



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

Full Board Meeting

**Frank Rogers Auditorium
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV
5:00 p.m. – January 12, 2011**

Members Present:	Donna Hruska, Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Gregory Minden, Harold Sullivan, Michael Voegele, James Weeks, Walt Wegst (Chair)
Members Absent:	Kathleen Bienenstein (Vice-Chair), Michael Moore, Harry Mortenson
Liaisons Present:	Robert Gamble (Nye County), Phil Klevatorick (Clark County), Tim Murphy (NDEP), Scott Wade (DOE)
Liaisons Absent:	Genne Nelson (NPS)
Technical Support Staff Present:	Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)
U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE):	Rob Boehlecke, Frank DiSanza, Cindy Lockwood (Acting DDFO)
Facilitator:	Denise Rupp (Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.)
Public Present:	Chris Andres (NDEP), Joseph Ziegler

Agenda Review

After review, Member Hal Sullivan moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

Membership (*Denise Rupp, Facilitator*)

- The FY 2011 Membership Recruitment has begun with media advertising running January 14 through mid-February. Referrals from present members are encouraged. The Membership Committee will meet in early February to review selection guidance. Interviews will be conducted in February with a proposed slate of candidates submitted at the March Full Board meeting. Appointments are expected October 1.
- A meeting has been scheduled with Environmental Management staff and West Career and Technical Academy on February 7 to discuss the details of the student liaison program with a goal of implementation to coordinate with the school year. There is already student interest in the program.

Industrial Sites – Corrective Action Unit (CAU) Closure Scenario *(Michael Voegele, Acting Committee Chair)*

The Board heard the Industrial Sites Committee's background information regarding the closure of CAU 547:

- CAU 547 is comprised of three sites – Player, Mullet, and Bernalillo
- Primary component is piping containing plutonium (Pu) above transuranic waste limit
- Currently considering two remediation options – Clean Closure and Closure in Place
- Multiple Clean Closure operations were reviewed
- Close In Place option would include covering over all features with soil retention structures first placed over high profile features, Use Restrictions, and physical barriers to prevent intrusion
- The estimated cost of Clean Closure (\$30-\$35 M) is significantly greater than that of Closure in Place (\$2-\$3 M)
- Committee recommendation:
 - Closure in Place as it can be done safely and at significantly less cost
 - Independent review of soil cover design stability on slope wall of Player
 - Immobilization of Pu in place in pipes, if it can be done safely

After discussion, Member John McGrail moved to accept the committee's recommendation letter, as drafted, for submittal to the DOE. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Soils *(John McGrail, Committee Chair)*

- **CAU 372 Proposed Closure Recommendation**

The Board heard the Soils Committee's background information regarding the closure of CAU 372:

- Annual dose received at the site is dependent on exposure time
 - Industrial Area (2,250 hours per year)
 - Remote Work Area (336 hours per year)
 - Occasional use Area (80 hours per year)
- Internal dose calculations are based on analytical results of sieved surface soil
- External dose calculations are based on TLD results
- Any dose exceeding 25 mrem/yr requires a Corrective Action
- Corrective Action Alternatives include No Further Action, Clean Closure, and Closure in Place
- CAU 372 includes sites at Little Feller I, Little Feller II, Palanquin, and Cabriole
- Estimated costs for Clean Closure are ~\$110 M
- Estimated costs for Closure in Place are ~\$40 K
- Committee recommendation is Closure in Place with Use Restrictions and use of the Remote Area Worker standard

After discussion, Member Voegele moved to accept the committee's recommendation letter, as drafted, for submittal to the DOE. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- **CAU 374**

At their last meeting, the Soils Committee was briefed on the proposed closure scenarios for CAU 374 (Schooner). The Committee agreed the facts regarding CAU 374 are similar

to those discussed for CAU 372 and recommended the same closure scenario pending receipt of the estimated costs for the closures. In his January 10, 2011 letter to the Committee, Robert Boehlecke, Federal Project Director, Environmental Restoration Project, provided cost estimates for these closure scenarios. Clean Closure costs are ~\$260 M and Closure in Place is ~\$80 K.

After discussion, Member Sullivan moved Member McGrail prepare a draft recommendation for Closure in Place of CAU 374 for discussion and final vote at the February 16, 2011 Full Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) Treatment Permit (*Walt Wegst, Chair*)

At the November 10, 2010 Full Board meeting, Frank DiSanza, Federal Project Director, Waste Management Project, provided the Board with information on MLLW treatment capabilities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Subsequently, the Board was provided with the *Conceptual Evaluation for the Installation of Treatment Capability for Mixed Low-Level Waste at the Nevada National Security Site*. This report provides an evaluation of treatment technologies that may be used as part of the MLLW treatment facilities at the NNSS. The Board was asked to review the materials provided in preparation for the development of a recommendation on whether the Nevada Site Office should pursue submitting an application to the State of Nevada for a Mixed Low-Level Waste Treatment permit.

In response to Board questions, Mr. DiSanza provided additional information.

