



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

Full Board Meeting

**Frank Rogers Auditorium
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV
6:00 p.m. – February 16, 2011**

Members Present: Kathleen Bienenstein (Vice-Chair), Donna Hruska, Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Gregory Minden, Michael Moore, Harold Sullivan, Michael Voegele, James Weeks, Walt Wegst (Chair)

Liaisons Present: Robert Gamble (Nye County), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Tim Murphy (NDEP), Scott Wade (DOE)

Liaisons Absent: Genne Nelson (NPS)

Technical Support Staff Present: Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)
Tom Enyeart, CHP (NNSA)

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), Daniel Coss (Henderson), Neal Eupardia (Las Vegas), Barry LiMarzi (Las Vegas), Mariette Nelson (Las Vegas), Andrew Perla (Las Vegas), Ella Perla (Las Vegas), Steven Pye (Las Vegas), Ray Sitkiewicz (Las Vegas), Mitzie Wilson (Las Vegas)

Fundamentals of Radiation

A presentation on the Fundamentals of Radiation was given by Mr. Tom Enyeart, health physicist with the National Nuclear Security Administration immediately preceding the Full Board meeting.

Agenda Review

Agenda Items 5 and 6 were reversed at the request of the Soils Committee Chair, John McGrail. After review, Member Kathleen Bienenstein moved to approve the agenda as changed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Recommendations

Soils (*John McGrail, Committee Chair*)

- **Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 374 Proposed Closure Recommendation**
As requested at the January 12 Full Board meeting, Committee Chair McGrail prepared a draft recommendation regarding CAU 374:
 - Identified alternatives:
 - Clean closure
 - Closure in place with use restrictions
 - No further action
 - Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) recommends Closure in Place with Use Restrictions and the removal and disposition of drums and miscellaneous waste at Danny Boy and use of the Remote Area Worker standard

After discussion, Member Michael Voegele moved to accept the recommendation letter, as drafted, for submittal to the Department of Energy (DOE). The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- The NSSAB received a response from the DOE to their January 13, 2011 Recommendation Letter regarding CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriolet/Palanquin Unit Craters. The decision has been made to proceed with Closure in Place with use restrictions under the Remote Work Area exposure scenario.

Industrial Sites

- The NSSAB received a response from the DOE to their January 13, 2011 Recommendation Letter regarding CAU 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites. The decision has been made to proceed with Closure in Place with use restrictions. Mr. Rob Boehlecke clarified the May 31, 2011 date for submittal of the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration Plan will be changed. The Board will be advised of the new milestone date.

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

At the January 12 Full Board meeting, Chair Walt Wegst was asked to lead the development of a recommendation based on Member Voegele's draft in support of the DOE's application for a MLLW treatment permit. After review, Member Harold Sullivan moved to accept the recommendation letter, as written, for submittal to the DOE. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Work Plan Update (*Denise Rupp, Facilitator*)

There are no changes to the Work Plan at this time.

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

- **January 27, 2011 EM SSAB Conference Call**
 - Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget status, process, and possibility of budget cuts
 - EM American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) update

- **EM SSAB Chair Meeting, April 12-14, 2011**
 - Registration materials were sent to participants February 15, 2011; NSSAB members are encouraged to register and participate

DOE Update (*Scott Wade, Liaison*)

- **FY 2012 Budget**
 - Proposed \$6.1 billion EM budget, with \$66 million requested for Nevada
 - Proportionate with need
 - Proposed figures could change as the budget moves through the process
- **ARRA**
 - Activities will be complete this fiscal year with \$44 million for restoration activities and an additional \$10 million received for disposal of low-level waste
 - Allowed for accelerated activities in Soils, Industrial Sites, and Underground Test Area (UGTA)
- **Other NNSS Activity**
 - The Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) revised draft is at DOE Headquarters for review
 - If concurrence is received, the SWEIS is expected to be available the end of April followed by a 90-day public comment and public hearings period
 - At the March 9 meeting, the Board will receive information to facilitate their review and comment of the SWEIS
 - The Groundwater Open House is scheduled for May 25, 2011 in Beatty and the NSSAB will be invited to participate
 - The Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) visited the NNSS
 - The DNFSB provides multiple layers of oversight on nuclear safety
 - Areas of interest were governance and how it is being conducted
 - There are currently three legislative initiatives involving LLW oversight, SB119, 120, and 121

