



## *Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board*

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### **Full Board Meeting**

**National Atomic Testing Museum  
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV  
5:00 p.m. – January 18, 2012**

- Members Present:** Kathleen Bienenstein (Chair), Matthew Clapp, Daniel Coss, Thomas Fisher, Arthur Goldsmith, Donna Hruska, Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Barry LiMarzi, Gregory Minden, Michael Moore, Michael Voegele, James Weeks, Walt Wegst (Vice-Chair)
- Liaisons Present:** Cielomina Gumabon (West Career and Technical Academy [WCTA]), John Klenke (Nye County), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Justine Leavitt (WCTA), Tim Murphy (State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP]), Genne Nelson (National Park Service), Scott Wade (Department of Energy [DOE])
- U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE):** Rob Boehlecke, Nohemi Brewer, Kevin Cabble, Jhon Carilli, Kelly Snyder (DDFO), Bill Wilborn
- National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA):** Linda Cohn, Darwin Morgan
- Facilitator:** Denise Rupp (Navarro-Intera)
- Public Present:** Christine Andres (NDEP), Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations)

### **Agenda Review**

After review of the agenda, Member Arthur Goldsmith moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **Liaison Updates**

### ***Clark County (Phil Klevorick)***

- Provided Clark County's comments on the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS)
- Anticipating National Nuclear Security Administration's response to SWEIS comments
- Acknowledged the scope of process and effort involved in producing SWEIS
- Participated in the Nevada Site Office's Transportation Working Group

### ***Nye County (John Klenke)***

- Nye County is working with Underground Test Area (UGTA) on potentiometric map to incorporate location of Nye County's Early Warning Drilling Program wells and Beatty groundwater evaluation program

### ***NDEP (Tim Murphy)***

- Work continues on Area 5 permit modifications, none of them major
- The Nevada Site Office presented a synopsis of SWEIS comments to NDEP
- Acknowledged major undertaking of SWEIS

### ***National Park Service (NPS) (Genne Nelson)***

- NPS has no current activities directly relating to the NSSAB
- Groundwater up-gradient of Death Valley National Park is an ongoing concern and the primary reason for NPS participation on the NSSAB
- Changes to Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) waste transportation operations could become a concern to the NPS in the future

### ***DOE (Scott Wade)***

- Budget Update
  - Congress appropriated \$65.7 million (M) of the requested \$66 M requested for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012
  - The President will be rolling out FY 2013 budget requests in the next few weeks
- SWEIS update
  - Approximately 100 responses to the SWEIS received from the public
  - Schedule for the issuance of the final SWEIS will be adjusted upon receipt of Headquarters comments with final publication expected in early fall 2012
- Transportation Working Group will reconvene in the near future, coordinated by Nohemi Brewer
- The Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management will visit the Nevada Site Office and the NNSS January 24 - 26

### **U-233 Disposition Program** *(John Krueger, DOE, Oak Ridge, TN)*

*(A copy of the presentation is available at*

*<http://www.nv.energy.gov/nssab/documents/handouts/fy%202012/FB/01-18-12%20FB%20Mtg%20Folder.pdf>*)

- Definition and uses of U-233
- History of Building 3019
- Mission drivers for alternative disposal of U-233
  - Safety
  - Security
  - Threat removal
  - Re-development of the main lab area
- Inventory Complexities
  - 1,098 canisters stored in tube vaults inside Building 3019

- Consolidated Edison uranium solidification project (CEUSP) material, molten salt reactor experimental traps, oxide powders, metals, zero power reactor plates, and miscellaneous
- Disposition project background
  - Contract originally awarded in 2003
  - Began as medical isotope extraction project
  - Scope evolved by 2007
    - Modifications to Building 3019
    - Dissolution and down blending of U-233 to reduce eliminate potential for nuclear criticality
    - Conversion of down blended material to final waste stream compliant with NNSS waste acceptance criteria (WAC)
    - Shipment for disposal
    - Complicating factors caused design delays and cost growth
- Phase I Alternatives Analysis report favored a combination of direct disposition and co-processing
  - Transfer components desired by other DOE programs
  - Direct dispose the CEUSP material
  - Co-process remainder with other Oak Ridge National Laboratory wastes
  - Reduces waste volume and transportation
  - Reduces worker exposure and eliminates worst accident scenarios
- CEUSP Disposal
  - CEUSP Characteristics
    - Not a hazardous waste
    - Not a transuranic waste
    - High radiation field
  - Waste Acceptance
    - Expected to be certified against all NNSS WAC
    - Waste profile to be developed, submitted, and approved
  - Preliminary Transport/Disposal Model
    - Proposed shipments to start mid-FY 2013
    - As developed with NNSS, dispose as a low-level waste, within a slit trench in the bottom of the cell
    - Working to modify the Type B shipping container for CEUSP use
  - Transportation Safety
    - Per agreement with NDEP, the route will avoid the I-15/U.S.-95 interchange within Las Vegas and the Hoover Dam, including the O'Callaghan-Tillman Bridge
    - Security en route is to be determined
    - Dose rate to any member of the public will be less than 1 millirem/hour

