



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

Full Board Meeting

**Desert Research Institute
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV
5:00 p.m. – May 11, 2011**

Members Present: Kathleen Bienenstein (Vice-Chair), Donna Hruska, Gregory Minden, Michael Voegele, James Weeks, Walt Wegst (Chair)

Members Absent: Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Michael Moore

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

Technical Support Staff Present: Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)

U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE): Rob Boehlecke, Kelly Snyder (DDFO), Bill Wilborn

Facilitator: Denise Rupp (Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.)

Public Present: Chris Andres (NDEP), Barry LiMarzi (Las Vegas), Andrew Perla (Las Vegas)

Agenda Review

After review, Vice-Chair Kathleen Bienenstein moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Walt Wegst reported he and Vice-Chair Bienenstein had joined DOE staff conducting Environmental Management (EM) presentations to the students of West Career and Technical Academy (WCTA). The briefings provided an overview of EM at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and the NSSAB.

The Board is currently working to add two student liaisons from WCTA. The school is enthusiastic about the partnership and several students have expressed an interest. Students will participate in a NNSS tour in the fall with liaison appointments to follow.

Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) Update (Scott Wade, DOE)

- A new SWEIS is being prepared to update the environmental baseline condition of the NNSS, analyze national security initiatives and waste management, and reflect changes in land withdrawal status at Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC).
- Existing National Environmental Policy Act documentation includes:
 - Environmental Impact Statement for Nevada Test Site and Off-Site Locations in the State of Nevada Record of Decision (ROD) published in December 1996
 - Amended ROD for waste management activities February 2000
 - Supplemental Analysis conducted in July 2002 and November 2003
- Draft SWEIS expected to be released for public comment in the fall of 2011 with Record of Decision in 2012
- SWEIS alternatives include No Action, Reduced Operations, and Expanded Operations
- No Action and Reduced Operations alternatives reflect recent trends on LLW receipt and disposal permit limits
- Expanded Operations alternative reflects long-term waste forecasts, seeks to maintain flexibility for waste disposal, and recognizes DOE may make other disposal site decisions
- Disposal estimates include historic data from generators, national waste database, potential generators, and DOE sealed sources
- Ten year SWEIS waste disposal estimates in cubic feet (ft³):

	No Action/Reduced Operations	Expanded Operations
Low Level Waste	15,000,000	48,000,000
Mixed Low-Level Waste	<u>900,000</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>
Total	15,900,000	52,000,000
- SWEIS transportation analysis considers maintenance of status quo , various routes within southern Nevada for truck shipments available as a result of recent infrastructure changes, and five representative rail-to-truck transload facility locations
- Transportation analysis considered constrained and unconstrained cases and found transportation risks to be very low in both
- Rail-to-truck transloading locations are representative sites for impact analysis
- Any decision impacting the current transportation route commitments would occur only after issuance of final SWEIS and any such change would be documented in the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria
- NSSAB can become involved by determining of a new Work Plan task should be added for review and comment on the SWEIS

In response to Board questions, Mr. Wade provided the following clarification:

- Geothermal development is included in the SWEIS
- Waste from a proposed NNSS treatment facility have been considered in the Expanded Operations
- There will be no decision on a treatment facility until the Record of Decision is received on the SWEIS
- The transportation plan remains the same for waste needing treatment
- Public hearings on the SWEIS will be held in Las Vegas, Tonopah, Pahrump, and Carson City, Nevada and St. George, Utah
- Waste amounts are based on historic and predicted waste volumes and remain the same for No Action and Reduced Operations alternatives

- Non-Environmental Management activities may have a reduced footprint and a corresponding reduction in activities

The Board discussed possible approaches to review of the SWEIS. Mr. Wade will provide a table of contents at the June 8 Full Board meeting with information on the chapters and length of each to assist the Board in determining its review strategy. At that time the board will determine if they will request the SWEIS review be added to their Work Plan and develop a review strategy.

Groundwater Update *(Bill Wilborn, DOE)*

- The Groundwater Open House will be held at the Beatty Community Center, Beatty, Nevada from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2011
- The Nevada Site Office is currently working to address dissemination of non-publicly releasable material to the NSSAB
- Underground Test Area (UGTA) Closure Strategy includes:
 - Corrective Action Investigation (Phase I and II)
 - Corrective Action Decision/Corrective Action Plan
 - Closure
- Frenchman Flat
 - Peer Review/Model accepted by State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) FY 2010
 - Currently completing Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan(CADD/CAP)
 - Two model evaluation well sites have been identified (ER-5-5 and ER-11-2)
- Yucca Flat
 - Initiating scoping of supplemental analysis for flow and transport modeling
 - Extending Phase I to focus on major uncertainties and address during CADD/CAP model evaluation
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
 - Continuing flow and transport model analysis and evaluation
 - Concluded pre-emptive review
 - Similar strategy considerations for Yucca Flat need to be made for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain regarding focus on uncertainties
 - Path forward may be similar to Yucca Flat in that extended Phase I may be necessary
- Pahute Mesa
 - Will complete well development, testing, and sampling for three wells: ER-20-4, ER-20-8, and ER-EC-12
 - Phase II drilling campaign and geology for ER-20-7, ER-20-8, ER-20-8#2, ER-EC-11, ER-EC-12, ER-20-4, ER-EC-13, and ER-EC-15
- To date, newly acquired data confirms the conceptual model

