



## ***Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)***

---

### **Full Board Meeting**

**Clark County Government Center  
500 E. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV  
4:00 p.m. – September 16, 2015**

Members Present: Amina Anderson, Michael D'Alessio, Pennie Edmond, Donna Hruska (Chair), Janice Keiserman (Vice-Chair), Michael Moore, Donald Neill, Steve Rosenbaum, Edward Rosemark, William Sears, Thomas Seley, Cecilia Flores Snyder, Jack Sypolt, Francisca Vega

Members Absent: Michael Anderson

Liaisons Present: Christine Andres (State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP]), Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations [CGTO]), John Klenke (Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office [NWRPO])

Liaisons Absent: Frank Carbone (Nye County Commission), Ralph Keyes (Esmeralda County Commission), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Jonathan Penman-Brotzman (U.S. National Park Service [NPS])

Department of Energy (DOE): Robert Boehlecke, Tiffany Lantow, Kelly Snyder (Deputy Designated Federal Officer [DDFO]), Scott Wade, Bill Wilborn

Facilitator: Barb Ulmer (Navarro)

### **Open Meeting/Chair's Opening Remarks**

Chair Donna Hruska thanked Phil Klevorick, Clark County liaison, for arranging the meeting space for the NSSAB meeting. She also thanked the members and liaisons for their commitment and attendance. Following the Chair's opening remarks, Vice-Chair Janice Keiserman moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **U.S. DOE Update** (*Scott Wade, DOE*)

Scott Wade stated that the Nevada Field Office (NFO) does not have its final budget numbers for fiscal year (FY) 2016 as Congress is still working the process. The NFO will likely start FY 2016 under a continuing resolution (CR) with an apportionment of its current budget for FY 2015 or the President's budget request for FY 2016, whichever is lower. Mr. Wade will continue to provide updated information on the FY 2016 budget at the next NSSAB meeting.

Mr. Wade reported that historically more waste is shipped to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) at the end of a fiscal year partly because it is seasonal and waste is easier to ship during the summer and partly due to potential CRs and other budgetary concerns. In FY 2015, the NNSS has currently received and disposed over 1.2 million cubic feet of low-level waste (LLW) and mixed LLW (MLLW), which is within projections. The NNSS is scheduled to receive almost 40 shipments next week which is relatively small when compared to a commercial site that may receive up to 200 shipments on any given day.

Mr. Wade noted that the Underground Test Area (UGTA) activity will be drilling a deep well, ER-20-12, in Pahute Mesa at the end of September 2015 with an estimated 30-day campaign depending on conditions. Challenges associated with drilling in the Pahute Mesa include its remote area and potential snow. As soon as ER-20-12 is completed, then UGTA will drill three wells in Yucca Flat.

In August 2015, Dr. Monica Regalbuto was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM). She has been working on the EM program for about a year and a half while awaiting confirmation. Mark Whitney, who was acting Assistant Secretary for EM during this time, is second in command within EM programs.

Both Dr. Regalbuto and Mr. Whitney have a long-standing commitment to working with the tribes and understanding their concerns and thoughts regarding the EM program. Based on the positive interactions between the tribes and various DOE offices in December 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona, another National Tribal Energy Summit sponsored by DOE will be held next week in Washington, D.C. Mr. Wade added that a member of his staff will be in attendance.

The 2014 NNSS Environmental Report has been recently published and available online at <http://www.nv.energy.gov/library/publications/asr.aspx>. NSSAB recommendations received in January 2015 on enhancements to the NNSS Environmental Report have been incorporated into the document.

Mr. Wade recapped that starting in 2014, the Department has conducted three tabletop exercises for emergency responders in southern Nevada in conjunction with the national Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program. The planning for a fourth tabletop exercise continues utilizing stakeholder input with a tentative date in early November 2015. The focus of this tabletop exercise will be the involvement of Public Information Officers in communicating issues related to a LLW transportation incident. The NSSAB will be informed of the schedule and the Board may send representatives to observe.

Mr. Wade gave an update on the status of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. In February 2014, there were two incidents that lead to the cessation of transuranic (TRU) waste disposal operations at WIPP, and as a result have led to changes not only to the EM program but across the DOE complex. Secretary Ernest Moniz visited with WIPP management and the public

regarding the restart of operations at WIPP and determined that the Department cannot support restarting in early 2016 as originally planned. The Department will not go public with another restart date until it has complete confidence that the date can be met. The NSSAB will receive updates on a new restart date for WIPP at future meetings.

