



# Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs

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September 24, 2008

Mr. Frank DiSanza  
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U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office  
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**SUBJECT:** *Recommendation of specific parameters to include in 2008 low-level waste transportation study*

The Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB) Transportation/Waste Committee was given the opportunity to provide comments regarding the computer modeling for transportation routes to be used for the 2008 transportation study. To assist the committee in creating parameters for the study, Dr. Ruth Weiner with Sandia National Laboratories gave a very informative presentation to the committee on the use of RADTRAN software at the committee's August 20, 2008 meeting.

The Committee was informed that RADTRAN, a nationally accepted standard computer program, would be used for the computer modeling. RADTRAN calculates the risk of radiation exposure to individuals and populations along the travel route of radioactive waste shipments. This program incorporates such factors as exposures to people during truck rest stops and during truck refueling, and repeated exposures to people who live or work close to transportation routes. The program can also be used to calculate exposure to the driver of the truck. In addition to these exposure pathways, the program can be used to calculate exposures resulting from various accident scenarios.

This presentation, along with previous meetings with the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office Environmental Management (DOE) Waste Management Project staff, and other transportation study materials that were available to the Committee, provided enough information to the Board to make an informed recommendation about what parameters to include in the 2008 low-level waste transportation study.

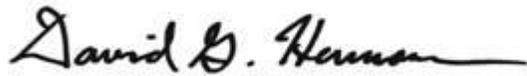
Mr. Frank DiSanza  
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office  
September 24, 2008  
Page 2

Therefore, the CAB recommends that two studies be conducted, and requests that both studies use current adjusted population statistics to ensure the recent population increase in southern Nevada is accounted for when using the exposure factors stated above. The first study should use the 1996 low-level waste transportation study's parameters for comparison. The second study should utilize the information that came from the Desert Research Institute's (DRI) PIC array study and analyze the following scenarios:

- Accident rates
- Alternate routes
- Vehicle density rates

The CAB appreciates the opportunity to provide recommendations to the DOE Nevada Site Office. We look forward to your formal response to our recommendations.

Sincerely,



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

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