STCG Tanks Subgroup Meeting

March 26, 2001

Opening Remarks (Billie Mauss)

Billie opened the meeting and introductions were made around the room for the benefit of Judit German-Heins (Nez Perce Tribe), who was participating by phone. Billie provided a biography sketch on Ms. Jessie H. Roberson, who has been nominated for EM-1. She is a member of the DNFSB and the former Manager of the Rocky Flats Field Office. She holds a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Tennessee.

In mid-March, Harry Boston held a Technical Mission Planning Workshop at EMSL. Participants included representatives from EPA, Ecology, the HAB (Todd Martin and Ken Bracken), RL (Beth Bilson), ORP, CHG, PNNL, and experts/consultants (e.g., Cavanaugh Mims, Ed Berkey, Teresa Fryberger, who is now the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Gerald Boyd). The focus was on vulnerabilities and opportunities in the Phase 1 scope of work and Balance of Mission. ORP needs a complete flowsheet and baseline for the RPP life cycle to identify the vulnerable areas. They need to determine what TFA, CHG, and Bechtel Washington are doing, and then find the gaps.

Billie distributed copies of the following RPP Definitions:

- Phase 1 - The activities required to design, permit, build, operate, feed, and otherwise support the WTP in order to process 10% of the tank waste by mass that contains 25% of the tank waste radioactivity.
- Balance of Mission - All activities required to perform and complete the RPP Mission that are not included in Phase 1.

TFA Prioritization (Ted Pietrok, Tom Brouns, and Ken Gasper)

Ted Pietrok reported that the FY02 budget information is being held tightly. TFA is not planning on an increase, but no deep cuts are expected either. Ted provided the following TFA budget update:

FY00	$45M
FY01	$55M
FY02 Target	$59M

For FY03, Ted hopes the TFA budget will be in the mid $50Ms.

TFA is trying to meet FY03 user needs and program goals. There are approximately 170 HLW tank S&T needs for FY03 (almost 60 are from ORP). Idaho, Savannah River, and Hanford have the bulk of the needs. TFA's multi-year technical responses can cover

multiple needs. At the recent TFA Mid-Year Review, the TFA Management Team prioritized the FY02 and FY03 technical responses. Joe Cruz is the ORP representative on the TFA Management Team, and Billie is his Deputy. The prioritization criteria are as follows:

- Multi-site benefits?
- User co-funding?
- What is priority/risk?
- Part of site baseline?
- Cost savings/avoidance?
- Regulatory impacts?
- Implementation potential?

There are technical responses to all but one ORP need, and that one already has an off-the-shelf solution planned. The next step is for TFA to develop detailed plans and streamline areas. Fred Mann noted that the Subsurface Contaminants Focus Area (SCFA) was unresponsive on all but one of the Hanford needs that were submitted to them. Billie asked Fred to send the information to her so she can start a dialogue with SCFA.

Tom Brouns provided a more detailed view of the TFA Integrated Priority List (IPL). ORP will benefit from about 28% of the efforts on the IPL through item #16 (assuming that TFA gets at least 80% of its target budget). These are the highest-priority tasks, and they are probably pretty secure. The priority 0 tasks will definitely get funded (i.e., strategic tasks and salt processing). The TFA strategic tasks are higher-risk, higher-payoff, longer-term tasks. These investments were approved by the TFA Management Team. The current TFA strategic tasks that are underway include:

- Issues and options for laying up tanks in a safe mode.
- Chemical pretreatment to enhance ability to retrieve (i.e., heel dissolution)
- Dry retrieval from leaking tanks
- Removal of problem constituents (Hg, Cr) with effective separations techniques
- Cold crucible melter

Ken Gasper provided a crosswalk between the TFA IPL and the RPP S&T needs statements. The table shows which needs are addressed by which technical responses and the amount of TFA funding and RPP co-funding associated with each priority item.

Ken also distributed a package of FY00 Technology Deployment Fact Sheets and noted that the deployments are resulting in large paybacks to ORP. Dick Heggen (Ecology) was pleased with the Fact Sheets and CHG's Tank Technology Management Monthly Reports, saying that condensed summaries are much easier to digest and to communicate with others. The following Fact Sheets were provided:

- Above-Grade Transfer Line
- Enhanced Multi-Function Corrosion Probe

- Environmental Simulation Program
- Updated Hanford Tank Waste Operations Simulator
- In Situ Combustible Gas Monitoring System
- Salt Cake Dissolution
- Saltwell Dilution Hot Water Skid

Status of ORP Integrated Technology Plan and Roadmap (Phil Gauglitz and Ken Gasper)

Phil Gauglitz presented a status report on the development of the draft Integrated Technology Plan (ITP) and Roadmap by a CHG/PNNL team. The preliminary draft is due on August 15. Billie emphasized that Teresa Fryberger and Gerald Boyd will use this document in their presentations to Congress.

Dick Heggen wanted to be sure that the team would use the plans being prepared for Tank C-104 (confined sluicing and robotic technology: crawler technology) and Tank S-112 Saltcake Retrieval. These plans are due for submittal to Ecology in December, and will identify dates for Technology Insertion Points. He thought drafts would be available much earlier for the team's use. Ken assured him that the team would use what was available in this draft (including the April version of the WTP Research and Technology Plan from Bechtel Washington Group), and they would update the ITP and Roadmap next year with information that becomes available later.

Billie provided copies of some OST project summaries that are being used by HQ as marketing tools. Some of them relate to Hanford and some don't. The following handouts were distributed:

- Integration with Cleanup Program
- Reducing Costs
- Reducing Environmental Risk
- Enhancing Safety

Wrap-Up (Billie Mauss)

Billie described the cold pit mock-up at HAMMER and plans to install a new robotic arm from France in April. She proposed that the Subgroup visit the HAMMER facility to observe the cold demonstration of the pit decontamination hardware being assembled there for testing prior to hot deployment at the end of FY01. This demonstration has since been scheduled for the afternoon of May 17, starting at 1:30 p.m.

Dick Heggen requested a copy of TFA's detailed responses to ORP's S&T needs. They are not yet available on the TFA website. He also asked how Ecology could help ORP besides reviewing and commenting on the TFA responses.

Participants

Charlotte Blair (PNNL)
Bill Bonner (PNNL)
Tom Brouns (PNNL/TFA)
Eric Dysland (WPI/TFA)
Linda Fassbender (PNNL)
Ken Gasper (CHG)
Phil Gauglitz (PNNL)
Judit German-Heins (Nez Perce Tribe, by phone)
Marcus Glasper (DOE/RL)
Richard Heggen (Ecology)
Fred Mann (CHG)
Billie Mauss (DOE/ORP)
Perry Meyer (PNNL)
Ted Pietrok (DOE/TFA)
Ivanna Witt (YN)