Mr. Wade concluded with an update regarding a newspaper article regarding Husman irradiators that were recently transported and disposed at the NNSS. Three Husman irradiators were provided to Mexico by the United States in the early 1970s to eliminate its screw worm populations, and this project was completed a few years ago. The NFO went through its waste profile acceptance procedures and worked logistically with all the agencies involved for the safe transport and disposal, and ensured that the State of Nevada was advised throughout the process.

### **Other NSSAB Business** (*Donna Hruska, Chair*)

Chair Hruska informed the Board that a draft recommendation letter created throughout FY 2015 by the NSSAB regarding Communication Improvement Opportunities (Work Plan Item #10) was included in the meeting packet. Vice-Chair Keiserman made a motion to approve the draft recommendation letter as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Hruska noted that a draft recommendation letter regarding LLW Transportation through Nevada was included in the meeting packet. This draft recommendation resulted from Board discussion and deliberation at the July 15, 2015 Full Board meeting after a briefing by an official on Nye County's perspectives on LLW transportation. Member Michael D'Alessio made a motion to approve the draft recommendation letter as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Facilitator Ulmer explained that a bylaws review of the eight local boards under the federally-chartered EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) was an initiative of EM Headquarters (HQs) in an effort to make the language more consistent among all the local boards. The proposed bylaws for the NSSAB have been reviewed by EM HQs and General Counsel and were emailed to the NSSAB the week of September 8 for review. The NSSAB Office will provide a markup with the major changes to the bylaws before the next meeting. The proposed bylaws will be voted on at the next Full Board meeting and requires a two-thirds majority in order to pass.

The Board had lengthy discussion and dialogue in regard to responding to questions from the public during the Public Comment period and if the bylaws should include language as such. The discussion centered on different mechanisms or means on how to respond appropriately to public questions and concerns. DDFO Kelly Snyder reminded the Board that the policy for the formal Public Comment period is dictated by EM HQs and cannot be changed; however, there are various ways that DOE has responded to public comments in the past, including answering public questions as appropriate later in the meeting's agenda, developing a written response to a question at a later time if within EM's purview, or soliciting public input while the NSSAB is deliberating on a work plan item and before finalizing a recommendation to the DOE. No specific actions resulted from the discussion.

In July 2015, the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) Workshop was attended by Members Amina Anderson, Donna Hruska, Janice Keiserman, Don Neill, Edward Rosemark, Steve Rosenbaum, Thomas Seley, and Jack Sybolt. Member Rosemark provided an overview on

some of the briefings that were given during the workshop and informed the Board that a wealth of information is located on the CEMP website at <http://www.cemp.dri.edu>. On the last day of the workshop, Chair Hruska reported that the group divided into breakout sessions and she was included with Community Environmental Monitors (CEMs) from Beatty, Amargosa Valley, and Tecopa, California. During the discussion, it was determined that many of the CEMs were not aware that Nye County was transitioning to take over some of the groundwater monitoring stations. As a result, the CEMs and Nye County worked out an alternate method for the CEMs to observe Nye County's monitoring process to verify and oversee the groundwater testing results. Chair Hruska also added that it was the first time many of the CEMs were able to tour the NNSS.

Chair Hruska reported that she and Vice-Chair Keiserman attended the EM SSAB National Chairs' Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico on September 1-3, 2015. Vice-Chair Keiserman noted that the Assistant Secretary of EM, Monica Regalbuto, was unable to attend the meeting. She continued by adding that the one and a half days of meetings were very organized and the presenters were informative and well-prepared. The first day was a tour of the Los Alamos National Laboratory with briefings provided on waste operations, and surface and groundwater issues. As part of the tour, attendees were given a cultural resource overview of the Tsirege Pueblo that is located adjacent to the Los Alamos site.

During the National Chairs' meeting, Chair Hruska added that the EM SSAB refined a white paper on "Best Practices for Informed Budget Recommendations." The NSSAB may choose to follow some of these best practices and the document will be circulated when the Board provides recommendations on the baseline next fiscal year. The EM Office of Communications and External Affairs provided a briefing on its missions and activities. This office has developed a one-page "By the Numbers" fact sheet for each of the sites with a local advisory board that gives salient points, such as, number of employees, budget, etc. This fact sheet may be used as a resource for the local community. Chair Hruska concluded by informing the Board that the EM SSAB revised the proposed recommendation on Supplemental Environmental Projects based on inputs received from the Chairs and the Vice-Chairs. This draft recommendation will be circulated when available and discussed and voted on at the next Full Board meeting.

