

Nuclear Waste Cooperative Agreement Project Collaboration Study



Final Briefing

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Researchers: Rolanda Smith, Renee Martinez, Betty Taylor and Emmitt Lamb



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Purpose of Evaluation
- Program Sponsor Interests
- Definition of Collaboration
- Where Collaboration Occurs
- Finalized Plan for Evaluation
- Findings
- Recommendations





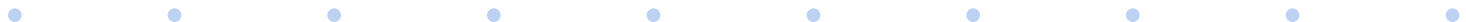
BACKGROUND

- The Department of Energy (DOE) is tasked to build a high level nuclear repository at the Nevada Test Site.
- The State of Nevada is opposed to a disposable site within the boundaries of the state.
- Under a Cooperative Agreement (Co-op), the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) conducts independent research related to the proposed repository.
- A formally stated goal of the Co-op/Financial Assistance Award is to foster collaboration between government and NSHE researchers. • • •



PURPOSE OF EVALUATION

To understand the extent of collaboration (or lack of) between DOE and NSHE researchers.





DEFINITION OF COLLABORATION

- For the purpose of this is evaluation, Collaboration (*Working together*) equals
 - Co-Operation (*Willingness to work together*) +
 - Commitment (*An obligation or pledge*) +
 - Communication (*An exchange of information*) +
 - Coordination (*Harmonious functioning or interaction*) +
 - Performance (*Fulfillment of obligation*)

Formula is an inspired modification of a formula extracted from the 1996 article 'Collaborative Communication in Relationships: Moderating Effects of Integration and Control' by Jakki J. Mohr, Robert J. Fisher, and John R. Nevin.

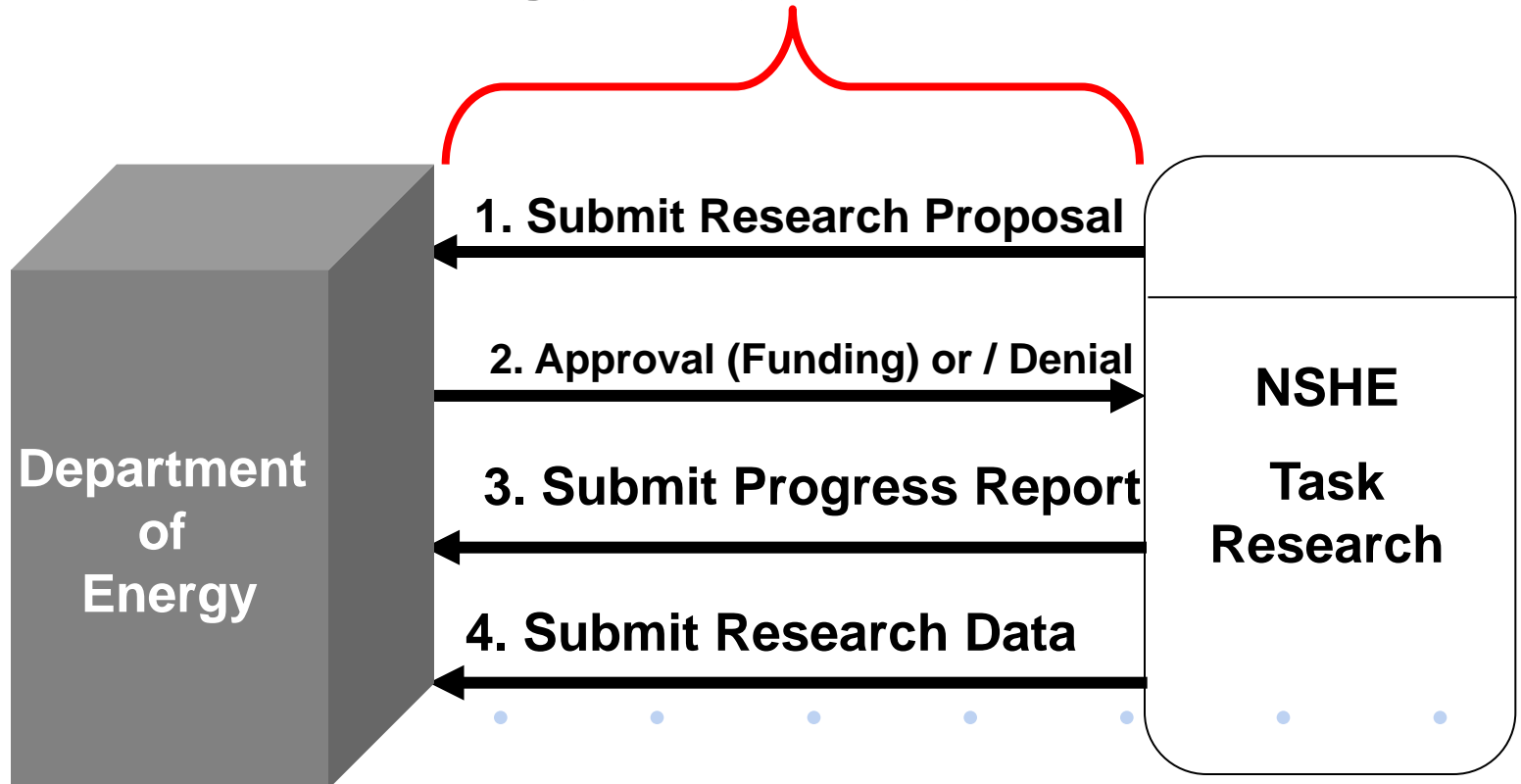
Our data collection instruments were built around this definition.



