 a.m., and the SCAPA meeting will continue from 1:15 p.m.–5:20 p.m. A draft SCAPA agenda has been prepared, and in the biosafety arena will be a presentation on the development of TEELs for biotoxins and a brief report on BWG activities. The BWG will conduct its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 from 7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m. PDT.

**Discussion**

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***Federal Experts Security Advisory Panel (FESAP)***

Frank provided an update on the work that he and Dina are doing on the FESAP guidance being prepared for Personnel Suitability for work with biological select agents and toxins (BSAT). This guidance will apply to laboratories working with Tier I agents (e.g., INL, LANL, LLNL), in accordance with changes to the Health and Human Services (HHS) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations, expected October 2012. Issues include

potentially large administrative and time burdens placed on Responsible Officials and potential use by HHS and USDA inspectors as a means of determining select agent rule compliance.

### ***Biotoxin TEELs***

Frank stated that in December 2011, he started working on a list of priority biotoxins for the generation of biotoxin Temporary Emergency Exposure Limits (TEELs), and this list was sent to Tom Tuccinardi to receive NA-41 approval in their development. These biotoxin TEELs are proving to be difficult to develop because of conflicting health effects literature, and it is more difficult to find authoritative sources for mode of action and lethal dose-50 parameters.

### ***Identification of Biosafety Officers and Subject Matter Experts***

Frank encouraged all BSOs to communicate with each other and their Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to share lessons learned and best practices. Frank will send a partial list of known BSOs and SMEs to ORISE and a request for BSO and SME identification will be issued through the BWG list serve.

### ***BSL-1 Versus BSL-2 Lab Operations Across the DOE/NNSA Complex***

Frank mentioned that all DOE/NNSA BSL-3 laboratories are known, but not all of the BSL-1 and BSL-2 laboratories have been identified. Once these have been identified, best practices among all biohazard labs will be shared, as well as training opportunities. Dina volunteered to develop a questionnaire to send to all BWG members, and Frank will attempt to identify the remaining labs/BSOs out there that are not already involved in BWG activities. Lastly, Cliff volunteered to post links on the BWG website to best practice information.

### ***Status of LANL BSL-3 and Implications for Other DOE/NNSA Facilities***

Dina provided a status report on the LANL BSL-3 facility which turned 12 years old in December 2011. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is complete but awaiting resolution of issues associated with updated seismic requirements. Dina noted there is a Memorandum of Understanding between HHS and DOE/NNSA awaiting signature at DOE-HQ, to allow for sharing of information related to inspections of BSAT facilities.

### **Round Robin**

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No one volunteered any new information during the roundtable discussion.

### **Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at **1:17 p.m. EST**, and Frank thanked everyone for their participation.