

Alliance Agreement between the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) and the Biosafety Working Group of the Department of Energy (DOE-BWG),)

The DOE-BWG is part of the Subcommittee on Consequence Assessment and Protective Actions (SCAPA), Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG)

March 29, 2009

1. Through its membership, ABSA will assist the DOE-BWG to the best of its ability with finding technical resources and subject matter expertise on biosafety-related matters, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - biology of infectious agents and biological toxins (i.e., biohazardous agents);
 - biological risk assessments;
 - biocontainment strategies, programs, plans and procedures;
 - containment facility design, maintenance and operation;
 - selection and use of engineering controls (e.g., biological safety cabinets); and,
 - emergency preparedness and response for occupational exposures and environmental releases of biohazardous agents.

2. Through its membership, the DOE-BWG will assist ABSA to the best of its ability with finding technical resources and subject matter expertise on biosafety- and emergency response-related matters, including but not limited to the following:
 - Emergency Planning Hazards Assessments (EPHAs);
 - development of a graded approach to emergency preparedness and response for incidents involving releases of biohazardous agents from secondary containment;
 - information associated with DOE nanotechnology initiatives related to biosafety programs;
 - strategies, programs, plans and procedures for compliance with DOE Orders, DOE guides and Federal and State enabling regulations related to management of biological agents; and,
 - characterization of potential and actual biological source terms stemming from incidents at DOE and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) facilities.

3. Members of ABSA and/or the DOE-BWG will be encouraged to submit white papers for publication, either separately or collaboratively as co-authors, on matters mentioned in (1) and (2). As appropriate, and as deemed acceptable by journal editors, *Applied Biosafety: Journal of the American Biological Safety Association* can serve as one potential venue for such publications.

4. Members of ABSA and/or the DOE-BWG will be encouraged to present their work products, either separately or as co-authors, on matters mentioned in (1) and (2), either in the form of either poster or podium presentations, at conferences of ABSA and/or ABSA affiliates.