



## MEETING MINUTES

### Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee

**March 5, 2009**

**DOE Nevada Support Facility**

232 Energy Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89030

**Members Present:** Bob Gatliff (Chair), Bob Gamble (Nye County), John McGrail, Jennifer Ward (UNLV), Jim Weeks

**Members Not Present:** Dave Hermann, Walt Wegst

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

**Facilitator:** Denise Rupp, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.

The Committee's meeting agenda and objectives were to:

- 1) Discuss and comment on UGTA Phase I Transport Model of CAU 101 and 102 (Pahute Mesa)
- 2) Receive update on Beatty Groundwater Open House

Bob Gatliff provided a history of the Community Advisory Board's (CAB) involvement in the UGTA sub-project resulting in the future drilling of the CAB-recommended well to begin in May 2009. Mr. Gatliff suggested future UGTA Committee's work focus on following the progress of the new well relative to drilling completion, data collection and model validation.

Kelly Snyder offered to arrange for a member of the drilling team to brief the Committee at their next meeting regarding the drilling process and to answer questions. Additionally, she will ask the sub-project manager, Bill Wilborn, to include more specific details regarding drilling progress in the Environmental Management (EM) Monthly Report to the CAB.

The UGTA well drilling tour scheduled for May is in the planning stages. As this project works on a 24-7 schedule, Ms. Snyder will contact Mr. Wilborn in an attempt to identify a specific week for the tour.

James Weeks requested a USGS-style map of the Pahute Mesa area of the Nevada Test Site to include the CAB-recommended wells, the actual program wells and the monitoring program wells. A map is currently in development and Ms. Snyder will ask that it include all the requested sites.

Mr. Weeks reported he and Genne Nelson staffed the CAB poster at the February 18 Groundwater Open House in Beatty, NV. Public response was generally good. Ms. Snyder reported there were approximately 40 people in attendance. While overall reception was favorable, some attendees expressed the desire for a more formal presentation. The Pahrump Valley Times and the Pahrump Mirror were in attendance. Bob Gamble reported the Nye County Manager, three commissioners and four staff were also in attendance.

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009

Page 2

Some attendees requested a specific DOE plan of action in the event groundwater contamination was found in their well, irrigation system and/or water supply. John McGrail suggested EM have a general statement in response to such concerns. Ms. Snyder provided the Committee with a copy of the UGTA Questions and Answers handout that was distributed at the Groundwater Open House and is available on the EM website. The question of how the DOE would respond to groundwater contamination is addressed on Page 6. After review and discussion, the Committee agreed the statement outlined in the UGTA Questions and Answers booklet is an adequate response and there is no need to provide a recommendation to DOE to develop a formal plan.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Nevada Support Facility, Sedan Conference Room, 232 Energy Way, North Las Vegas, NV.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.