

Annual Report for the
National Clearinghouse
for Worker Safety and
Health Training



SUPPORTING THE NATION'S
**LARGEST WORKER
TRAINING PROGRAM**

FISCAL
YEAR END
REPORT

Contract #GS23F8091H

Operated by MDB, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

This 2004 fiscal year-end report for the fourth year of MDB, Inc.'s contract describes the broad range of communication and technical support services provided to the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) Worker Education and Training Program (WETP). This report covers the work completed during the fourth contract year, beginning August 16, 2003 and ending on August 15, 2004, arguably the most impressive year so far, partially due to one of the most important technical meetings in WETP's eighteen-year history. The paper and web-based versions of the reports generated by the Clearinghouse were substantive, peer reviewed, and attractive. The Clearinghouse website (www.wetp.org) became fully operational, handling over 18,000 successful requests in August 2004 alone. This represented 1.60 gigabytes of information transferred, hopefully making a difference in the health and safety of American workers.

OVERVIEW

FY 2004 represented a year of consistently strong and stable support by MDB, Inc. The Director of the Clearinghouse, Dr. Bruce Lippy, with over a year's experience managing the contract, was able to ensure much more consistent project management, client communications, and deliverable provisions. The Clearinghouse staff grew during this year, adding Maria Polis and Dr. Rachel Gross. Ms. Polis came to MDB with a master's degree in Public Policy from George Washington University with an academic focus on environmental policy; Dr. Gross received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, with a focus on risk communication and health education. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist, which will prove quite valuable to the Clearinghouse function.

The Clearinghouse achieved a major success this year in the continuing effort to provide sufficient training to workers who must respond to terrorist actions. Facilitating the coordination of resources from OSHA and NIEHS, the Clearinghouse was instrumental in the development of the 16-hour OSHA Disaster Site Worker Course (OTI 7600) and the 32-hour instructor course (OTI-5600). Clearinghouse senior technical advisors, John Moran and Don Elisburg, were the first to nationally sound the alarm about the inadequacies of worker protection at the cleanup of the World Trade Center, in particular the inherent weakness in OSHA's training requirements for skilled support personnel, i.e. construction trade workers. Three separate reports generated by the Clearinghouse pointing out the critical need for improving this training, which led to OSHA moving forward on the development of the course. The Clearinghouse established a special web page for instructors that allowed WETP-awardees and OSHA staff to post course modules under development and access images and existing curricula for improving the course. Dr. Lippy helped to finish the course, working for days with OSHA training experts at the Training Institute in Chicago. This work has resulted in a strong interest in the course nationally with dozens of offerings occurring at OSHA Education Centers and NIEHS Awardee training facilities.

MDB media and marketing activities strongly supported WETP efforts this year. A new brochure was produced describing the achievements of the entire network of awardees, as well as the services offered. An insert with contact information about all of the programs was included in the brochure and awardees will be provided a template for creating their own specialized insert. The Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program (BMWTP) brochure created last fiscal year is still being distributed by all of those awardees in this program. Additionally, the Clearinghouse handled the logistics for the successful participation by WETP and its awardees in the Brownfields 2004 Conference and Exposition in Portland, Oregon. The weekly electronic Newsbrief continued to highlight Awardee success stories and program

achievements. All of these highlights - in addition to all technical reports, media stories, and Clearinghouse reports produced and disseminated during FY2004 - were summarized in an electronic Compendium and placed on the wetp.org website for all visitors to peruse and use.

This year, the Clearinghouse website achieved a new level of quality and comprehensiveness. The Health and Safety Library has grown significantly during the last year in both volume and usefulness: the hundreds of health and safety articles have been provided a short written description by staff and assigned to folders within the database. All important articles highlighted in the Newsbrief have been moved to the permanent database of the library.

MDB, through Don Elisberg and John Moran, provided critical support for OSHA's congressionally-mandated audit of ten Department of Energy non-weapons laboratories for compliance with OSHA standards. These audits of major facilities like Oak Ridge, Argonne, and Pacific Northwest Laboratories are enabling OSHA to better understanding what it will take for the agency to enforce compliance with safety and health requirements at DOE facilities, if Congress decides this is needed. MDB was able to do this under a continuing contract modification approved for this fiscal year.

We look forward to another successful and productive year in FY2004.

2004 ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

The remaining section of this narrative report describes the work completed under each of the subtasks of the contract.

Prime Task One

Establish, manage and operate an information clearinghouse for the distribution of technical information produced by the Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

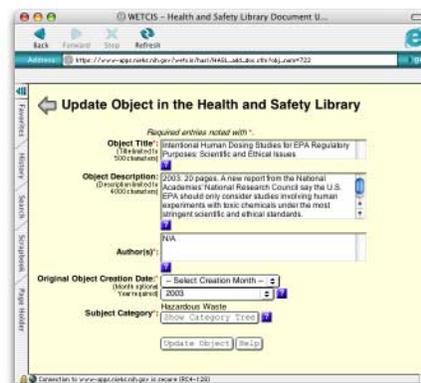
HAZWOPER Technical Information Collection

During 2004, the Health and Safety Library (HASL) database application was completed and launched [February, 2004]. This was a large undertaking for both WETP and Clearinghouse staff. The new application allows Clearinghouse staff to constantly update the WETP website with the latest news, information, reports, and all non-curricula documents in real time.