- The Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) does not allow liquids to come to the NNSS; non-compliant shipments are returned to the generator
- Microencapsulation and macroencapsulation do not require ventilation and are not glove box operations
- Amalgamation will need to meet the WAC (Mr. DiSanza will provide the Board more specific information on disposal)
- The waste suspension system within containers holds the waste in the center as cementitious material is added to encase the waste
- At the earliest, waste treatment planning would begin in FY 2012 with fiscal outlay to be completed in FY 2013
- Public comment regarding MLLW treatment at the NNSS will be solicited
- There is no need for a separate Environmental Impact Statement as the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) currently in development includes analysis of waste treatment in the expanded use section
- Plans are for the completion of the draft SWEIS in April with public hearings beginning in late May
- In this preliminary stage, waste volumes and receipt timelines are limited to the information included on Pages 4 and 5 of the *Conceptual Evaluation* report; Mr. DiSanza will provide the Board with more specific information on volume and timelines as it becomes available
- Transportation routes will be the same for waste to be treated as for current shipments of MLLW sent for disposal
- Current plans carry the project through 2016
- Waste treated at the NNSS would be disposed at the NNSS
- MLLW treatment would provide an option for disposal of classified waste which cannot be commercially treated
- The majority of waste disposed at NNSS is from off-site generators
- Off-site waste disposed at NNSS includes MLLW treated at commercial facilities

- A facility and trained workers are available to conduct waste treatment safely
- Waste treatment will utilize existing facilities in the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site
- Generators will pay for waste treatment

Liaison Tim Murphy reported the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection supports the concept of MLLW treatment at the NNSS. On-site treatment provides improved oversight by the regulator by reducing extensive travel and ensuring compliance for disposal in Nevada. Presently the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection must travel to other DOE sites throughout the complex to observe MLLW treatment activities or rely on state regulators at those sites to ensure regulatory compliance.

Liaison Scott Wade pointed out this is a very preliminary conceptual design for waste treatment and the Board was asked to make a recommendation on the first step in the process, pursuit of a permit from the State of Nevada. This is a multi-year activity with the DOE anticipating input from the Board at various stages throughout the process.

It was agreed MLLW treatment at the NNSS is clearly something the generators, the Nevada Site Office and regulators support. Member Voegele provided a draft outline of a recommendation to move forward with the permit application. After discussion, Chair Walt Wegst requested the Board be given until the February 16 meeting to submit their recommendation and Mr. DiSanza was agreeable to the new date.

Member McGrail moved Chair Wegst lead the development of a recommendation based on Member Voegele's draft in support of the DOE's application for a MLLW treatment permit. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Members Voegele and McGrail will provide input for the recommendation development to the Chair.

Work Plan Update (*Denise Rupp, Facilitator*)

The latest changes to the FY 2011 Work Plan were reviewed.

- Item 2A to be presented to Committee March/April 2011, due date to be determined
- Item 2B
 - CAU 374 Committee was briefed December 2010, due date is February 2011
 - CAU 375 Committee will be briefed February 2011, due date is March 2011

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Update (*Walt Wegst, Chair*)

- **December 2, 2010 EM SSAB Conference Call**
 - Long-term stewardship was discussed with emphasis on the definition of "in perpetuity"
 - Congress approved a continuing resolution for the FY 2011 budget with funding through March 4, 2011
 - Possibility of federal budget cuts to discretionary funding and 5% across the board; Environmental Management is considered discretionary
 - EM has spent \$3.3 B of \$6 B American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars
- **EM SSAB Chair Meeting, April 12-14, 2011**
 - Board members were asked to provide their personal favorite restaurant or site in the area for inclusion in the attendee handout

- NSSAB members are encouraged to attend the EM SSAB Chairs meeting to be held at Green Valley Ranch Resort, and the EM SSAB tour of the NNSS as it will include some sights not normally seen on NSSAB tours
- Due to the size of the EM SSAB tour group, a trip below ground at U1A cannot be included; a NSSAB tour of U1A will be scheduled at a future date

DOE Update (*Scott Wade, Liaison*)

- **FY 2011 Environmental Management Activities**
 - The Mixed Waste Storage Unit and Mixed Waste Disposal Unit were permitted and completed
 - Demolition of the Pluto facility and the Reactor Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly Facility is complete
 - Target for completion of the 92-acre closure of Pit 3 is early June
 - With the completion of groundwater well ER-EC-13 in December, the Underground Test Area (UGTA) drilling program is on hiatus; data gathering continues
 - The SWEIS addresses Greater than Class C waste as an expanded alternative
- **Other NNSS Activities**
 - Draft SWEIS is in development with record of decision expected in March 2012
 - A research and development solar project in Area 25 is being assessed
 - Permitting responsibilities for Yucca Mountain were assigned to Mr. Wade; permits will be kept active in anticipation of FY 2013 site remediation

Other NSSAB Business (*Walt Wegst, Chair*)

- **Standard Operating Procedures**
The Board reviewed the revisions to the NSSAB Standard Operating Procedures provided at the November 10, 2010 meeting. A number of changes were necessary to comply with recent revisions to the EM SSAB Standard Operating Procedures. The remaining changes related to the NSSAB's decision to address issues as a committee of the whole.

After discussion, Member Sullivan moved to accept the Standard Operating Procedures as revised. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- **Next Full Board Meeting**
The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at the Frank Rogers Auditorium, Las Vegas, NV. There will be a presentation on the Fundamentals of Radiation from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

December and January State of Nevada Notifications (*Cindy Lockwood, Acting DDFO*)

Public Notification of Corrective Actions for December 2010 and January 2011 were provided.

Member Jim Weeks moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.