



MINUTES

Environmental Management Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE) Ad Hoc Committee

Date: July 12, 2006

Chair: Jan Spinato

Vice Chair: Walter Wegst, Ph.D.

Members: Bob Gatliff, David Rosin, M.D., Vernell McNeal, Marian Lawrence, and Stacy Standley

Department of Energy: Kelly Snyder, DDFO

Support Staff: Elizabeth Thomson, UNLV, Kay Planamento, and Carla Sanda

- The Committee reviewed the EM fact sheet dedicated to Regulatory Requirements.

Following a prepared review sheet, the Committee found the current brochure very difficult to read. The language used was very technical and the reading level was far above average reading skills and does not meet the needs of the general public.

Other areas identified as problem areas were the font used, pictures were not fully identified or located in illogical places, the listing of acronyms was not consistently listed with provided definitions.

The message of the fact sheet should be that the DOC cannot do exactly what it wants; it must follow very stringent guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Dr. Wegst volunteered to work on a rewrite of the Regulatory Fact Sheet – one technical and one for the general public.

- The Planning And Budgeting Fact Sheet was also review and discussed.– what is the general message – what is the intent

Kelly Snyder stated that the purpose of the fact sheet was to try to give the public an idea of how the budget process is conducted and to show justification for every dollar that is spent because the public is under the impression that the DOE has a bottomless pot of money.

The committee concluded that the Overview should be shorter, followed by detail. Also, this fact sheet is understandable on a 12th grade reading level which is above the average reading level of the general public.

Where distributed – same as above – environmental groups, city halls, public meetings, league of women voters, political candidates

Kelly Snyder requested that the committee prepare a formal letter to the DOE/NNSA EM listing its concerns together with suggestions regarding the Regulatory Requirements and Planning and Budgeting fact sheets.

Next Meeting of the EMPIRE Committee is scheduled for August 9, 2006, at 4 p.m. in the same location.