With the completion of the new HASL database, all of the technical documents were migrated into a permanent address. The Clearinghouse produced written descriptions of all of these documents as well as a site map to facilitate locating documents. Additionally, key Clearinghouse documents have been moved to the homepage to make sure they are readily accessible and to promote the work of WETP. Finally, the Clearinghouse rectified the problem of technical documents highlighted in the Newsbrief becoming inaccessible because of Internet links to articles expiring. Now, as the Newsbrief is generated, technical staff members decide which items are significant enough to maintain and then place them permanently in the HASL database.

Curricula Catalog

The redesigned Data Management System (DMS)/Curricula Catalog System was completed in FY 2004. The partnership between the Clearinghouse and NIEHS technical staff resulted in a more robust and stable system for Awardees to upload curricula documents to be viewed and ordered on the WETP website. The programming of the DMS was completed following the tasks and goals detailed in the systems requirements document that was completed in FY 2003. Clearinghouse staff continues to regularly fill online curricula catalog orders, including reproducing hard copies, burning electronic curricula onto CDs, and shipping orders. The majority of the curricula have been made into PDF files that can be downloaded immediately, reducing the need for staff to fill orders.



Strategic Plan and Advisory Board

The Clearinghouse Advisory Board met on February 24, 2004 in the offices of MDB, Inc. from 1:00 to 4:00pm at 1250 Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. Members were permitted to participate via teleconference. The board reviewed the suggested changes to the Clearinghouse website and approved the plans that were presented. The board also reviewed the plans for the April 2004 conference and provided excellent feedback. Minutes were generated. Bruce Lippy followed through on his plan to more efficiently communicate with the Advisory Board through e-mail. The board was sent a draft of a new WETP brochure for review. After incorporating their suggestions, the mockup of the full-color version was distributed for further comments. This has proven to be an excellent way to get important feedback without requiring board members to travel.

National Clearinghouse Advisory Board Membership List			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Pat Berntsen	Kirkwood Community College	Bruce Lippy	National Clearinghouse
Don Ellenberger	Center to Protect Workers' Rights	Glenn Paulson	UMDNJ
Don Elisburg	National Clearinghouse	Paul Renner	Labor Institute/PACE
Mike Gill	PACE	Craig Slatin	The New England Consortium
Mike Glassic	Y-Stress, Inc.	Dave Treanor	IUOE
Eric Lamar	IAFF	Kizetta Vaughn	CPWR
Myra Lewis	Xavier University	Beverly Wright	Xavier University

Issue and Trend Identification

Don Elisburg and John Moran continued to spearhead the “scouting” efforts of this task, effectively monitoring Congressional and other relevant federal agency activities (DHS, DOL, DOE, EPA, NRT), providing feedback and recommendations to WETB staff on how legislation and outside agency initiatives could affect WETP, and how WETP might consider responding to such issues, trends, and initiatives. Clearinghouse efforts to promote and coordinate WETP’s SSP activities featured prominently under this task, as training for various responder populations following 9/11 remains a highly visible policy and funding issue in Washington and among the worker populations. This past year, mold became a major issue that consumed resources under this subtask. John Moran produced a “Strawman” document that was used as the basis for a technical workshop in Manhattan, January 27th and 28th. At this workshop 40 experts on worker training and mold considered how best to train and protect workers who remove mold-contaminated materials or whose maintenance activities disturb mold. The Clearinghouse revised the guidance document based on the results of the workshop and sent it to the experts in time for further review at a conference in Washington D.C. on June 27th and 28th.

Prime Task Two

Arrange and manage technical meetings and workshops related to scientific, administrative, and regulatory issues associated with training for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders. A minimum of two such meetings or workshops shall be held during the contract year.

Workshop Facilitation

The National Clearinghouse was contractually obligated to facilitated two workshops, but actually facilitated three during FY2004 without additional funding to do so. The following workshops were facilitated:

2003 NIEHS WETP December Conference: Training from the Inside Out – Assessing and Refining Our Programs

The NIEHS WETP Awardee Conference was held at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina from December 3 – 5, 2003. The Conference welcomed nearly 100 members of the WETP community. Over the course of the three days, the following topics were discussed:

- Updates from the Clearinghouse and WETP;
- Organizational effectiveness and challenges;
- Program adaptations to address diversity, outreach and cultural competence;
- Chemical terrorism, and
- Health and training implications of mold for worker populations.



