

# Pathways to Project Success

MAY 2008

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## What's New

Thank you to everyone who replied to the FY2009 Data Call. Responses are currently being analyzed. A final schedule of OECM sponsored PMCDP courses will be available by September 11, 2008.

## PMCDP Spotlight On:

## Project Management Systems and Practices in DOE

The *Project Management Systems and Practices in DOE* course focuses on the critical decision process, especially DOE O 413.3A. It also addresses the Federal budgeting process, regulations affecting DOE project managers and FPD responsibilities.

The course will be valuable to Federal Project Directors (current and prospective) as well as integrated project team members. Successful completion of the course fulfills requirements

for working level knowledge of the FPD's roles and responsibilities, familiarity level knowledge of NEPA, expert level knowledge of DOE O 413.3A and working level knowledge of budget process all required in level one of the Certification and Equivalency Guidelines (CEG).

Past participants have commented, "the overview of the acquisition process and how DOE implements O413.3A were essential to my understanding of how DOE does project management." And, "The information passed in the

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

23 May-Due date for Cert Packages

17 June-BU Masters in PM Webinar 2pm

27 June-CRB Meeting

12 Aug- BU  
Masters in PM  
Webinar 2pm



## PMCDP Update



OECM is updating to the PMCDP Certification and Equivalency Guideline to include the recent changes to DOE Order 361.1B and other Certification Review Board (CRB) competency refinements. The draft guidance will be reviewed at the 22 May

CRB meeting and then placed into the REVCOM process for program office comments. The Directives Point of Contact (DPC) for your division will receive an automatic notice when this document enters REVCOM. If you have recommenda-

tions, you should check with your DPC to see how your program office is coordinating the REVCOM response. Your participation in this update is crucial to the continued success and improvement of the PMCDP.

## Meet the CRB: Thad T. Konopnicki



**Thad Konopnicki**  
**Deputy Associate Administrator,**  
**Infrastructure and Environment/  
 Director of the Office of Project  
 Management and Systems Support  
 (NA-54)**

Mr. Konopnicki has 30 years of experience in the areas of project management and cost and schedule estimating and control. In addition, he has 19 years of Federal Government experience in the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, including 11 years at the Senior Executive Service (SES) level.

Mr. Konopnicki has worked in DOE in the Science, Environmental Management, and NNSA programs, as well as in Field Management, Procurement, and Man-

agement & Administration. He has helped to author several revisions to DOE O 4700.1, DOE O 430.1, and DOE O 413.3, the three iterations of the DOE Project Management Order. Mr. Konopnicki has extensive experience in independent project reviews, government contracting, cost and schedule estimating, earned value management systems, and project management systems and is considered an expert in those areas. As one of the founding fathers and developers of DOE's Project Management Career Development Program (PMCDP), Mr. Konopnicki serves as a valued mentor and

NNSA's voting member on the PMCDP Curriculum Review Board.

Mr. Konopnicki has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, an M.S. in Electrical Engineering, as well as an MBA. He is a member of the Project Management Institute's (PMI's) Education & Development Member Advisory Group. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer, and he is certified by PMI as a Project Management Professional (PMP). He holds a certificate in Strategic Planning from the American Management Association and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute.

# Upcoming PMCDP Classes

## May

19-22 Integrating Safety into PM (L1), Germantown

20-6/26 PM Systems and Practices (L1), DC

27-30 Project Risk Analysis(L2), Germantown

## June

2-6 PM Simulation(L2), DC

10-11 Planning for PBMC(L1), Fort Chaffee, AR

10-12 Contract Administration for Technical Reps(L1), Carlsbad

10-12 Scope Management(L2), DC

10-13 Integrating Safety into PM (L1), New Orleans

17-19 Earned Value Management (L1), Savannah River

17-20 Project Risk Analysis(L2), Germantown

18-19 Planning for PBMC(L1), DC

## July

1-3 Environmental Laws(L2), Nevada

8-10 Facilitation Techniques(L3), Berkley

9-11 Earned Value Management(L1), Albuquerque

14-17 Integrating Safety into PM (L1), Richland

14-17 Integrating Safety into PM (L1), Pittsburgh

22-24 Negotiation Strategies(L3), DC

29-31 Contract Administration for Technical Reps(L1), Los Alamos

## August

11-14 Integrating Safety into PM (L1), Savannah River

12-13 Planning for PBMC (L1), Cincinnati

12-14 Implementation and Management of PBMC (L3), DC

12-14 Labor Management Relations (L3), Oak Ridge

26-28 Systems Engineering (L3), Idaho

For the most up-to-date course schedule, please visit: <http://www.colleagueconsulting.com/training.htm> and click on "Current Training Schedule"

# Certified FPD Corner

## YUCCA Mountain Repository Project

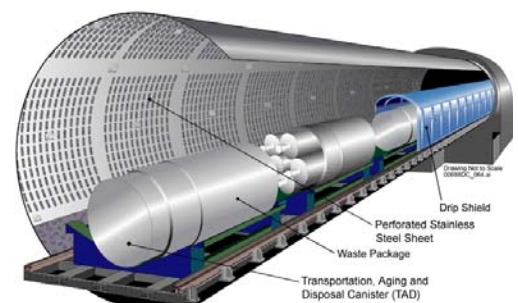
FPD: Vincent Lorii

The primary man-made features of the repository include the emplacement tunnels, waste packages, drip shields, and Transportation, Aging and

Disposal (TAD) canisters. For more information, go to the official and public DOE website for OCRWM:

[http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/ym\\_repository/studies/engdesign/index.shtml](http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/ym_repository/studies/engdesign/index.shtml)

Below is a cutaway of an emplacement tunnel showing the waste package in its designated spot.



### **PMCDP Question of the Month**

**Question: If I attend a training course or seminar with subject matter relevant to the FTP Certification and PMCDP Curriculum, will OECDM forward a PMCDP course exam to my organization training coordinator to proctor so that I may get credit for having completed one of the PMCDP courses?**

Answer: No. The certification process provides for submission of life experience and education as equivalencies for demonstrating competencies required for FTD certification. The PMCDP curriculum has not been designed to “test out” of its requirements with an elaborately administered psychometric testing program. The exchange of ideas, lessons learned, knowledge management, best practices, and building networks within the DOE PM community are all benefits which would be lost by having a certification system based solely upon testing. While we endorse each DOE FPD self-directing his or her own set of project management capabilities, we must maintain a core set of standardized processes to ensure the fairness and integrity of certification and provide for, ultimately, the achievement of our project performance objectives.

### **Questions or Comments?**

**General questions and comments about the newsletter should be directed to: [PMCDP.Administration@hq.doe.gov](mailto:PMCDP.Administration@hq.doe.gov). For further information about the OECDM PMCDP or Program Management Career Development Curriculum contact the individuals below:**

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