Chair Hruska stated that she attended the annual RadWaste Summit on September 8-11, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This conference is a forum to discuss and communicate issues regarding the radioactive waste industry from different perspectives, such as, contractors, tribes, county and state government, commercial waste facilities, vendors, federal DOE staff, etc. Information on the RadWaste Summit is available online at: <http://www.exchangemonitor.com/index.cfm/forums/annual-radwaste-summit>.

Three letters were provided to Board members for informational purposes:

- NSSAB Recommendation for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 568 (Work Plan Item #2) – dated May 20, 2015
- DOE Response to NSSAB Recommendation for CAU 568 (Work Plan Item #2) – dated July 22, 2015
- NSSAB Recommendation regarding Conference Attendance for EM SSAB Members – dated May 20, 2015
- DOE Response to NSSAB Recommendation regarding Conference Attendance for EM SSAB Members – dated July 16, 2015
- NSSAB Recommendation for Soils Quality Assurance Plan (Work Plan Item #4) – dated May 20, 2015

- DOE Response to NSSAB Recommendation for Soils Quality Assurance Plan (Work Plan Item #4) – dated August 17, 2015

## **Liaison Updates**

### **CGTO** (*Richard Arnold*)

Liaison Richard Arnold reported that the CGTO has been working closely with the NNSS and the DOE/EM State Tribal Government Working Group in preparing for the National Tribal Energy Summit next week in Washington, D.C. During the summit, Liaison Arnold will be meeting with Secretary Moniz to explore opportunities to integrate traditional ecologically and culturally-based knowledge to DOE's decision-making processes. The CGTO is evaluating revegetation activities at the NNSS. Traditional blessings at the NNSS are very important to the tribes to ensure involvement and preparation of the natural resources; the CGTO will look at further involvement for tribal blessings with future EM activities, such as the upcoming UGTA drilling. Liaison Arnold noted that there is a local and national trend to involve the tribes in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education opportunities, such as internships, shadowing, and scholarships, etc. The CGTO wants to sustain tribal involvement in future National Environmental Policy Act documents through the development of tribal specific text. Involvement with the NNSS Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement was well received, and Liaison Arnold will be meeting with Mr. Whitney, EM-2, to discuss making it a national standard for future EM documents. Currently exploring opportunities for increased funding to engage the tribes in more EM activities at the NNSS. Liaison Arnold noted that he is working with the National Regulatory Commission on issues regarding tribal protocol, policies, and implementation plans that may enhance relationships between the tribes and other DOE offices in the future. The CGTO is working with DOE and NNSA to host an annual meeting locally to discuss areas of mutual interest regarding the NNSS.

### **NDEP** (*Christine Andres*)

Liaison Christine Andres reiterated that the Board provided a recommendation on a path forward for mixed waste disposal at the NNSS in FY 2015. Currently, the MLLW permit is up for renewal as of December 10, 2015. DOE remitted the application for renewal, and NDEP submitted it for public comment that closed on August 25, 2015. NDEP received one public comment through this process that was in favor of the renewal of the permit. NDEP submitted comments to the DOE and is awaiting its response. Since the permit's original issuance has been almost five years ago, NDEP comments were mostly to update the application for consistency to current operations. Liaison Andres stated that she does not have a definitive date for the issuance of the new MLLW permit. Once that date is finalized, Liaison Andres will coordinate with Liaison Arnold to schedule a tribal blessing.

In October 2006, Liaison Andres stated that responsibility for the Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA) was moved from DOE's Office of EM to DOE's Office of Legacy Management. CNTA is currently in the same stages of closure as the Frenchman Flat CAU at the NNSS. The activities at the CNTA are not under the purview of EM or the NSSAB, and the Board could not give a formal recommendation. However, Liaison Andres noted that the CNTA is located in Nye County, and the program manager is interested in providing an educational session and answering questions and listening to public input. After discussion, the NSSAB expressed interest in having an educational session on the CNTA, and Liaison Andres will work with the CNTA program manager on the logistics.

