

Interagency Performance and Risk Assessment Community of Practice (P&RA CoP) Charter

Rationale for P&RA CoP: Performance Assessments (PAs) provide a demonstration of compliance and important technical inputs to meet regulatory requirements for:

- 1) Waste form development and implementation;
- 2) Tank closure activities,
- 3) Waste site closure activities (e.g., cribs and trenches),
- 4) In-situ Decontamination and Decommissioning,
- 5) Soil and groundwater remediation, and
- 6) Management of disposal facilities (e.g., land-fills or near surface disposal facilities).

PAs provide a snap-shot site conceptual model of a disposal facility and the features, events, and processes associated with it. Risk Assessments (RAs) use outputs of PAs and other information to evaluate the impact of a proposed action on human health and the environment. With proper quantification of process and parameter uncertainties, RAs provide salient information that help inform cleanup or closure decisions.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) P&RAs become public documents upon completion. As such, DOE needs to ensure that P&RAs continue to be performed and documented consistently and to high standards. Robust risk assessments are critically needed for risk-informed, performance-based environmental management decisions. Continued improvements in the consistency of P&RAs and reductions in their underlying uncertainty will provide a sound foundation for future.

Goal: The goal of the P&RA CoP is to foster exchange of information regarding preparation of P&RAs across agencies and practitioners; enhance consistency in the preparation of P&RAs across the Department; and to develop appropriate peer guidance and/or recommendations for P&RAs such that they are based on sound science and are defensible.

Objectives:

1. Consolidate and expand the body of knowledge relating to the preparation and application of P&RAs that incorporates the concept of model and data applicability and builds on lessons learned across the DOE complex;
2. Draft appropriate additional guidance, based upon this agreed-upon body of knowledge (and any desired improvements), in a clear and easy to understand manner with particular emphasis on continuing improvements to the consistency of approaches for P&RA implementation;
3. Provide support to DOE sites in the initial stages of developing and planning P&RA activities;
4. Formalize the conduct of technical exchanges, education, and training sessions as appropriate to accomplish the goals of the charter;
5. Develop a repository of P&RAs and risk-based modeling tools, data, and supporting technical information; and
6. Continue to develop the community of P&RA practitioners and technical expertise to support waste management and closure needs.

Functions/Methods: The P&RA CoP shall operate within the direction of this Charter but shall be otherwise self-directing.

1. The P&RA CoP should review documents from the existing literature from international, Departmental, and non-Departmental governmental agencies, which may benefit P&RA preparation methodologies. The use of lessons learned from these and other organizations is strongly encouraged.
2. Guidance available from international, federal, and state agencies and stakeholders should be sought. Consideration should be given to how such agencies use completed, publically available, P&RAs.

Members:

1. The P&RA CoP shall be initially co-chaired by a representative from the DOE Office of Site Restoration (EM-10) and subsequently by a representative from the steering committee on a rotational basis. Hereinafter, the co-chairs will be referred to in the singular, Chair.
2. The P&RA CoP shall have a three-tiered membership. The first tier shall be a Steering Committee, the second tier shall be Technical Advisors, and the third tier shall be Ad Hoc members.
 - a. Steering Committee members are selected from the major DOE sites (e.g., Savannah River and Hanford), affected federal and state regulators, and other stakeholders.
 - b. Technical Advisors are designated by the Steering Committee and shall be selected from the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP), national laboratories, site contractors, and other federal and state sources of expertise.
 - c. Ad Hoc members are brought into the P&RA CoP to work on specific projects or for specific expertise to provide specialized advice, writing, and developing specific products. Ad Hoc members are recommended by a Member of the Steering Committee.
3. All meetings of the P&RA CoP, except those of the Steering Committee, shall be open to all interested parties.

Duties:

1. The duties of the Chair shall be those normally associated with a committee chair: call meetings, prepare agendas, conduct the meetings, and have other leadership responsibilities;
2. The Steering Committee shall meet (in person) at least once annually. Additional meetings will be conducted by electronic media, e.g., teleconference, webinar.
3. Written notice of meetings stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be provided by the P&RA CoP Chair no less than 10 days prior to the.
4. The P&RA CoP shall maintain appropriate coordination with the other interested boards and CoPs, e.g., CERCLA P&RA CoP, LLW/MLLW Corporate Board.
5. Written progress reports that provide a high-level overview of P&RA CoP activities shall be prepared and made publically available at least twice per year.

P&RA CoP Initial Agency Support: The DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) shall initially take responsibility for providing support. Within EM, primary support shall be furnished through the Office of Environmental Compliance (EM-11).

Document Review and Approval: The P&RA CoP Steering Committee members shall review and comment on draft documents produced within the P&RA CoP, vote for approval or disapproval on a consensus basis, and such documents will be issued under the auspices of the P&RA CoP, and will not represent or interfere with the sovereign authorities of any agencies, states, or other organizations that participate in the P&RA CoP.