In response to questions by the NSSAB, the following clarifications were provided:

- The half-life of U-233 is 160,000 years
- There are 450 kilograms of U-233 for disposal in the building 3019 inventory
- Transuranic radionuclides were eliminated from the CEUSP through processing
- Highly radioactive waste can still be low-level waste
- Removal from the transport vehicle would involve vertical cask removal by crane and stand-off of personnel
- The method of backfilling the slit trench must be determined

- U-233 has previously been disposed at the NNSS
- Security during transport is yet to be determined, but is important public perception
- U-233 will not cause the transport cask itself to become radioactive
- The existing release criteria will be followed for trucks leaving the NNSS
- Waste generators pay for additional disposal costs incurred
- Jhon Carilli will provide information regarding the radiation levels of previously disposed U-233 and the disposal process
- A presentation on the Area 5 performance assessment will be provided at the February 15 Full Board meeting

After discussion, Member John McGrail moved the NSSAB confirm the February 15 Full Board meeting for the purpose of discussing the U-233 disposal and other DOE announcements. There will be no liaison updates and dinner will not be served. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **FY 2014 Outlook**

#### **Industrial Sites** (*Kevin Cabble, DOE*)

- Baseline planned cost
  - FY 2013 \$0.5 Million (M)
  - FY 2014 \$0.5 M
- Planned activities
  - Surveillance and maintenance at NNSS Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility
  - Post-closure monitoring at the NNSS and Tonopah Test Range (TTR)
- What activities would be impacted if there was a 25% decrease to the Industrial Sites baseline?
  - Inspections required to meet minimum regulatory regulations
  - Negotiate with NDEP to do less surveillance, monitoring, and post-closure inspections at NNSS and TTR
- What activities would be conducted if there was a 25% increase to the Industrial Sites baseline?
  - Accelerate pre-field work for remediation and demolition of EMAD Facility

#### **Underground Test Area (UGTA)** (*Bill Wilborn, DOE*)

- Baseline planned cost
  - FY 2013 \$31.5 M
  - FY 2014 \$27.9 M
- Planned activities
  - Yucca Flat Corrective Action Unit (CAU)
    - Acquire NDEP acceptance of Flow and Transport Model
    - Complete Peer Review of characterization work
    - Complete draft Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP)

- Central and Western Pahute Mesa CAU
  - Complete analysis of well development and testing
  - Begin aquifer testing
- Frenchman Flat CAU
  - Complete model evaluation report
  - Begin drafting Closure Report (CR)
- Ranier Mesa CAU
  - Evaluate model and data needs from Flow and Transport Model with NDEP
- What activities would be impacted if there was a 25% decrease to the UGTA baseline?
  - Reduce data collection activities
  - Reduce CAU modeling
- What activities would be conducted if there was a 25% increase to the UGTA baseline?
  - Accelerate data collection activities
  - Accelerate CAU modeling activities

**Soils** (*Kevin Cabble, DOE*)

- Baseline planned cost
  - FY 2013      \$6.5 M
  - FY 2014      \$7.4 M
- Planned activities
  - Fire monitoring and soil erosion studies
  - Air monitoring at TTR and Timber Mountain
  - Complete CR for CAUs 411 (Double Tracks), 412 (Clean Slates 1), and 366 (Plutonium Valley) Complete Corrective Action Plans (CAP) for CAUs 105 (Area 2 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Site) and 569 (Area 3 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites)
  - Complete Corrective Action Decision Documents (CADD) for CAUs 541 (Small Boy), 571 (Area 9 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites), and 550 (Smoky Contamination Area)
  - Complete Corrective Action Investigation Plans (CAIP) for CAUs 567 (Miscellaneous Soils Sites) and 568 (Area 3 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites)
- What activities would be conducted if there was a 25% decrease to the Soils baseline?
  - Postpone CR for CAUs 411 (Double Tracks) and 412 (Clean Slates 1)
  - Postpone CAP for CAUs 567 (Miscellaneous Soils Sites) and 568 (Area 3 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites)
  - Postpone CADD for CAU 541 (Small Boy)
- What activities would be conducted if there was a 25% increase to the Soils baseline?
  - Accelerate CAIP for CAUs 413 (Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion), 414 (Clean Slates III Plutonium Dispersion), and 415 (Project 57)

**Low-Level Waste (LLW) Activities** (*Jhon Carilli, DOE*)

- Baseline planned cost
 

|                         |          |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
|                         | FY 2013  | FY 2014  |
| ▪ EM Funding            | \$13.4 M | \$16.6 M |
| ▪ Other Funding Sources | \$ 6.4 M | \$ 6.5 M |
| ▪ Total LLW Funding     | \$19.8 M | \$23.1 M |
- Planned activities
  - Safely dispose DOE LLW
  - Continue Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program facility evaluations of generators