## **NWRPO (John Klenke)**

Liaison John Klenke updated the Board that the DOE grant to Nye County was finalized and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on September 15. This grant is to conduct groundwater sampling in conjunction with the CEMP. Liaison Klenke noted that Nye County will be participating and providing input on the UGTA preemptive review. He concluded by sharing his appreciation on behalf of Nye County for the NSSAB's support in providing a recommendation regarding LLW transportation through Nevada in response to Nye County's briefing at the last NSSAB meeting.

## **Industrial Sites FY 2015 Wrap Up and FY 2016 Planned Activities (Tiffany Lantow, DOE)**

### **• Industrial Sites FY 2015 Wrap Up**

- Planned: Continue to conduct Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Non-RCRA, and Tonopah Test Range (TTR) post-closure inspections; continue to work on revegetating the remaining CAU 111 covers
  - Status: All required post-closure inspections, repairs, and monitoring activities were completed in FY 2015
  - Status: The path forward for CAU 111 revegetation tests is in the planning phase
- Planned: Submit 2014 RCRA, Non-RCRA, and TTR monitoring reports to NDEP
  - Status:
    - 2014 RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Report submitted in January 2015
    - 2014 TTR Post-Closure Monitoring Report submitted in March 2015
    - 2014 Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Report submitted in May 2015
- Planned: Prepare a document consolidating the post-closure monitoring requirements for all sites
  - Status: The document is being developed and a draft is expected to be complete by September 2015

### **• Industrial Sites FY 2016 Planned Activities**

- Submit 2015 RCRA, Non-RCRA, and TTR Post-Closure Monitoring Report
- Continue to address revegetation efforts at CAU 111
- Review existing post-closure monitoring/inspection requirements for potential changes

### **• Proposed FY 2016 NSSAB Work Plan Items**

- Revegetation at CAU 111, Area 5 Closed Mixed Waste Cells

## **Soils FY 2015 Wrap Up and FY 2016 Planned Activities (Tiffany Lantow, DOE)**

### **• Remediation Processes**

- Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) – Details the investigation plan and provides information for planning investigation activities
- Site Investigation – Act of conducting field characterization activities
- Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) – Describes the results of the characterization, multiple corrective action alternatives, and the recommended corrective action alternative and the rationale for its selection
- Corrective Action Plan (CAP) – Plan for implementing the selected correction action
- Closure Field Work – Implementation of the selected corrective action at the site

- Closure Report (CR) – Documented overview and results of corrective actions implemented, closure verification information, and use restriction and monitoring requirements (when applicable)
  - **Note: All documents must be approved by NDEP**
- **Alternative Remediation Processes**
  - CADD/CR can be used when only “minor” corrective actions are needed, as agreed to by NDEP
  - CADD/CAP can be used when site knowledge gained through characterization and similar historical corrective actions is sufficient, as agreed to by NDEP, for planning corrective actions
  - Housekeeping process can be used when removal and disposal of debris/materials (such as batteries or drums) can be easily accomplished, and verification of clean closure is achieved through visual inspection and/or laboratory analysis of soil samples
  - Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) process may be used only when extensive process knowledge or sampling data exists – this process combines the CAIP, CADD and CAP into one plan
- **Soils FY 2015 Wrap Up**
  - Double Tracks Plutonium Dispersion (CAU 411)
    - Planned: Submit SAFER Plan to NDEP – March 2015
      - Status: Submitted SAFER Plan to NDEP in March 2015 and NDEP approved
  - Clean Slate I Plutonium Dispersion (CAU 412)
    - Planned: Submit SAFER Plan to NDEP – March 2015
      - Status: Submitted SAFER Plan to NDEP in April 2015 and NDEP approved
  - Small Boy (CAU 541)
    - Planned: Complete field activities – August 2015
      - Status: Field activities completed in May 2015
  - Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites (CAU 568)
    - Planned: Submit CADD to NDEP – August 2015
      - Status: Submitted CADD to NDEP in August 2015 and NDEP approved
  - Miscellaneous Soil Sites (CAU 567)
    - Planned: Submit CADD/CR to NDEP – December 2014
      - Status: Submitted CADD/CR to NDEP in December 2014 and NDEP approved
- **FY 2015 NSSAB Work Plan Item**
  - Provide a recommendation on which corrective action alternative (closure in place or clean closure) should be presented to NDEP for final approval for CAU 568 – Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites
    - NSSAB Recommendation – May 2015
    - DOE Response – July 2015
  - Provide a recommendation on ways that the Soils Quality Assurance Plan could be improved or enhanced
    - NSSAB Recommendation – May 2015
    - DOE Response – August 2015
- **FY 2016 Soils Planned Activities**
  - Small Boy (CAU 541)