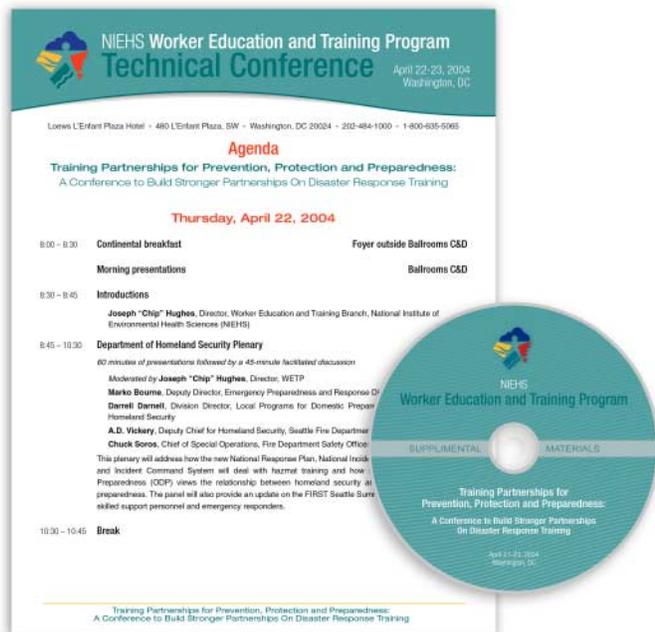
The Clearinghouse created a dedicated website to document the December 2003 meeting. This website can be viewed by visiting the following address:

<http://ftp.michaeldbaker.com/clientdev/wetp/03meeting/agenda.html>

This site contains the agenda and full proceedings from the meetings, as well as notes and PowerPoint files from the individual presentations and workshops. An informal slide show of photos from the three days of meetings is also included.

2004 NIEHS WETP April Technical Conference: "Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection, and Preparedness: A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships on Disaster Response Training"

The NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program conducted a one-day business meeting on April 21st and a two-day technical conference on April 22nd and 23rd. Over 100 people attended the business meeting and over 130 people attended the technical conference. Clearinghouse staff were closely involved in all stages of planning, including devising guidelines and instructions for all workshop facilitators, soliciting leaders for training sessions, and managing all logistical preparations for the meeting. The conference - entitled, "Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection, and Preparedness: A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships on Disaster Response Training" - forged stronger ties among key federal agencies. Speakers from the Department of Homeland Security, OSHA, EPA, and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board gave their perspective on protecting the safety and health of the workers who this nation will call upon to respond to terrorist actions. The conference also included four breakout sessions on Thursday covering broad range of NIEHS partnerships. Grantees presented emergency response partnerships among Native American tribes, hospital and public health practitioners, chemical industries, and even between Arizona start government officials and the Mexican government. Four breakout sessions on Friday focused on identifying resources - both human and material - among WETP grantees that could quickly and systematically be brought to bear during a future response to terrorism. The results of these breakouts will be developed by the National Clearinghouse into a plan that will be distributed to all key federal and state emergency-planning organizations. Clearinghouse staff also completed print, CD-Rom and Web Versions of the Conference report.



Mold National Technical Workshop, January 27-28, 2004, "Preliminary Guidelines for the Protection and Training of Workers Engaged in Maintenance and Remediation Work Associated with Mold"

The first *Mold Worker Protection Training Workshop* was held on January 27-28, 2004 at Hunter College in New York City. The purpose of the workshop was to develop experience-based guidelines for the health and safety training of mold hazard assessors, mold remediation workers, and workers who are exposed to mold in the course of maintaining building systems. The need for these training guidelines grew out of an increase in the population of mold-exposed workers and the absence of federal regulations or generally accepted professional guidance on work practices and procedures, personal protective equipment, or training protocols to protect these workers from mold exposures. Leading up to the meeting Clearinghouse staff engaged in research for the mold "Strawman" document, produced name tags, breakout poster boards, agendas, copied pertinent documents, revised the thought stimulators and worked with a planning committee preparing for the workshop, including meeting with breakout leaders the evening before the workshop started. The Clearinghouse managed the *Workshop* in co-sponsorship with the Society for Occupational and Environmental Health (SOEH), the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC), the Urban Public Health Program of Hunter College of the City University of New York, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the School of Public Health of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Sixty professionals representing various governmental agencies, industrial hygiene and remediation firms, labor and training organizations, academia, and building owners/managers participated in this workshop. The two-day workshop characterized work practices and associated (potential) mold exposures among the affected worker groups and identified worker protection training topics and training techniques appropriate for these exposure scenarios. After the meeting, Clearinghouse staff reformatted notes and produced a revised interim guidance document.



Mold Technical Conference, June 28-29, 2004, "Mold-related Health Effects: Clinical, Remediation Worker Protection and Biomedical Research Issues"

The second conference—"Mold-Related Health Effects: Clinical, Remediation Worker Safety Protection and Biomedical Research Issues"—was held in Washington, D.C. on June 28 and 29, 2004. The conference was sponsored by NIEHS WETP, SOEH, the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Urban Public Health Program of Hunter College, the New Jersey School of Public Health, and the Office of Rare Diseases in the National Institutes of Health. To prepare for the meeting, Clearinghouse staff directed media outreach and arranged several conference calls for the worker protection panelists. The purpose of this cross-disciplinary meeting was to bring together experts in clinical science, worker protection and education, and basic research to further efforts to prevent, diagnose, and treat conditions related to exposure to indoor mold. The findings from two earlier technical workshops served as the basis for this meeting. The first workshop focused on the clinical aspects and case management of mold-related health effects. The second,

