

# Pathways to Project Success

OCTOBER 2010

## Federal Project Director (FPD) Corner



The Certification Review Board (CRB or ‘the Board’) convened on Friday, September 24 to review certification candidates and discuss several topics.

The Department of Energy (DOE) met the FY2010 targets for the Root Cause Analysis, Corrective Action Plan metrics 7 and 8, as follows:

- DOE surpassed the target for Metric #7 (95% of projects with certified FPDs no later than Critical Decision 1) with a total of 97%.
- DOE met the target for Metric #8 (88% of projects have FPDs certified at the appropriate level no later than Critical Decision 3).

The CRB granted certification to the following candidates:

- Mark R. Arenaz (EM), Idaho Falls, ID – Level IV
- Clifford P. Carpenter II (LM), Morgantown, WV – Level I
- Amanda Clark (NNSA), Amarillo, TX – Level II
- Frank J. Crescenzo (SC), Upton, NY (Brookhaven) – Level IV
- Ronald E. Gill (NE), Scoville, ID – Level I
- Curtis Roth (EM), Idaho Falls, ID – Level I
- Jared T. Howerton (NNSA), Oak Ridge, TN – Level I
- Richard L. Person (NNSA), DOE HQ – Level I
- Phillip (Tony) A. Polk (EM), Aiken, SC (Savannah River) – Level IV
- Jane Powell-Dolan (LM), Cincinnati, OH – Level I
- Eric M. Thompson (NNSA), Oak Ridge, TN – Level II

**Congratulations to our newly certified FPDs!**

## Changing to Better Serve you!

The PMCDP team is excited to announce the launch of our redesigned website, streamlined to be more user-friendly, easy to navigate, and allowing quick access to

helpful tools and information. Because this is a new website, the old link is no longer valid. To access the new website, go to the OEMC homepage listed be-

low, scroll to the OEMC Functions section on the right toolbar, and click on the PMCDP link. You can re-bookmark from there.

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# Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Corner:

## PARS II Goes “Live”

**By John M. Makepeace, PMP  
OECM**

On September 30, the original Project Assessment and Reporting System (PARS) was deactivated. Its successor, PARS II, is now the Department’s official “System of Record” for capital asset project performance information.

One of the original PARS process weaknesses was the perennial question of what data was “mandatory” to enter and what data was “optional.” PARS II has resolved this issue by limiting the required fields to only essential data elements and by requiring users to fill in *all* requested fields (e.g., contingency used, fee paid).

There’s only one screen to complete every month for each user role [Federal Project Director (FPD), Program, OECM], and users need to ensure that all fields are populated.

Another process weakness was an undefined schedule—sometimes resulting in data being submitted late or not at all. PARS II addresses this issue by instituting a structured schedule with firm

deadlines. As noted in Chapter 7 of the PARS II User Guide, the monthly schedule is as follows:

- Last workday of each month: Contractors upload their “Contractor Project Performance” (CPP) file. (Earned value data—Required only for post Critical Decision-2 projects with Total Project Costs equal to or greater than \$20M.) Contractor data must be current as of the closing of the previous month’s accounting period.
- Third workday (of following month): FPDs enter monthly assessments.
- Sixth workday: Program Office analysts enter monthly assessments.
- Ninth workday: OECM analysts enter monthly assessments.
- By the 25<sup>th</sup>: OECM will coordinate the report with the Programs and forward it to the Deputy Secretary.

All of the above monthly deadlines are “no later

than” dates. As soon as OECM publishes the monthly report, the PARS II status period will be rolled forward, giving users the ability to enter data and assessments for the next reporting period.

PARS II was developed to take advantage of newer technologies, which allow for more efficient and effective analysis of our projects by the field and headquarters. Because PARS II uses the same data as maintained in our contractors’ project management systems, there should no longer be the question, “Whose project data is correct?” Everyone from the FPD’s staff to the Secretary of Energy will have easy access to the *same* data. For these reasons, and because OECM is implementing enhanced support processes, PARS II will provide all our stakeholders with better, more accurate and more complete information on the performance of our capital asset projects.

If you would like more information on PARS II, you may contact [john.makepeace@hq.doe.gov](mailto:john.makepeace@hq.doe.gov), or visit the PARS II web page at the link below.

[http://management.energy.gov/online\\_resources/pars2.htm](http://management.energy.gov/online_resources/pars2.htm).

## Question of the Month



**Question:** I am in the process of applying for PMCDP certification and was informed the PMCDP curriculum will be changing on January 1, 2011. Since I have already begun filling out my profile, will I be responsible for these new requirements even if my package isn't approved by my Program and forwarded to OECM until early next year? Also, where can I locate the new PMCDP curriculum and certification requirements?

