

## **FBMS Implementation Telecast Transcript**

### **Overview & Components of FBMS**

>> T. Garrett: Now, it's time to move on to our discussion of just how BLM will be implementing the FBMS system.

For that, let's turn to Mike for a general overview of the system. Mike...

>> M. Ferguson: Well, as you all know, we have been moving towards a new financial system called FBMS for the past couple of years.

As we get closer to implementing FBMS, it becomes more and more important, we let folks know what to expect.

We're over the last couple of months, we have had two supervisor audio forum conference calls devoted exclusively to FBMS and we have begun distributing information on what folks can expect related to specific issues such as travel and vendor payments.

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Today we wanted to give everybody an overview on where we are and what to expect as we move towards go-live on November 10th.

We plan to come back and do at least one more broadcast before we actually go live.

Okay, first of all what is FBMS?

FBMS is commercial off the shelf software applied to incorporate most of our financial management functions into one solution.

It will be applied department-wide, so all bureaus will be on FBMS.

This isn't just a BLM system.

The system will eventually eliminate over 80 department and bureau-specific systems.

So, why are we doing this?

Well, first of all, our current system, which is called FFS is old and no longer supported by the developer.

When it fails, and eventually, it will fail, we will no longer be able to get the technical support to keep it running.

This holds true for other legacy financial and administrative systems we use as well.

Our systems are highly customized and independent using multiple platforms and software.

We currently have a number of systems that don't talk to each other or have duplicate information, and the department does not currently have the ability to roll up any of the bureau financial information to portray the department as a whole.

As a result, the lack of accurate information over resources and hinders real-time business decision-making across the department.

So, what are the benefits to you, the employees of BLM of moving to FBMS?

Many of the benefits will be realized by the business and finance functions of the bureau.

They include things like standardized business processes, improved auditing capabilities and reduction in data entry in multiple systems.

We will also see improved reporting capabilities both from a bureau and department perspective, data integrity will be increased, and our unsupported legacy systems will be replaced.

All of these things will help improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

That means we can put the savings on the ground.

I remember several years ago trying to put together a mailing list for a major EIS.

We cobbled one together from several different sources.

The result was that we missed some folks and sent two or three or four copies to some others.

That was because some of our permittees were in different systems under different names so, we sent copies to Bob and Bill Jones, Jones Brothers Ranch, and Robert C. and William F. Jones.

Turned out they were all the same operation.

In addition to being embarrassing, it was also very expensive.

The more we can reduce that kind of inefficiency, the more money we can put on the ground.

One of the things that is for sure is that we'll hear a lot of rumors over the next several months.

We have already seen and heard a lot of rumors floating about what WAS going to happen when we convert to FBMS.

We really need to watch those rumors.

One of the recent ones is that people wouldn't get paid.

You will get paid.

I promise that you are get paid.

We will also still be paying our bills, although it will be a little slower for a while.

We are not going to stop doing business.

I would encourage people to take advantage of a variety of sources of accurate information, especially if you hear a rumor that doesn't seem to make sense.

There are a lot of sources of information out there.

The BLM/FBMS website is directly linked to the director's homepage and contain as tremendous amount of information.

You can always contact your state FBMS lead.

A list of leads is on the FBMS website if you don't know who yours is.

There is also a DOI FBMS website and we're trying to send out a variety of email notices about certain aspects such as temporary duty travel, PCS moves, vendor payments during the blackout period.

We'll try real hard to make the information available.

You can help by keeping your eyes open and looking for the information as it becomes available.

And we'll come back and do another broadcast just prior to the actual conversion to FBMS.

Tony.

>> T. Garrett: Thank you, Mike, for that look and overview of a system that brings together a number of components and in an integrated way.

Now we want to go to Denver and the national operations center where Jeanette is standing by and ask Jeanette to give us specifics on the different components of FBMS and what they'll do once they are in place.

Jeanette.

>> J. Callahan: Well, thank you, Tony.

I'd like to talk a little bit about the mechanics and logistics of FBMS.

As Mike mentioned earlier, FBMS is not a piece of software.

FBMS, or the financial business and management system, is actually a term that we're using to describe a collection of software products that we're going to use to do the work in our accounting and business side of the house.

Sap is the software that we will use that will be basically the heart of FBMS.

Sap will contain about two-thirds of the functionality that we'll be using.

Sap has been around a long time.

It's been here since 1972.

It's been used extensively in the private sector and it's been highly regard there, used by many large corporations and fortune 500 companies.

Sap has begun looking at the public sector in the last couple of years, and they have developed a version of sap to be used in the public sector, and/or government, and that's the version of sap that we'll be coming up on.

So, now since I have said that sap will be the heart of the system, and it will cover about two-thirds of our functionality, what functionality is it exactly that will be contained in sap?

Well, to start with, our general ledger, which is the basic of any accounting function, also accounts payable, accounts receivable, and sales and distribution.

Sales and distribution is an sap term that we would translate to reimbursable agreements.

Also, our working capital fund.

Budget execution and budget formulation.

Our PCS and TDY and for TDY, that would be the accounting side of TDY because the reservations and vouchering side is handled by e-gov travel.

Our personal property and real property will be handled in sap.

As well as our fleets that will be handled in sap as well.

And then the reporting system, EMIS, will be held in sap.

So that begs the question, what's not going to be in sap?

Well, what's not going to be in sap is acquisitions.

That process will be managed by software called prism.

And prism will be interfaced to sap.

Another functionality that won't be in sap is financial assistance.

Financial assistance is our grants and cooperative agreements, and that will be handled with e-grants plus software and that will be interfaced to sap and then we have the TDY piece, which will be as it is today with FFS in that the reservation and vouchering piece of that will be handled in e-gov travel and interfaced to FBMS.

So, the next question would be, well, then, what current systems are going to go away?

Well, obviously FFS is going to go away.

Obviously ideas is going to go away.

And also our fleet system, ASMS is going to go away.

So, that leaves us with FPPS our payroll and HR system because obviously we all still want to get paid.

Our collections and billing system will remain.

Our budget planning system will remain, at least for a while.

And workforce planning and customer survey and MIS will remain for a while as well.

Now, that begs the question, why am I saying for a while?

Well, I'm saying for a while because although 90% of our functionality is coming up this November in deployment 4, there are pieces that won't come up until deployment 5, next November.

And those pieces are the budget formulation.

Now, that's why we're keeping the budget planning system up, at least for this year.

Real property wouldn't be included until deployment 5.

That means we're going to have to do manual work-arounds for real property during this year in the interim.

Commitment accounting won't come up until deployment 5.

Then there's a grab bag of finance functions, you know, various cats and dogs that are not going to come up in deployment 4 as well, and they'll be deferred to deployment 5.

We'll have manual workarounds for most of those during the interim.

I say most of those because there are a few manual work-arounds we'll probably keep, even after deployment 5.

Then the one thing I do want to mention separately is the EMIS deployment system that does come up with deployment 4.

But the first day that we come up on deployment 4, the emesis item isn't going to contain all of the reports that you are accustomed to today in MIS.

We have an outstanding reporting system with MIS today, and EMIS has the capability to do that as well.

But that capability won't be there on day one.

We're going to have to develop the reports after we come up.

That will take a little while.

So, although it won't be there on day one, it will be there.

So, that's where we are on that.

So, with that I think I have covered everything I wanted to talk about on the logistics.

I'll turn it back to you, Tony.

>> T. Garrett: All right, Jeanette.

A lot of different parts and pieces of BLM business and fiscal activity coming together under one system.

So, thanks very much for that explanation of how they all are integrated into FBMS.

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