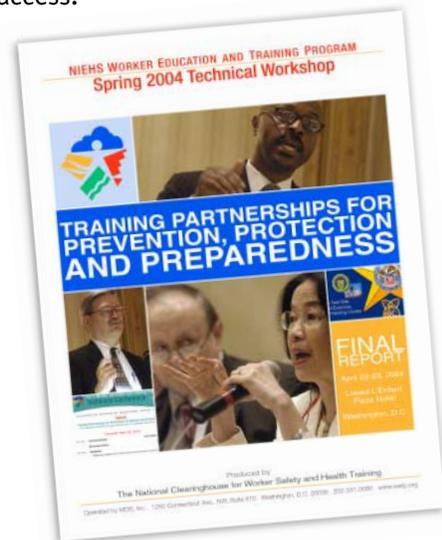
based on the findings regarding health effects from the first workshop, developed recommendations for remediation worker health and safety protection and training. Grounded in these practical workshop findings, this meeting addressed the state of science aimed at deeper understanding of mold-related health effects, prevention strategies and further research needs. Clearinghouse Staff attended the mold conference and took notes. In addition, Dr. Lippy presented a technical paper. The guidance document for training was further revised based on the feedback from this workshop.

Workshop On-Site Activities

MDB provided full-time staff support for all WETP workshops and meetings listed above. Staff members were responsible for the contract negotiating, the registration process, the coordination of catering activities, the posting of meeting signage, the securing of materials for meeting participants, the taking of notes and any other services required to make the workshop a success.

Workshop Reports

John Moran and Bruce Lippy provided expert editorial oversight to the Mold "Strawman" document. A draft of this report has been posted on the WETP Clearinghouse website in order to solicit comments. Maria Polis directed the production of the proceedings from the December report, which was made available on the Clearinghouse website. Rachel Gross managed the Clearinghouse production of the April Workshop Report. The report contains summaries of each workshop session, plenary and breakout session. In addition the report contains pictures from the event and final evaluation results. The report was posted on the WETP web site in June of 2004 and is also available in print and on CD-ROM.



Prime Task Three

Facilitate the transmission of technical information related to the development of safety and health training programs for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders.

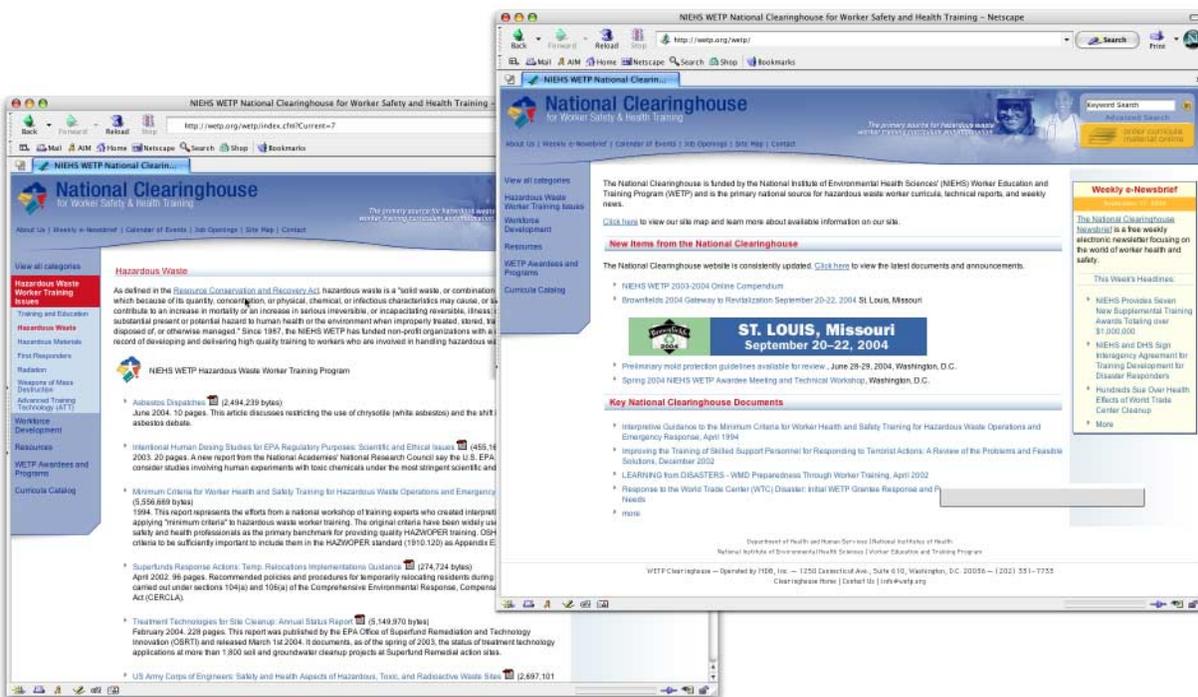
Web Site Development and Web Site Maintenance

The redesigned WETP website was launched in October 2003, with the full database deployment launch occurring in February 2004. These milestones represent over two years of planning and programming between the Clearinghouse and WETB to produce a truly dynamic, powerful website for the NIEHS Awardee community. The first phase of the launch in October consisted of static content (which would later be populated by the HASL database), a new navigation hierarchy, and a new graphic interface. The purpose of this static, or 'soft' launch was to allow the community to become familiar with the workings of the new site while production was still occurring on HASL. During this soft launch period, the Clearinghouse received numerous praises and critical feedback from various members of the community, serving as validation to the planning and programming.