Where does Collaboration Occur?

We are measuring the extent of collaboration between DOE and NSHE.

Collaboration?





PLAN OF EVALUATION

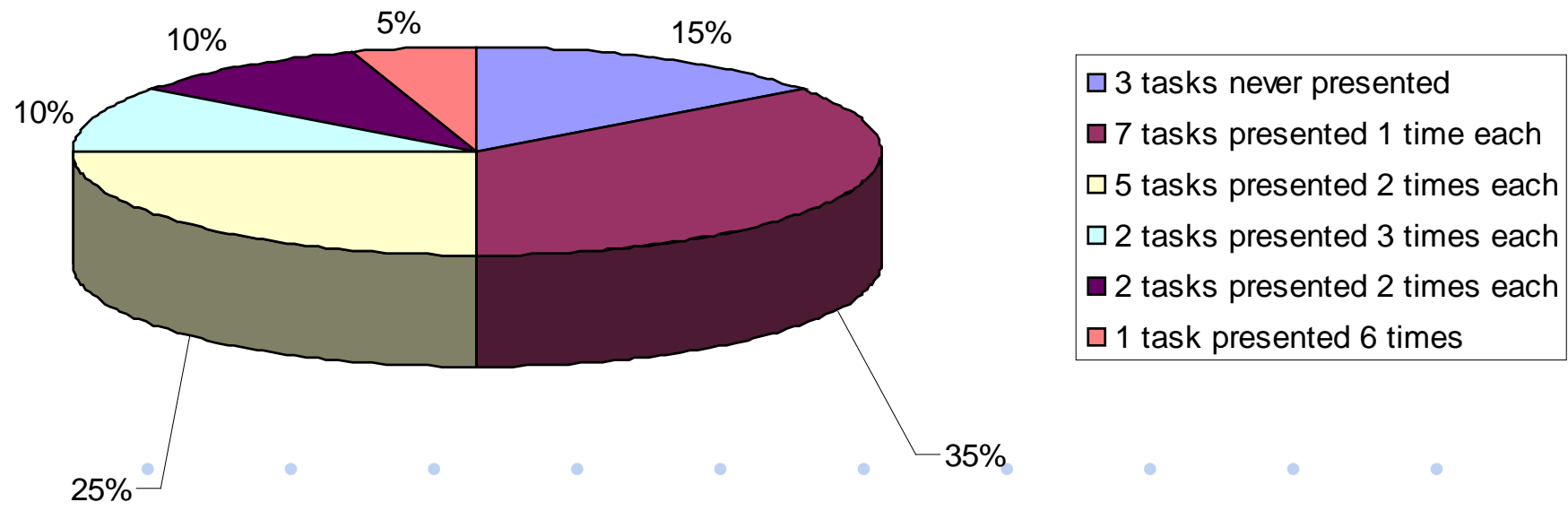
- Phase 1: Obtained Evaluation Project Plan Signoff
- Phase 2: Analysis
 - Investigate Collaboration (Literature Reviews)
 - Organizational Document Reviews
 - Focus Group Interviews
 - Define Independent Variables
 - Program Theory and Structure Review
 - Develop Collaboration Formula and test
- Phase 3: Execute Analysis
- Phase 4: Validate Results
- Phase 5: Develop Recommendations



Communication – Findings Example

The number of times tasks were presented to DOE.

