

THE FBMS EXPRESS

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THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FBMS)

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FBMS EVENTS AND MILESTONES:

- Cycle 2 of Integration Testing began on September 18th
- Washington DC Town Hall scheduled for October 24th

THE BOTTOM LINE

By David Shearer
FBMS Project Director

The FBMS team has been comprehensively testing the integrated FBMS system in preparation for Deployment 2 (D2.) The goal of testing is to identify and address any errors before the system goes live. While the testing process is work-intensive, I am pleased to report that the team is making significant headway.

Team communications and coordination have been an important part of our testing strategy. Each day begins with a status update call to ensure that the whole team is working in the same strategic direction and on schedule. Testing staff consolidation in the Herndon, VA and Denver, CO locations has also helped to enhance communications. I am happy to

announce that we have almost completed our move to the Herndon, VA facility. I would like to personally thank all the people who facilitated the move, particularly our September Spotlight Employee, Dawn Saddler.

We are now in Cycle 2 of Integration Testing. During Cycle 2, some business users have joined the functional teams in testing FBMS. During this time we are also performing "mock conversions" of real DOI data. Performing Integration Testing using real DOI FY05 data allows the team to validate the accuracy of data processing. Testers will ensure that the FY05 data is processed correctly by FBMS, and that the results are consistent between FBMS and the legacy systems. This includes testing the critical Month

End and Year End close processes. Mock data conversions will be immediately followed by "cut-over tests", which will validate the integrity of our processes for moving data from the legacy systems into FBMS.

As you may imagine, this is both an exciting and a demanding time for the FBMS project team as well as Deployment 2 FBMS end-users. I would like to thank the employees from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and Minerals Management Services (MMS) bureaus for their efforts. The support they have provided in testing the new system has been tremendous. Please stay tuned to the *FBMS Express* and FBMS website for more news and project information as we head into the D2 homestretch!

D2 INTEGRATION TESTING

Since Integration Testing began in late August, testers have been working hard to validate the FBMS system as a whole. Testing is performed using end-to-end transactions and scenarios to determine if FBMS executes all functions as intended and described in the business Blueprinting Phase.

Integration Testing seeks to

answer the question, "Did we build the right system?" As testers find errors or "defects" in the system, they log these defects into a testing application. System developers then access the testing results to correct and resolve any defects. A Quality Review group ensures that all defects are successfully resolved.

There are two Integration Testing Phases. The first is referred to as "Cycle 1." Cycle 1 allows the testing team to conduct an initial test of the system as well as refine the testing instructions or scripts. This phase of testing is where testers find the most system errors.

During Cycle 2 of Integration

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We are on the web!

<http://www.doi.gov/fbms>

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Testing, bureau team members join in the testing effort. Trainers also observe the testing process to understand work step instructions for their respective areas. Cycle 2 testers ensure that they can repeat the same system processes executed in Cycle 1 and produce the same results. Cycle 2 testers also test end-user security and authorization roles.

Once Integration Testing is successfully completed, User Acceptance Testing (UAT) can begin. During UAT, future FBMS D2 end-users will be asked to see and test the new financial system. If it meets their business requirements, then the system will be ready to go-live.

TESTING TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Glenda Pearsall heads up the FBMS testing team. Glenda is from Virginia and has worked for DOI for 32 years. She came from the Office of the Secretary (OS) to work on the FBMS project. As Glenda explains, managing the testing process involves a great deal of coordination. In her role as testing manager, she must ensure that employees from different bureaus, specializing in different functional areas and sitting in two different locations (Denver and Herndon) are all working together. Transcending these boundaries and getting everyone to work as one team can seem like a Herculean task. However, with the help of technology and strategic plan-

ning, the team has been successful in doing just that. A dedicated phone line that is always open now connects the Herndon, VA and Denver, CO offices. One application is used to store all test cases and all defects so that all testers working with the latest information. Finally, testers are sitting together in open spaces to encourage teamwork and coordination. Though personal space in short supply, the set-up has contributed to FBMS testing success. (Glenda is pictured below with testers in Denver.)



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our September Spotlight Employee is Dawn Saddler. Dawn comes to the FBMS team from the National Business Center (NBC.) Dawn has been instrumental in managing the FBMS team move from Reston, VA to Herndon, VA. Dawn has ensured that the FBMS staff has all the necessary resources and connectivity they need to work effectively at the state-of-the-art Herndon facility.



FBMS TRAINING: A LESSON IN PLANNING

Training for the new FBMS system is scheduled to start at the end of October. Providing effective training for several hundred bureau employees involves extensive planning and coordination. Training leads must identify which positions require what training based on job responsibilities. That effort is being managed by the DOI and IBM training leads, Karen Selleck and Laura Barnard. Karen and Laura have been working with FBMS bureau leads from MMS and OSM to ensure that all employees who need training are accounted for and booked into the right classes at the right locations.

Aside from these logistics, the training team is working to provide a variety of different training materials. In Deployment 2, all initial training will be classroom and instructor-led. In addition, a help menu is being built to provide employees with immediate on-line assistance when working in FBMS. Training is scheduled within the weeks before and after the system goes live. Presenting information near to the time when the system is implemented will ensure that training attendees retain the skills they are learning. Stay tuned to the October *FBMS Express* for more training highlights and information.



FBMS Testing Team in Herndon, VA (above)



FBMS Testing Team in Denver, CO