In response to Board questions, Mr. Wilborn provided the following clarification:

- Tritium is the isotope discovered in the groundwater characterization activities with the exception of 0.04 picocuries of plutonium in groundwater characterization well ER-20-7
- Drilling on Pahute Mesa is estimated at depths from 3,000 – 4,000 feet

FFACO Public Involvement Plan *(Kelly Snyder, DDFO)*

The Nevada Site Office has updated the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Appendix V – Public Involvement Plan. This document has been reviewed by the Board in the past (2007) and recommendations were incorporated. The majority of the changes in the revision are superficial, for example correcting *Nevada Test Site* to *Nevada National Security Site* and *Community Advisory Board* to *Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board*.

The draft plan will be available electronically to the NSSAB in the next two weeks. The Board will provide comments to Ms. Snyder by the June 8 Full Board meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Andrew Perla of Las Vegas urged the Board to comment on the SWEIS transportation analysis. Chair Wegst assured Mr. Perla the Board would review the matter and comment accordingly.

DOE Update *Scott Wade (DOE)*

- Congress passed a full-year Continuing Resolution and Assistant Secretary Triay has requested all manager look at reductions to the work plans for EM programs
- In the past week, two members of the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office were given a tour of the NNSS providing an opportunity to clarify activities at the Site
- In partnership with WCTA, EM is excited to be placing a Community Environmental Monitoring Program station at the school for educational purposes
- DOE's response to the NSSAB FY 2013 Budget Prioritization recommendation was received
- Public Notification of Corrective Actions for April and May 2011 were provided

Committee Updates

Industrial Sites - Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 566 Train Car Recommendation *(Michael Voegele, Chair)*

The Board heard the Industrial Sites Committee's background information regarding the future disposition of train cars associated with CAU 566:

- The Committee prepared a draft recommendation on the path forward for train cars and locomotives currently located at the Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly facility
- The inventory includes two flat cars and a spool car that are radioactively contaminated and posted as well as two locomotives, a manned control car, and an emplacement vehicle that are not contaminated.
- Committee recommendation:
 - DOE investigate the possibility of using clean-up funds and logistical support to relocate the cars to Beatty
 - Assisting Beatty in obtaining the locomotives and other cars would be a meaningful community relations project; DOE should consider moving the remaining contaminated cars to a controlled area of the NNSS

Chair Wegst reminded the Board the NSSAB would be sponsoring a work product for consideration at the EM Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs meeting in June based on the train car disposition. The proposed work product requests DOE establish a policy and funding mechanism for disposition other than waste, particularly when items of historic or cultural value can be preserved.

Vice-Chair Bienenstein moved to accept the draft train car recommendation as written for submission to the DOE. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rob Boehlecke, DOE, advised the Board that the first sentence in the fifth paragraph was incorrect in that DOE had no plans to dismantle the rail line in Area 25. After discussion, Vice-Chair Bienenstein moved to change the Board's recommendation by removing the first sentence in the fifth paragraph. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Greater Than Class C (GTCC) - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Update *(Michael Voegele, Chair)*

The Board heard the GTCC Committee's background information regarding the draft EIS:

- The committee reviewed the Draft EIS for Disposal of GTCC Low-Level Radioactive Waste and GTCC-Like Waste
- 19 comments were generated for consideration in the development of a comment letter from the NSSAB to DOE
- Comments covered procedural, performance assessment, transportation, regulations, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and the NNS

Liaisons Phil Klevorick (Clark County) and Robert Gamble (Nye County) shared their agencies' comments on the draft with the Board. After Board discussion, Chair Wegst requested members submit their comments on the GTCC draft EIS to the NSSAB office by May 19. The GTCC Committee will meet again before June 8 to incorporate comments into a comment letter addressed to DOE Headquarters with a copy to Nevada EM. The Board will review and vote on this comment letter at the June 8 Full Board meeting.

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs Meeting Update

The EM SSSAB Chairs meeting has been re-scheduled for June 14-16, 2011. The tour will be June 14 with meetings June 15-16 to be held at Aliante Station in North Las Vegas.

Other NSSAB Business

Self-funded Meals at Board Meetings

Vice-Chair Bienenstein requested the return of self-funded meals at Board meetings. After discussion, the Board agreed to reinstate the meals for meetings to be held at locations that allow food to be brought in. Denise Rupp and Kelly Snyder will develop a plan to handle the logistics of the meals and ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Next Full Board Meeting

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at the Aliante Station, 7300 Aliante Parkway, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

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