In February 2004, the launch of the HASL database application marked the full completion of the new WETP website. Now, all content was being stored and pulled dynamically from the application, resulting in strong document link integrity and improved overall up-time for the site. While the public user could not appreciate the full benefit of the application, the Clearinghouse was now able to update any portion

of the site real-time. In the future, the Clearinghouse will be able to provide the Awardee community with up-to-the-minute information and training materials as they become available.

In June 2004, the Clearinghouse redesigned the home page and some feature of the WETP website based on feedback received since October 2003. This resulted in the addition of key information being placed directly on the home page for instant access. Latest news and information, Clearinghouse documents, and the latest Newsbrief headlines were now key features of the site. In addition, a new Site Map was added to the site, which greatly facilitated browsing or searching for technical documents. Also, the Newsbrief headline feature was added to every page on the site, further promoting subscription and viewing of the complete Newsbrief. For the coming year, the Clearinghouse will focus on making the site easier to use and ensuring that the hazardous waste technical materials available are pertinent and comprehensive.



Program Brochure

In the previous contract year, the Clearinghouse’s graphics team created a full-color, tri-fold brochure that promoted the work of WETP Brownfield’s awardees. The design included a pocket for an insert that could be produced by the individual awardees to highlight their programs. One thousand full-color, glossy copies of the brochure were printed and distributed to each BMWTP Awardee and handed out at the Brownfields conference in Portland in October 2003. Building on the success of this brochure, the graphics team used a similar design to create a brochure promoting the entire Worker Education and Training Program, again allowing a space for an insert so awardees can make the brochure specific to their program. The Clearinghouse Advisory Board and the Worker Education and Training Branch of NIEHS reviewed the copy and design of the brochure. Significant copies of the brochure will be printed and disseminated in the next contract year.



Weekly Digital Newsbrief

The WETP Newsbrief is a widely distributed electronic publication that reaches a diverse audience. Currently, there are over 680 subscribers and the Clearinghouse is working on efforts to reach out to new audiences in the academic, non-profit, and government sectors. This number only reflects those people who have a subscription to the Newsbrief, not the many individuals who review the Newsbrief as part of their regular visits to the site, but don’t want to be notified about it every week through e-mail.



Over the past year the format and look of the Newsbrief have been updated, corresponding to the launch of the newly re-designed WETP website. The top headlines from each week are posted on the National Clearinghouse home page to add attention to the Newsbrief. The Newsbrief also continues to present breaking headlines and, on occasion, has beaten all other sources in releasing information critical to worker safety and health. The Newsbrief has expanded efforts to include stories and lessons learned provided by the WETP grantees. One major effort includes the posting of four training success story related to Brownfields activities supported by NIEHS during the month leading up to Brownfields 2004.

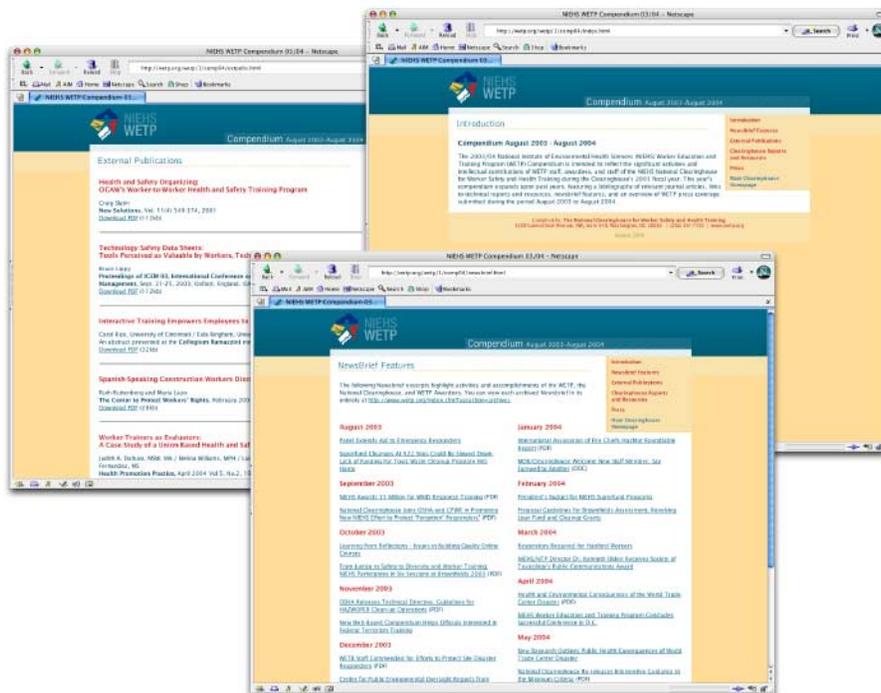
Monthly Summaries

Dr. Lippy continued making monthly trips to RTP to meet with WETB staff to discuss the previous month's contract activities and examine remaining budget allocations. A monthly report summarized by contract task, and a budget spreadsheet are now disseminated to WETB staff prior to each monthly visit. This form of reporting has maintained accountability for the project, while introducing a necessary degree of flexibility when faced with emerging activities, trends, or issues. Dr. Lippy has arranged for other Clearinghouse team members to accompany him to these meetings or to join the meeting via teleconference when requested by WETB.