- Continue environmental monitoring activities at Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC)
- Construct new LLW cell near Cell 20
- Maintain Performance Assessment and Composite Analysis to dispose waste
- What activities would be impacted if there was a 25% decrease to the LLW baseline?
  - Reduce staffing and disposal activities
  - Delay construction of new LLW cell near Cell 20
  - Delay new equipment purchases and/or facility upgrades
- What activities would be conducted if there was a 25% increase to the LLW baseline?
  - Plan, design, and construct flood protection berm around western half of Area 5 RWMC and/or
  - Re-skin transuranic pad cover
  - Plan, design, and construct closure cap on closed cells in expanded area of Area 5 RWMC

Vice-Chair Walt Wegst moved the NSSAB utilize the same order of priorities as presented for FY 2013: UGTA, Low-Level Waste, Soils, and Industrial Sites. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

After discussion, Vice-Chair Wegst moved that the recommendation letter for FY 2014 be based on the FY2013 Budget Prioritization with the following revisions:

- Use current date for letter
- Change all “FY 2013” references to “FY 2014”
- Change the second bullet under “1. UGTA” to read “Supplemented by additional data collection and drilling as appropriate”
- Change the first bullet under “4. Industrial Sites” to “Project should be complete except for Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly facility scheduled for 2017”

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Membership Committee Update** *(Donna Hruska, Committee Chair)*

- **West Career and Technical Academy (WCTA) Student Liaison Project**  
With input from the WCTA Community Partnership Coordinator and the Committee, it was agreed to pursue a survey-based project for the NSSAB student liaisons. This project will include:

#### **Phase 1**

Timeframe: Spring 2012 semester (now)

- Develop and conduct survey to determine student knowledge base and concerns regarding the Environmental Management Program at the Nevada National Security Site
- Determine target audience with WCTA staff (Coordinator and teachers) and Mentor (Member Michael Moore), with possibility of targeting entire student body or specific, relevant classes
- Compile survey results
- Develop survey results into presentation for the NSSAB

## **Phase 2**

Timeframe: Fall 2012 semester

- Work with Mentor, and additional Membership Committee staff as necessary, to research information relative to the survey results; formulate educational material and responses to items of concern from the survey results
- Develop a presentation to convey the material developed in response to the survey results for the WCTA audience as well as the NSSAB
- Present EM NNESS information to WCTA audience at a future date

## **Phase 3**

Timeframe: Spring 2013 semester

- After Phase 2 information presentation to WCTA students, develop a survey to evaluate effectiveness of presentation in resolving issues and increasing knowledge base expressed in Phase 1 survey
- Conduct survey and compile survey results
- Develop survey results into presentation for the NSSAB
- Public Outreach Board members share information about the NSSAB with local stakeholders utilizing the NSSAB Road Show (a Power Point presentation)
- The Committee agreed it would be valuable to take the Road Show to several local and rural events/organizations prior to the close of the membership recruitment
- Target contacts were identified including local women's organizations, local and rural chambers of commerce and rotary clubs
- Kathleen Bienenstein volunteered to present to the League of Women Voters
- Outreach Display
  - Michael Voegele volunteered to attend the Pahrump Earth Day event with the outreach display, brochures, and applications

## **EM SSAB Chairs Business** (*Kathy Bienenstein, Chair*)

Spring 2012 EM SSAB Chairs Meeting

- April 16-19 in Paducah, Kentucky
- Members Daniel Coss, Thomas Fisher, and Michael Voegele volunteered to represent the NSSAB along with Chair Bienenstein
- Mr. Coss and Dr. Fisher deferred to the senior member, Dr. Voegele, who will attend

December 7, 2011 EM SSAB Chairs Conference Call

- The Office of Legacy Management provided an update including their new Legacy Management fact sheet defining Environmental Management completion (available at <http://www.em.doe.gov/pdfs/lts/2011Site%20Transition%20%20from%20Cleanup%20to%20ELTS%20at%20Ongoing%20Mission%20Sites.pdf>)

Other

- Member Hruska commented on the DOE asset revitalization plans (public/private partnerships) discussed on the October 2011 EM SSAB Chairs Videoconference; Mr. Wade agreed to provide a briefing regarding Nevada asset revitalization at a future NSSAB Full Board meeting

## **Other NSSAB Business**

### **Membership Update** (*Kelly Snyder, DDFO*)

Member Mitzie Wilson is unable to continue to serve on the NSSAB due to employer issues

### **Recommendation Responses** (*Kelly Snyder, DDFO*)

- EM SSAB Chairs recommendation response letters from Acting Assistant Secretary David Huizenga were received regarding asset retention, historical disposition, and rail transport
- Nevada DOE responded to the NSSAB recommendation regarding liaison positions
- It was agreed recommendation response letters (both from Nevada DOE and EM SSAB) will be held for distribution with the next Full Board meeting packet rather than sending via email

### **Acting Assistant Secretary Visit** (*Kathy Bienenstein, Chair*)

- NSSAB Chair Bienenstein and Vice-Chair Wegst will meet with Acting Assistant Secretary Huizenga on January 25
- Discussion may include FY 2012 Work Plan items
- No additional items for discussion were brought forward

### **Next Meeting**

- The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at the National Atomic Testing Museum, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada
- The NSSAB dinners are self-funded and monies collected will be used toward the March 21 Full Board meeting as no meal will be served at the February meeting

Member Robert Johnson moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.