Tasks Presented to DOE

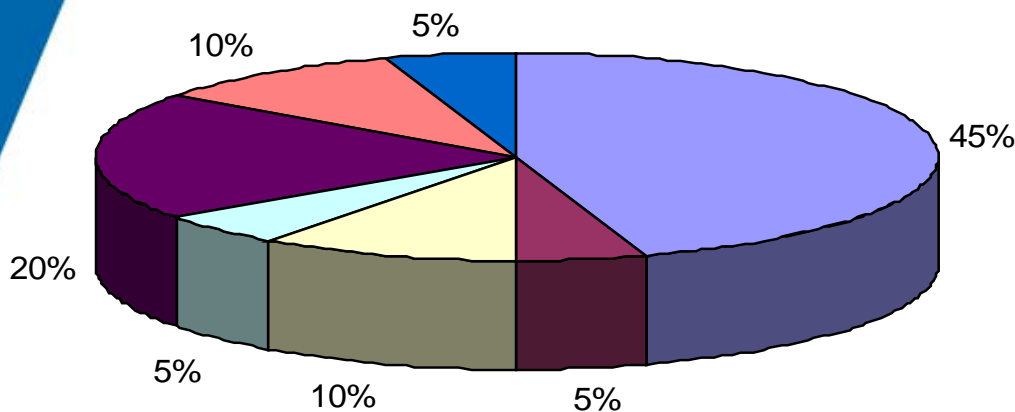




Coordination – Findings Example

The number of DOE meetings attended by Principal Investigators.

DOE Project Meetings Attended



- 9 PIs did not attend any DOE meeting in relation to their task.
- 1 PI attended 1 DOE meeting for their.
- 2 PIs attended 2 DOE meeting each for their task.
- 1 PI attended 3 DOE meetings for their task.
- 4 PIs attended 4 DOE meetings each for their task
- 2 PIs attended 5 DOE meetings each for their task
- 1 PI attended 1 DOE meeting for their task.





Cooperation – Findings Example

Because of a budgetary externality, we could not collect data in this area.





Commitment – Findings

***96% of the task worked on by NSHE are in budget.
Only one task (ORD-FY04-004 Bomb Pulse Chlorine-36)
was over budget.***

***Although DOE may have been sluggish in delivering
funds, NSHE researchers continue working!***





Performance – Findings Example

Task ID	Estimated Months	Actual Months	Status	Percentage
ORD-FY04-004	24	40	16 Months Over Estimate	67% Over
*ORD-FY04-009	60	14	46 Months Under Estimate	77% Under
*ORD-FY04-011	36	21	15 Months Under Estimate	42% Under
ORD-FY04-013	24	38	14 Months Over Estimate	58% Over
ORD-FY04-016	24	35	11 Months Over Estimate	46% Over
ORD-FY04-017	24	34	10 Months Over Estimate	42% Over
ORD-FY04-018	12	34	22 Months Over Estimate	183% Over
ORD-FY04-020	18	25	7 Months Over Estimate	39% Over
*ORD-FY04-021	60	19	41 Months Under Estimate	68% Under
9 Completed Task			6 Task Over Estimate	

** Tasks were stopped by DOE.*



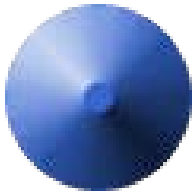
Collaboration Category Rating "System"



Very Good



Poor



Good



Very Poor



Fair

Nil





Collaboration Category Rating Summary

Communicaton	
Coordination	
Cooperation	Nil
Commitment	
Performance	



Collaboration Level

Excellent

Very Good

Good

Fair

Needs Improvement

Summing up the values from the collaboration categories and applying those values against a grading scale produces an overall collaboration score.

NSHE earned an evaluation score of 'Fair'.



Because of the difficulty of collecting comprehensive data, the results are constrained.

Collaboration
Yardstick





Recommendations

- Behind the scenes, integrate ‘Collaboration’ measures inside of quarterly reports produced by Principal Investigators.
- Update NSHE website to track agencies that download data.
- Implement an anonymous feedback system and encourage DOE to provide responses to tasks listed in quarterly reports





Questions





**See the NSHE Collaboration Evaluation Study
Final Report for full details.**