Annual Compendium

This year marks the second release of the "e-compendium." Based on last year's success, it is evident that the electronic posting of the compendium facilitates its dissemination to the WETP community. It also allows for a more uniform, impressive product, compared to the compilation of photocopied articles distributed in the past. This year's compendium expands upon past years, featuring a bibliography of relevant journal articles, links to technical reports and resources, Newsbrief features, and an overview of WETP press coverage submitted during the period August 2003 to August 2004.

The compendium is an excellent communication tool reflecting the significant activities and intellectual contributions of WETP staff, awardees, and staff of the NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training during the 2004 fiscal year.



Partnerships and Representation

There was tremendous activity under this subtask in the last contract year, particularly considering that “partnership” was the focus of the technical conference. Much effort went into developing those partnerships prior to the April meeting. Don Elisburg, John Moran, and Bruce Lippy were all active under this subtask, representing the Clearinghouse in the following:

- Dr. Lippy’s participation on the DOE Special Interest Group for Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Safety;
- Dr. Lippy’s participation in the South Baltimore Industrial Mutual Aid Plan;
- Dr. Lippy’s participation at National Response Team meetings and Interstate Chemical Terrorism Working Group conference calls;
- Don Elisburg’s attendance at Brownfields 2003 and work on the 2004 conference;
- Dr. Lippy’s participation in the DHS Office for Domestic Preparedness Training and Data Exchange (TRADE) committee;
- Don Elisburg and Dr. Lippy’s facilitation of the OSHA-NIEHS partnership that produced the Disaster Site Worker course, including attendance of pilot programs at the OSHA Training Institute and the George Meany Center;
- Dr. Lippy’s participation in the DHS National Incident Management System and Universal Task List workshop;
- Dr. Lippy’s presentations at the PACE Safety and Health Conference;
- Dr. Lippy’s participation in NIOSH meetings coordinated by the RAND Corporation on protecting emergency responders;
- Clearinghouse participation in the Chicago Safety and Health Conference
- Dr. Lippy’s participation in the EPA/Labor Superfund Task Force and the ESF-10 working group; and
- Dr. Lippy’s participation in the OSHA workshop on respiratory protection for responders to terrorist actions.

Promotion of the Importance of HAZWOPER training and the WMD work of WETP and its awardees among key federal, state, and local agencies and organizations

The Clearinghouse made excellent strides under this contract modification to promote the important work of WETP and its awardees in Homeland Security training. Don Elisburg, John Moran, and Bruce Lippy participated in numerous meetings, workshops, and conference calls with key officials from the Department of Homeland Security, OSHA, NIOSH, EPA, DOE, and DOJ, along with key state organizations like the Interagency Committee on Biochemical Terrorism. The Clearinghouse – particularly through the WETP April 2004 Partnership Conference – promoted the training efforts of the grantee organizations to these other federal players and, conversely, informed the grantees of major developments of these agencies through the Newsbrief

A major focus of the Clearinghouse under this modification was to establish the requirement that compliance with 29 CFR 1910.120/40 CFR 311 is mandatory, at a minimum, for all WMD incident responses. Major success was achieved. OSHA, in no small part from the efforts of the Clearinghouse and WETP, has been much more unequivocal on this point during the past year, issuing several documents that clearly indicate that acts of bioterrorism, chemical terrorism, radiological release through a dirty bomb, and most explosive attacks (if involving chemical leaks) are covered under 1910.120. This is a

critical development for the WETP because of the program's HAZWOPER mandate. Of equal importance, Dr. Lippy participated in the DHS workshop to define a Universal Task List for preventing, preparing for, and responding to incidents of national significance. Through his effort, and those of others, 1910.120 was cited throughout the list of tasks.

This modification also required the Clearinghouse to identify those federal agencies with a mandated role in WMD preparedness, not just training, and begin a dialogue with them. There are solid accomplishments to report. Beyond the strong relationship with OSHA, the Clearinghouse staff has built an excellent working relationship with the health and safety departments of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, the Training and Data Exchange group of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, the Training Subcommittee of the National Response Team, the Emergency Support Function 10 working group, the EPA-Labor Superfund Task Force, and the DOT safety and health office. Dr. Lippy also supported the NIOSH effort to protect responders by serving on several expert panels facilitated by the RAND Corporation.

Similar success can be reported for the requirement to develop relationships with state and local governments. Dr. Lippy has worked with the First Responder and Skilled Trades (FIRST) committee in Seattle, the Interstate Committee on Biochemical Terrorism, the South Baltimore Industrial Mutual Aid Plan, and the WTC Worker Screening Program in New York City. He chaired the working group on exposure assessment for that latter effort.