Other NSSAB Business (*Walt Wegst, Chair*)

- **FY13 Budget Prioritization** (*Jim Weeks, Member*)
 - The FY13 Budget Prioritization will be made by the Board acting as a Committee of the Whole
 - Presentations from Soils, Industrial Sites, UGTA, and Low-Level Waste covering the FY13 outlook will be given at the March 9 Full Board meeting
 - Member Weeks will serve as the Task Plan Leader for the development of the Board's recommendation
 - Public and worker health and safety are major considerations
 - The Board is not involved in dollar appropriations
 - The Board's recommendation must be made at the March 9 meeting
- **Student Liaison Update** (*Denise Rupp, Facilitator*)

Ms. Rupp and Kelly Snyder met with Mitch Johnson, Engineering Department Head, and Kristi Semmler, Community Partnership Coordinator, at the West Career and Technical Academy to discuss the NSSAB student liaison positions. They are very excited about the

program and will work with DOE in the appointment of two student liaisons for the NSSAB. Five students and one chaperone have been invited to the EM SSAB tour of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) on April 12. In addition, DOE will be conducting a presentation on Environmental Management and the NSSAB to the students in the March timeframe. The tour and presentation will allow students a better understanding of the EM program and the Board. Student liaisons will participate for one-year terms in conjunction with the school year.

- **Membership Drive Update** (*Walt Wegst, Chair*)
 - Current membership drive resulted in 12 applications and five inquiries
 - Interviews were conducted February 15, with additional interviews scheduled for March 7
 - The Committee will propose a recommended slate of candidates at the March 9 meeting

- **NSSAB Rebuttal to Sun Article on Waste Disposal**
 - The Board discussed the *Las Vegas Sun* article *Yucca Mountain or not, nuclear waste resides here* which ran February 13, 2011
 - The article contained statements of concern to the majority of the Board
 - Discussion points included:
 - Perhaps the letter should be signed as individuals rather than from the Board
 - The rebuttal was appropriate and the numerous issues within the article should be addressed
 - While a rebuttal was supported, doubt was expressed as to whether it would be published
 - Statements are often taken out of context when articles are written
 - After discussion, the Board agreed it was appropriate for Chair Wegst to send a Letter to the Editor in rebuttal on behalf of the Board
 - Chair Wegst presented a draft rebuttal letter for Board review
 - Items of discussion regarding the draft rebuttal:
 - The intent of the letter is to correct misinformation in the article
 - Trace amounts of transuranic waste are allowed in LLW
 - The NNSS disposes only 8% of the waste generated by the EM complex
 - LLW is calculated by volume (cubic feet), not by weight; perhaps this should not be addressed in the rebuttal
 - The Board provides independent review and feedback on LLW
 - Emphasis should be put on the effectiveness of the quality controls; only 0.3% of shipments over the past ten years have had discrepancies (54 of ~40,000 shipments)
 - Discrepancies can be anything from external contamination to improperly completed paperwork
 - All disposal activities have been conducted in compliance with the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection regulations
 - Rural and Clark counties receive \$0.50/cubic foot of waste received; resulting in ~\$10 million over the last ten years for emergency response programs and equipment
 - The NNSS is the eighth largest employer in Nevada
 - The UGTA program is at least 20 years old
 - Recommended changes to the rebuttal letter:
 - Paragraph 4 - emphasize safety by adding discrepancy numbers – 0.3% and definition of discrepancies

- Paragraph 5 – change “DOES NOT CONTAIN...earths, etc.” to “may contain negligible amounts of long-lived radioactive isotopes such as Plutonium, Neptunium, various rare earths, etc., as specified by Rule.”
- Paragraph 8 – change “10” to “20”
- Paragraph 9 – replace “such as the NSSAB and for that matter the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection” with statement reflecting NSSAB’s independent review and recommendation and that all activities have been conducted in compliance with NDEP regulations
- Member Voegele moved that Chair Wegst make the recommended changes to the letter and any editorial changes having no significant impact on the content as discussed, sign and send the letter to the Las Vegas Sun. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- **Next Full Board Meeting**

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at the Frank Rogers Auditorium, Las Vegas, NV

February State of Nevada Notifications (*Cindy Lockwood, Acting DDFO*)

Public Notification of Corrective Actions for February 2011 was provided

Member Weeks moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.