

Tier 1 Working Group meeting
October 7, 2014

Present: D. Bauer, L. Bowerman, T. Corsa, D. Cubillo, L. Davis, K. Mohanty, W. Ng, B. Royce, T. Roza, W. Schaffer, M. Van Essendelft

The meeting began at 11:00 am.

Wai Lin stated there would be a demonstration on Friday 10/10/14 of the ETQ system. This is a new database system that will manage assessments and replace the current ATS system. It can also be used for tracking Tier 1 assessments. The data will be used to document, track and trend safety issues. A member noted that the use of any tool shouldn't be rushed into before the process has been determined. Wai Lin stated the committee had requested benchmarking from other DOE sites as to how they handle Tier 1 inspections. She received information from other labs on their processes and showed the committee the responses. A member questioned whether any of the other labs has shown that trending Tier 1 issues results in fewer injuries or a safer workplace. One of the labs reported safety issues were 50% less due to the process. That lab has a VPP program. A member questioned how tracking issues makes the Lab safer when there is no funding to correct the issues that are found. It was stated that DOE had commented to SHSD that BNL is not tracking problems at an institutional level and therefore not managing risk. It was noted that Management Reviews are submitted annually to SHSD and it's not clear what is done with that information. Wai Lin stated there is a need to develop an institutional process for tracking information. Members noted the Management Review process is already in place but it's not clear whether the information reaches upper management. Wai Lin stated management wants deeper data in a more accessible manner. Currently each department performs Tier 1 assessments in a different way. It was noted the Management Reviews include a roll-up of Tier 1 findings. Wai Lin stated the data can be broken down even further and noted that PNNL has a good system that may be adaptable for use at BNL. Currently SMEs review and determine risk. Management has requested that all reviews and surveillances are rolled up in to one system to satisfy different programs. A member questioned whether all this tracking will lead to additional funding. The response was that if lab management is aware of the issues on site, they can then prioritize them. Some issues will still be operational costs, but if management is aware of risks, they can make decisions based on that. It was noted that there is a system already in place that brings issues to management. Most of the Tier 1 findings are addressed as they are raised. The continuing issues are major ones that will require major funding to address. Wai Lin noted that if these issues are documented, they can be tracked by management. DOE and BNL management have required this tracking system to obtain metrics. Members stated it would be helpful to know specifically what management is looking for and what information they actually require. It was stated that the current discussions should be on the process and goals, not tools to be used. BNL should be consistent with how other DOE labs are obtaining and tracking this information. Currently there are surveillances, Tier 1 inspections, HVT, SME and ESR walkthroughs. They each capture different information and the goal is to have one system that captures all the required information. It was noted that the Tier 1 inspections can't capture all of this information. A member noted some information obtained on Tier 1 inspections might not be understood or useful outside the department. The process should start with determining what questions need to be asked for management and what questions need to be asked for the departments. It was noted that OSHA inspections are currently being performed. It was noted that ATS is not useful for trending. Wai Lin stated that M. Nair is working on a flow chart that may help define what is needed to create this process. The working group will be broken into subgroups to further define processes that would work for each type of group. The objective is to harmonize the Tier 1 inspections.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Update: Thursday, 10/09/14: A meeting was held with QMO that resulted in the cancellation of the demo by ETQ. It was deemed premature to discuss the ETQ database as a roll-out to the IOPS system prior to signing of a contract with BNL. A resolution of their contract is expected by the beginning of November 2014.