Development of an emergency activation plan for WETP

John Moran developed a May 23, 2003 draft activation plan for the WETP Awardee community that was discussed at the roundtable in Beckley, West Virginia on July 9, 2003. The scope of this plan, as envisioned initially by Moran, included coordination and planning with appropriate federal agencies to assure a seamless, effective, rapid, and appropriate WETP response; development, maintenance, and communication of a comprehensive listing of response resources categorized by incident type; development of a rapid response activation plan, and participation in appropriate WMD response training exercises. There were several concerns raised at the Beckley meeting about liability, confidentiality, and political weaknesses, but the general consensus was that the idea was worth pursuing.

During this contract year, the draft plan was revised by the Clearinghouse to make it fit seamlessly into the draft OSHA Health and Safety Annex to the National Response Plan, which was under revision. The Clearinghouse worked with OSHA and other federal agencies to support the proposed annex and the inclusion of the WETP plan activation upon the activation of the annex. During the April 2004 D.C. conference, the Clearinghouse facilitated four breakout sessions that were focused on identifying the resources available through the WETP community for responding to future terrorist actions affecting transportation, public health, chemical facilities, and the construction trades.

Each participant in the conference filled out a questionnaire during these breakouts that focused on their organization's resources, specifically the contact points for initiating a response; the types of training that have been provided by the grantee that may be applicable; instructional staff that may be available; training resources and facilities that could be made available in a response; and constraints. Dr. Gross of the Clearinghouse analyzed the responses and provided a report to WETP. Based on these positive, but initial findings, a more thorough telephone questionnaire was created by Drs. Gross and Lippy. Interviews with Awardee organizations were begun during this contract year and will be concluded early in the next contract year, resulting in a database of resources that will allow WETP to identify specific training facilities, courses, master instructors, and professional safety and health staff nationally to assist in a terrorist act.

Prime Task Four

Develop, analyze and compile program research products to support new training initiatives and the continuation of program efficacy measures.

Gather and Compile Information on the Environment Restoration Labor Market

“Labor Market Study of Hazardous Waste Workers and Associated Emergency Responders”,

The Clearinghouse, through a subcontract with Dr. David Cormier, a labor economist from West Virginia University, produced an evaluation of the size and scope of the hazardous waste and Brownfields market for the next five years, using primarily electronic economic data available publicly from the EPA, BLS, DOE, NIEHS, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Laborers International Union, among others. This document built on the work performed by Ruth Ruttenberg and Associates in 1996 in the major study created for NIEHS. One of the key goals of this paper was to project the workforce needs over the next five years, much as the Ruttenberg study did in 1996. This study, however, relied on existing data rather than attempt to evaluate payroll records, the time-consuming approach of the Ruttenberg study.

To facilitate getting access to the best data for the latest study, the Clearinghouse invited key economists, WETP awardees, and union officials to a meeting at the MDB offices on June 30th, 2004. The entire Clearinghouse staff was involved with preparing for this meeting. David Cormier presented his preliminary findings and solicited suggestions of other sources for useful data. David Cormier, Bruce Lippy and Rachel Gross all were involved in preparing the final report of the findings, which has been submitted as a formal deliverable to WETB.

Research Products as Needed

This subtask allows the Clearinghouse to respond quickly and with great flexibility to emerging issues that WETB considers important. Consequently, a great deal of work by John Moran, Don Elisburg, and Bruce Lippy occurred under this subtask. Much of the research by the Clearinghouse to support John’s development of the mold Strawman occurred under this subtask. Research on Brownfields also occurred under this subtask. The Clearinghouse also performed considerable research into specific WMD agents and available WMD training materials during the development of the OSHA-NIEHS Disaster Site Worker Course.

Expert Editorial Review

Don Elisburg, Bruce Lippy, and John Moran provided expert editorial review, at the direction of WETB, on several occasions in FY2004, with John Moran providing most of the effort reviewing the following documents:

- the OSHA draft respirator guidance for responders to terrorist actions;
- the OSHA proposed health and safety annex to the National Response Plan;
- the manuscript about the New Threats Workshop sponsored by Johns Hopkins that is being published by the American Journal of Industrial Medicine;
- the Department of Homeland Security's Universal Task List;
- WMD and Skilled Support Personnel training requirements;
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive7 (HSPD-7);
- the Office for Domestic Preparedness Blended Learning Strategy for WMD Training;
- two Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)Guides on Chemical Safety;
- NIOSH's Draft Respirator Selection Logic;
- EPA's WMD Radiation Manual draft;
- EPA Decontamination Team;
- ASTM/EPA E54 Committee on Homeland Security Standards;
- the credentialing system for skilled trades;
- Emergency Management Institute/Community Emergency Response Team Training Materials;
- DHS Radiological Dispersal Device/Improvised Nuclear Device Protective Action Plan;
- the ANSI proposed A10.45 Standard;
- NIOSH/RAND Emergency Management document Vol. 3; and
- RAND Safety Management for Responders.

