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MAINTAINING SAFETY AMIDST EVOLVING REGULATIONS

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Abstract –As regulatory frameworks and operational landscapes evolve, maintaining safety at the Hanford site becomes ever more complex and crucial. This keynote will explore strategies for sustaining exemplary safety standards amidst changing requirements, including adaptive risk management, robust communication, and proactive workforce engagement. Through real-world examples, the presentation will share regulatory shifts by government regulators including OSHA and NIOSH and how recent changes impact responsibilities of a local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) working in government and industrial facilities. Select project examples outlining emerging expectations to drive continuous improvement and foster a safety culture will be shared. Emphasis will be placed on integrating new requirements seamlessly into established practices, leveraging technology, and encouraging collaborative problem-solving to meet unforeseen changes.

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY

Drew Thomas, P.E., CEMCP, Drew Thomas is the Chief Engineer and Electrical Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for Hanford Mission Integration Solutions (HMIS), with over a decade of experience supporting the Hanford site. He leads a diverse team of over 75 engineers and drafters/designers responsible for general purpose facilities, water/sewer utilities, electrical utilities, IT systems, fire protection, and reliability projects. As the Electrical AHJ, he is responsible for enforcing code compliance, approving equipment and installations, and ensuring electrical installations follow safety requirements.

Drew holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Washington State University, is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.), a Certified Electrical Safety Compliance Professional (CEMCP), and a National Electrical Code (NEC) Commercial Inspector. Active in the industry, Drew currently serves as Vice-Chair of the EFCOG Electrical Safety Community of Practice and is a Senior Member of IEEE. He has authored three IEEE Electrical Safety Workshop papers and 'Utility Contributions to Arc Flash Studies' was published in IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications in 2025.