- Planned: Submit the final CADD/CR to NDEP – May 2016
  - Double Tracks Plutonium Dispersion (CAU 411)
    - Planned: Submit the final Closure Report to NDEP – May 2016
  - Clean Slate I Plutonium Dispersion (CAU 412)
    - Planned: Submit the final Closure Report to NDEP – June 2016
  - Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion (CAU 413)
    - Planned: Submit the final CAIP Rev 1 to NDEP – July 2016
  - Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites (CAU 568)
    - Planned: Submit the final CAP to NDEP – May 2016
  - Alpha Contaminated Sites (CAU 573)
    - Planned: Submit the final CADD to NDEP – April 2016
- **Proposed FY 2016 NSSAB Work Plan Items**
  - Proposed Changes to Long-term Monitoring at Closed Sites
  - Air Monitoring Stations at the Tonopah Test Range
  - Corrective Action Alternatives for CAU 573, Alpha Contaminated Sites

**Groundwater Characterization FY 2015 Wrap Up and FY 2016 Planned Activities** (*Bill Wilborn, DOE*)

- **UGTA CAUs**
  - There are five CAUs that make up the UGTA activity:
    - Frenchman Flat (CAU 98)
    - Yucca Flat/Climax Mine (CAU 97)
    - Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain (CAU 99)
    - Central Pahute Mesa (CAU 101)
    - Western Pahute Mesa (CAU 102)
      - Western and Central Pahute Mesa area managed as one entity
- **UGTA FY 2015 Wrap Up**
  - Planned: Complete final Frenchman Flat Closure Report and submit for NDEP review by September 2015
    - Status: Draft report completed August 2015 and currently under review by NDEP
  - Planned: Determine data collection activity for well PM-3 by March 2015
    - Status: Completed on time for drilling of well ER-20-12 in September 2015 as well ER-20-12 was chosen as the collection activity from PM-3
  - Planned: Complete Yucca Flat External Peer Review
    - Re-plan CADD/CAP after technical resolution of External Peer Review recommendations
      - Status: Yucca Flat External Peer Review is complete (NSSAB observed)
      - Status: Prior to moving to CADD/CAP phase, UGTA plans to:
        - Complete multiple evaluation tasks and develop a better defense of current data as recommended by external peer review
        - Drill three new wells in FY 2016
  - Planned: Complete Rainier Mesa Flow and Transport Model Report for NDEP review by July 2015
    - Status: Per the Rainier Mesa Preemptive Review Committee, additional conceptualizations of lateral flow from Rainier Mesa need to

be considered and evaluated before flow and transport report can be completed

- Currently under discussion between DOE and NDEP in regard to “modeling needs” based on the Rainier Mesa alternative strategy that describes a closure path more appropriate to forecasted transport of the NNSS
- Planned: Begin Rainer Mesa External Peer Review participant selection by September 2015
  - Status: currently postponed to July 2017
    - Based on conclusions from discussions between DOE and NDEP and subsequent direction to the Rainier Mesa Preemptive Review Committee on review expectations
- Planned: Complete first annual Sampling Report for all CAUs by September 2015
  - Status: On schedule for September 2015
- Planned: Complete Sampling Techniques Testing Report by December 2014
  - Status: Expected December 2015
    - One technique deemed not usable
    - Report needed to be based on multiple sampling events and techniques; so re-planned based on newly scheduled field work different from the original plan
- **FY 2015 NSSAB Work Plan Item**
  - Provide a recommendation on possible improvements to the UGTA Quality Assurance Plan or assessment process
    - NSSAB Recommendation – February 2015
    - DOE Response – April 2015
- **FY 2016 Planned Activities**
  - Complete drilling of well ER-20-12 on Pahute Mesa by October 2015
  - Begin well development and testing at well ER-20-12
  - Sample four wells throughout Pahute Mesa by August 2016
  - Begin and complete drilling of three wells in Yucca Flat by summer 2016
  - Begin well development and testing of three wells in Yucca Flat by summer 2016 and likely complete two before FY 2017
  - Finalize Frenchman Flat Closure Report by October 2016
  - Begin Rainier Mesa Supplemental Analysis of any additional modeling that may be required based on DOE, NDEP, and Preemptive Review Committee input by April 2016
  - Complete Sampling of four Rainier Mesa wells by September 2016
- **Proposed FY 2016 NSSAB Work Plan Items**
  - Frenchman Flat Long-term Monitoring Plan (Closure Report)
  - Path to Closure for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- Planned UGTA drilling on Pahute Mesa is not on public lands and groundwater contamination has not been found on or near public lands.
- The average depth of planned drilling for the three Yucca Flat wells averages 3,000 feet.
- Rainier Mesa and Shoshone Mountain are included in the same CAU as they are studied together due to the interconnections between the areas from a hydrostatic standpoint.

