



Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing (SELLS)

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This fact sheet is part of a collection developed by SELLS to support Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Agency Lessons Learned Programs.

What is the Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing?

The Society for Effective Lessons Learned is a volunteer organization of members from various Department of Energy (DOE) Programs, Operations Offices, sites, and contractors. SELLS is dedicated to institutionalizing and improving processes for sharing lessons learned across the DOE complex and with other public and private organizations.

The Society is the successor to the Lessons Learned Process Improvement Team (PIT) that was created in March 1994 with an eighteen-month mission to develop the infrastructure for a DOE-wide Lessons Learned Program.

The Society's mission is to promote the process of identifying, sharing, and utilizing lessons learned from our experiences within the Department of Energy complex and the experiences of others in order to improve the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of all Department work processes.

Society Goals

1. **Organizational Culture:** Foster a culture within the Department of Energy that recognizes the value of lessons learned and makes information sharing an integral part of the Department's day-to-day activities.
2. **Communication and Outreach:** Promote awareness of Society resources available to support lessons learned programs at local facilities.
3. **Documents:** Develop and maintain guidance on developing and implementing lessons learned programs, including the DOE Lessons Learned Standard and Fact Sheets.
4. **Identifying Information Sources/ Expanding the DOE Lessons Learned Network:** Build information-sharing networks within DOE, with other Federal agencies, and with private sector organizations to identify areas of expertise and expand lessons learned sources and contacts.
5. **Measurement and Continuous Improvement:** Identify performance metrics and methods for measuring the effectiveness of lessons learned programs.
6. **Dissemination/Tools:** Maintain and continuously improve lessons learned information-sharing tools.

Available Resources

The Society has developed a number of resources to facilitate sharing lessons learned information, ranging from guidance documents to an Internet site with extensive online search capabilities.

Some of those resources are:

- DOE Lessons Learned Standard ([DOE-STD-7501-99](http://www.em.doe.gov/lessons/DOE-STD-7501-99))
- DOE Lessons Learned [List Server](http://www.em.doe.gov/lessons/ListServer)
- DOE Lessons Learned Internet site with links to other DOE sites, private industry, and other public agencies. Access this Site at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/ll>
- Environmental Restoration Lessons Learned Internet Site. Access this Site at <http://www.em.doe.gov/lessons>
- Lessons Learned [Contacts](http://www.em.doe.gov/lessons/Contacts) Directory
- Lessons Learned [Fact Sheets](http://www.em.doe.gov/lessons/FactSheets)
- Checklist for evaluating Lessons Learned Programs
- Lessons Learned [Screening Guide](http://www.em.doe.gov/lessons/ScreeningGuide)

Notable Accomplishments

- In July 1996, Secretary O'Leary designated the DOE Lessons Learned Program as one of the year's top quality initiatives.
- On August 4, 1997, the Lessons Learned Process Improvement Team received the Hammer Award from Vice-President Al Gore's National Performance Review. This award is presented to teams of federal employees who have made significant contributions in support of reinventing government principles.
- Several times in recent years, SELLS members briefed commercial business on the DOE Lessons Learned Program. Those companies recognized the DOE program as one of the leading programs in the country and used it as a benchmark for their own programs.

Get Involved!

The Society is seeking representation from all DOE programs and strongly encourages participation of individuals committed to building stronger communication ties across the complex.

Contact Information

For more information about this fact sheet or the lessons learned process, please contact:

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Lessons Learned Program Fact Sheets, by the Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing (SELLS), are available from the DOE Lessons Learned Web Site:
<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/ll/sells/faq.html>