Continuation of the Efforts to Protect Skilled Support Personnel During Terrorist Actions and to Research the Concept of a Registry

The funding from this contract modification permitted the Clearinghouse to facilitate a major breakthrough in the WETP efforts since September 11, 2001 to ensure this nation does a better job in protecting construction workers who are called upon to help with disasters. At Ground Zero, a formal training program was not initiated for skilled trades until 3 months after the destruction and consisted of three hours of presentation with no hands-on component. This year, the Clearinghouse coordinated the efforts of WETP awardees and OSHA to develop a formal course using mostly materials already developed by awardees. This 16-hour course, the OSHA Disaster Site Worker Course, includes a mandatory respiratory hands-on exercise and has been launched nationally through the OSHA Education Centers. Workers who take this course, designated OTI-7600, are issued formal cards from OSHA. Only instructors who have taken a 32-hour course (OTI-5600) can provide the worker course and issue cards. OSHA and WETP have been working towards a Memorandum of Understanding that will acknowledge that both organizations would like OSHA's card to receive DHS recognition as acceptable credentialing for participating in disasters.

The Clearinghouse, through its surveys of awardees at the April 2004 conference and afterwards, has concluded that one registry of skilled support personnel trained through WETP – as originally envisioned – is unrealistic and unsupported by awardees. None of the major construction trade organizations, primarily because of privacy considerations, agreed to provide names of workers trained to the government. They are working, however, to develop their own registries that can be activated through their organizations after a formal request by WETP or other federal organization. Most of the construction trade awardees have agreed to provide a list of master instructors, training facilities, and professional support staff (such as industrial hygienists and health physicists) to the Clearinghouse for a registry that WETP can activate when the OSHA Health and Safety Annex is activated.

Coordination of a pilot program to evaluate the emergency activation plan and the SSP registry

Under this modification, the Clearinghouse coordinated several pilot programs for the development of the OSHA-NIEHS Disaster Site Worker course. On January 27-29, 2004, a meeting of WETP master instructors, OSHA Training Institute staff, Georgia Tech training experts, and Clearinghouse senior technical staff was held at the OTI in Chicago to begin consolidating the DSW course through presentations and discussions. A follow-up meeting was held at the George Meany Center in Silver Spring, Maryland on March 1-3, 2004. The Clearinghouse facilitated the exchange of course materials for this effort by creating a website where the instructors could post their draft materials and access other curricula and images from photo libraries like that available from FEMA. The Clearinghouse also produced notebooks of the materials for this meeting. The Clearinghouse helped facilitate a third pilot test – this time of the course for instructors – at Kirkwood Community College from June 21st to the 24th. These pilots proved absolutely essential for developing the final course, which has allowed the issuance of formal OSHA cards, the first critical step for a national registry of construction workers trained to respond safely to terrorist actions.

OSHA Support

Don Elisburg and John Moran continued to support OSHA in its ongoing audits of the health and safety conditions at ten DOE national laboratories. This effort is part of the planning for transferring responsibility for occupational safety and health oversight of the DOE complex to OSHA. Don and John also produced a report of their review of the National Administrative Procedures Act (NAPA) for OSHA.

CONCLUSION

This 2004 fiscal year-end report for the fourth year of MDB, Inc.'s contract described the broad range of communication and technical support services provided to the National Institute for Environmental Health Science's (NIEHS) Worker Education and Training Program (WETP). This report covered the work completed during the fourth contract year, beginning August 16, 2003 and ending on August 15, 2004.

Our deliverables for prime task one included the completion and launching of the Health and Safety Library (HASL) database application and the migration of all of the technical documents to the permanent address. The redesigned Data Management System (DMS)/Curricula Catalog System was also completed. In addition to these technical accomplishments, the Clearinghouse Advisory Board had a successful meeting on February 24, 2004. One product that resulted from this meeting was the completion of the full-color version of the WETP brochure. Finally, Don Elisburg and John Moran continued to identify issues and trends relevant to WETP.

Our deliverables for prime task two included the facilitation of a number of technical meetings and workshops related to scientific, administrative, and regulatory issues associated with training for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders. These meetings/workshops included: The 2003 NIEHS WETP December Conference; the 2004 NIEHS WETP April Technical Conference; the Mold National Technical Workshop; and the Mold Technical Conference. Reports were generated for each of these meetings.

The launch of the redesigned WETP website was the most predominant deliverable for prime task three. Other deliverables included the completion of the WETP Brownfield's brochure, the continued distribution of the weekly digital Newsbrief, the continued dissemination of monthly summaries and the release of the yearly e-compendium. The WETP also continued to nurture partnerships and representations with other organizations. In addition, the Clearinghouse successfully promoted the important work of WETP and its awardees in Homeland Security training. An important example of this was the establishment of the requirement that compliance with 29 CFR 1910.120/40 CFR311 is mandatory, at a minimum, for all WMD incident responses. Finally, an activation plan for the WETP Awardee community was developed.

Lastly, the deliverables for prime task four included the development, analysis and compilation of research products to support new training initiatives and the continuation of program efficacy measures. These products include: an evaluation of the size and scope of the hazardous waste and Brownfields market for the next five years; the development of the mold "Strawman" documents; the expert editorial review of a number of documents; new efforts to protect skilled support personnel during a terrorist attack; the initial steps towards developing an incident responder registry; and the coordination of a pilot program to evaluate the emergency activation plan and the SSP registry.

It is clear that the Clearinghouse had an extremely successful and productive year. All members of the Clearinghouse look forward to an equally successful 2005.