MEETING MINUTES

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee

September 23, 2008, DOE Nevada Support Facility
232 Energy Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Members Present: Bob Gatliff, Chair; Jim Weeks, Vice Chair; Dave Hermann, Ted Schweitzer

U.S. Department of Energy: Kelly Snyder, DDFO

Facilitator: Rosemary Rehfeldt, Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.

The Committee's meeting agenda and objectives were to:

- Discuss the Underground Test Area (UGTA) *Phase II Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for Corrective Action Units 101 and 102: Central and Western Pahute Mesa, Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada, August 2008*

- Formulate comments and recommendations pertaining to the above-named document; comments are due to DOE by September 26, 2008

- Set the next meeting date, time and location

Bob Gatliff, Committee Chair, gave opening remarks with his comments regarding the above-mentioned CAIP report. In reviewing the report, he tried to identify whether or not certain criteria that the CAB was interested in where satisfied by asking the following questions:

1) Are the CAB's questions being answered?
2) Have the CAB's issues relating to groundwater at the NTS been covered?
3) Have the CAB's objectives been satisfied, regarding the drilling of wells down-gradient toward off site communities surrounding the NTS?

Mr. Gatliff noted that, after reading information provided on the Phase I transport modeling it became apparent that a Phase II would be needed for additional data collection, and that there is a need for model validation. He pointed out that the corrective action strategy is well explained and points to the CAB's number one priority which is to try to establish where contaminated groundwater is located, down gradient and potentially toward off-site communities surrounding the Nevada Test Site (NTS). Additionally, the strategy will address the CAB's interest in the determination of how fast and in what direction groundwater is flowing.

Jim Weeks stated that while reading the report he was unable to determine where to define the well or wells associated with the Thirsty Canyon Liniment or the Bench. This was primarily due to DOE's numbering of the wells, and not being able to identify how DOE's numbering relates to the CAB's well recommendations. He recommends that the final version of the report provide a section that clearly states what the CAB well has turned into in terms of DOE's well-numbering scheme. Mr. Weeks also commented that the maps included in the report made it difficult to determine where the new wells would be located because existing wells were also included within these maps. He also suggested that the maps point out the major geologic features of Pahute Mesa.

Kelly Snyder asked if there was anything the committee would like to have DOE do beyond the CAIP report and drilling plan? She told the committee that there are a number of documents available for the CAB to read to become more familiar with the UGTA Sub-Project.

The UGTA Committee agreed that not enough people know about the UGTA drilling program. They would like DOE to issue press releases and publicize the drilling program, especially in the rural communities of Beatty, Amargosa Valley and Pahrump. They would like to have flyers produced for the Town Board's meetings and bulletin boards, as well as have a copy of the final CAIP report available at the Beatty Public Library. Additionally, the committee would like to see DOE communicate its plan for the distribution of information pertaining to the UGTA drilling program.

After further discussion, the committee decided to present three recommendations to the Full Board for approval, pertaining to the Phase II CAIP report and drilling program. They are as follows:

- Provide a section in the document that clearly states what the CAB's well has become in terms of the UGTA Technical Working Group's numbering scheme.

- Provide a map showing the NTS Pahute Mesa Thirsty Canyon Liniment, the Bench, faults, and major geologic features, with differentiations that show the CAB's original well proposals versus the final well siting decisions. Perhaps use two different colors for differentiation.

- Develop a Communication Plan that outlines the public outreach strategy for communicating the UGTA Pahute Mesa Phase II drilling program and the results of the data collection and analysis.

A recommendation letter will be drafted and distributed to the Full Board for approval.

The committee decided to set the next meeting date, time and location after the FY 2009 UGTA Kickoff takes place in November.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.