



# Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs

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March 13, 2008

Ms. Kelly Snyder, DDFO  
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office  
P.O. Box 98510  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB)  
Recommendations for Revisions to brochure:  
Underground Test Area Project - Questions and Answers

Following are recommendations for revisions to the brochure mentioned in the subject of this letter. The CAB suggests the same general revisions and additions for all fact sheets and brochures:

1. Define unfamiliar terms and acronyms before they are used in a sentence.
2. Bold the definitions so that they are easily referenced.
3. When doing several definitions together, bullet the definitions, rather than listing them in the sentence.
4. Include a key and/or glossary on each fact sheet for unfamiliar terms and acronyms.
5. Reference on each fact sheet that other fact sheets are available.
6. In general, increase font point size for easier reading.
7. Try to keep fact sheets at an eighth grade reading level.
8. Update all references to off-site locations to comply with current transition status.
9. Distribute fact sheets to libraries, city halls, Nuclear Testing Archive, Legislator offices, environmental groups, UNLV, and senior centers.

Specific suggestions for the above-mentioned brochure are:

### Underground Test Area Project - Questions and Answers

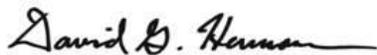
- The committee was informed, at their February 6, 2008 meeting, that the cover was going to be updated and redesigned. The committee likes the layout on the inside pages and would like to see it remain as is, including the boldface type for the questions. Additionally, all photos should have captions and some of the photos should be updated.
- On page 1, in the second sentence of paragraph one, the word "tools" should be changed to "alternatives." In the first sentence of paragraph two, the word "historic" should be removed. In the next sentence, remove the word "Project" and replace it with: "Technical Working Group (TWG)." The last sentence on this page should be changed, to read: "This brochure offers answers to these frequently asked questions:" Also on page 1, within the map, Pahrump and Oasis Valley should be added, and since Pahute Mesa is mentioned within the brochure, it should be shown on the map as well.

Ms. Kelly Snyder  
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office  
March 13, 2008  
Page 2

- On page 2, under the question “Is there an immediate risk to the public?” the first two sentences should be changed, to read: “*Based on currently available scientific information, there is no immediate risk to the public. The contamination associated with NNSA/NSO activities is thought to be confined to areas on the NTS where nuclear tests were conducted.*” After the last sentence in this paragraph, the following sentence should be inserted in parentheses before the period, “(See DOE/NSO Groundwater fact sheet.)” Also, the text box, with the sentence that begins, “*It is important to note that...*,” should be kept on this page.
- The only change to page 3 is under the question, “Should contamination migrate off the NTS, where would it go?” In the first sentence, replace the words, “*The NNSA/NSO believes that*” with “*Modeling indicates that...*”
- On page 4, under the question, “What background tritium levels have been found?” in the last sentence, remove the words “*As a means of comparison.*” Then place the sentence after the first sentence in this paragraph. Also on this page, removed the photo with the red cooler.
- The second question on page 5 should be changed, to read, “*If contamination is found in the groundwater, what do the NNSA/NSO and the State of Nevada plan to do about it?*” Then in the last sentence of the answer to this question, the committee suggests removing the words, “*an investigation would begin into an alternative water supply*” and replace them with, “*and alternative water supplies would be provided.*” Also on this page, in the text box, remove the word “*radioactivity*” and replace it with “*contaminants.*”
- On page 6, under the question, “What will be the total cost of the UGTA project?” - due to budget baseline changes since the last publication of this brochure, the dollar amounts will need to be updated. There are a number of changes in the first to fourth sentences of this section as well. All sentences should read as follows:
  - “*The total cost of this 138-year effort is projected at (\$ Updated), which includes 100 years of monitoring. During its first 18 years (1989-2007), the UGTA Project has spent approximately (\$ Updated). For the period between 2007 and 2027, when characterization activities will be completed, the NNSA/NSO estimates the cost at (\$ Updated). Between 2027 and 2127, NNSA/NSO calculates that the total cost will be (\$ Updated) to construct the 56 wells that are needed and conduct long-term monitoring.*”
- Under the next question on page 6, “When will the UGTA Project be completed?” – change all the first year, stated at “2130,” to 2027. Change the other two years that are stated as “2030,” to 2027.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on changes, revisions, and updates of the fact sheets, and will continue working to help improve Environmental Management’s efforts to communicate with the public.

Sincerely,



David Hermann, Chair  
Community Advisory Board  
for Nevada Test Site Programs

cc: C. Lockwood, NNSA/NSO  
R. Rehfeldt, NREI, CAB Facilitator  
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