**Answer:** The PMCDP understands the difficulties associated with the introduction of new criteria. The

PMCDP allows you to be "grandfathered" based on the current (i.e., January 2010) Certification and Equivalency Guidelines (CEG) requirements, as long as your profile is accepted/approved by your first-line and site managers (Program) and forwarded to OECM by your Program's designated PMCDP point-of-contact (POC) no later than December 31, 2010. Otherwise, you will be required to satisfy the new PMCDP requirements.

The CRB's policy decisions are published on the PMCDP website.

Please reference CRB Policy Flash 2010-01 for a summary of the new PMCDP curriculum changes that will become effective January 1, 2011, at the first website listed below.

Your Program's POC is the best source of information regarding PMCDP policy and certification requirements. To locate your POC, please review the PMCDP POC list at the second website listed below.

CRB Policy Flashes:

[http://management.energy.gov/project\\_management/1856.htm](http://management.energy.gov/project_management/1856.htm)

PMCDP Program POCs:

[http://www.management.energy.gov/documents/PMCDP\\_PROGRAM\\_POINTS\\_OF\\_CONTACT.pdf](http://www.management.energy.gov/documents/PMCDP_PROGRAM_POINTS_OF_CONTACT.pdf)

## Announcement: 2011 DOE Project Management Workshop

**When:** Tuesday, March 15, 2011 and  
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mark your calendar!

**Where:** Holiday Inn, 625 First Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

More information will be published as  
details are finalized!

## PMCDP Course Schedule

Start	End	Course	PDU's	Location	PMCDP Info	CHRIS Code/ Session	Registration Restrictions
<b>October 2010</b>							
10/19/10	10/21/10	Environmental Laws & Regulations	N/A	Aiken, SC (Savannah River)	Level 2 Elective	001046/0023	None
10/19/10	10/21/10	Performance-Based Management Contracting	21	Richland, WA (HAMMER)	Level 1 Core Course	001951/0007	None
10/25/10	10/29/10	Acquisition Management for Technical Personnel	32	Los Alamos, NM (Canyon School)	Level 1 Core Course	000145/0024	None
<b>November 2010</b>							
11/1/10	12/16/10	Advanced Concepts in Project Management	50	New Orleans, LA (Strategic Petroleum Reserve Office)	Level 2 Core Course	001023/0028	None
Onsite: 12/7-12/9							
11/2/10	11/4/10	Real Property Asset Management	21	Washington, PA (Holiday Inn Meadowlands)	Level 2 Elective	001183	None
11/2/10	11/4/10	Systems Engineering	N/A	Richland, WA (HAMMER)	Level 3 Elective	001049/0008	None
11/30/10	12/2/10	Executive Communications	N/A	Albuquerque, NM (ETS)	Level 4 Core Course	001031/0023	None
11/30/10	12/2/10	Contract Administration for Technical Representatives	21	Washington, DC (Headquarters)	Level 1 Core Course	000058/0162	None
<b>December 2010</b>							
12/7/10	12/9/10	Facilitating Conflict Resolution	N/A	Las Vegas, NV (Nevada Site Office)	Level 3 Elective	001558/0007	None
12/14/10	12/15/10	Effective Program and Project Communication	14	Idaho Falls, ID (Idaho Operations)	Level 2 Core Course	001940/0002	None
<b>January 2011</b>							
1/11/11	2/17/11	Advanced Concepts in Project Management	50	Aiken, SC (Savannah River)	Level 2 Core Course	001023/0027	None
Onsite: 2/8-2/10							
1/31/11	3/18/11	Project Management Systems & Practices in DOE	60	Aiken, SC (Savannah River)	Level 1 Core Course	001024/0037	None
Onsite: 3/1-3/3							

## Full PMCDP Course Schedule

For the full listing of FY 2011 classes, visit the PMCDP website at  
<http://www.management.energy.gov/1836.htm>  
and click on the “course schedule” link that appears on the “Training” page.



## Questions or Comments?

Please email general questions and comments about PMCDP to  
PMCDP.Administration@hq.doe.gov,  
or visit our website at  
<http://www.management.energy.gov/1835.htm>

For specific information, please contact one of the following individuals:

- Victoria (Vicki) Barth, MA ISD - Course Schedule, Certification Review Board (CRB) information, Certification and Equivalency Guide (CEG): [Victoria.Barth@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Victoria.Barth@hq.doe.gov)
- Linda Ott, PMP - PMCDP Curriculum, Auditors and Technical Content Advisors: [Linda.Ott@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Linda.Ott@hq.doe.gov)
- Steven H. Rossi, P.E., PMP, LEED AP, CCE - PMCDP Newsletter, Continuing Education Units: [Steven.Rossi@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Steven.Rossi@hq.doe.gov)
- Marylee Baker, Lead Professional Career Development Analyst: [Marylee.Baker@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Marylee.Baker@hq.doe.gov)
- Peter J. O’Konski, P.E., CEM, PMP, LEED AP, Director, Office of Facilities Management and Professional Development: [Peter.OKonski@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Peter.OKonski@hq.doe.gov)