## Waste Management FY 2015 Wrap Up and FY 2016 Planned Activities (Jhon Carilli, DOE)

- **Waste Management FY 2015 Wrap Up**
  - Planned: Safely dispose over 1.2 million cubic feet (ft<sup>3</sup>) of forecasted LLW and MLLW at the NNSS
    - Status: As of June 30, 2015, the NNSS safely disposed of over 930K ft<sup>3</sup> of LLW/MLLW
    - FY 2015 total volume projections is on target
  - Planned: Submit annual Performance Assessment Summary Report to the LLW Federal Review Group by April 2015
    - Status: Submitted in April 2015
      - Currently being evaluated by the LLW Federal Review Group
      - NNSS conclusions were the Performance Assessment/ Composite Analyses assumptions are still valid
  - Planned: Submit annual NNSS Groundwater Monitoring Program Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site Data Report to NDEP by March 2015
    - Status: Submitted in February 2015 and NDEP had no comments
- **Waste Management FY 2015 Wrap Up Additional Activities**
  - NFO initiated preliminary planning activities, including discussion with NDEP, and submittal of permit modification for construction of a new MLLW cell in FY 2017
    - At current MLLW disposal rates, MLLW Cell 18 will be at capacity in fourth quarter of FY 2017 or first quarter FY 2018
- **FY 2015 NSSAB Work Plan Item**
  - Review the current status and anticipated need for future mixed waste disposal capabilities and provide a recommendation on a path forward for mixed waste disposal at the NNSS
    - NSSAB Recommendation – January 2015
    - DOE Response – July 2015
    - In July 2015, NDEP published a public notice for a renewal of the MLLW permit with public comments due the end of August 2015; final decision to issue the Permit and to establish permit conditions will be made after all comments have been considered
- **Waste Management FY 2016 Planned Activities**
  - Safely dispose approximately 1.5 million ft<sup>3</sup> of forecasted LLW/MLLW at the NNSS
  - Submit annual Performance Assessment Summary Report to the LLW Federal Review Group by April 2016
  - Submit annual NNSS Groundwater Monitoring Program Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site Data Report to NDEP by March 2016
  - Complete planning activities for new MLLW Cell
- **Proposed FY 2016 NSSAB Work Plan Item**
  - LLW Transportation
  - Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program Assessment Improvement Opportunities

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- LLW cells have different capacities and are built with safety in mind; an average cell has a capacity of approximately two million cubic feet.
- Construction of a cell takes approximately three months to complete.
- There is no differentiation between LLW and MLLW requirements for transportation routes.

- Recognizing that waste transportation is a community sensitivity, DOE has continued interest in stakeholder input regarding this focus area.
- Classified waste streams were not included in the original projections for the MLLW cell.

### **EM FY 2015 Wrap Up and FY 2016 Planned Activities** (*Scott Wade, DOE*)

- **FY 2015 NSSAB Work Plan Item**
  - Provide a recommendation to the DOE on ways the annual NNSS Environmental Report could be enhanced
    - NSSAB Recommendation – January 2015
    - DOE Response – February 2015
    - FY 2014 report will be published in October 2015 and incorporates NSSAB's comments
  - Provide a recommendation to the DOE on ways the briefings given at the Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, Arizona could be enhanced
    - NSSAB Recommendation – January 2015
    - DOE Response – February 2015
    - NSSAB comments considered and incorporated into NSSAB Chair's briefing, "NSSAB-Communicating Progress to Stakeholders on Groundwater at the NNSS"
  - Provide a recommendation on ways the DOE can improve/enhance communication to the public
    - NSSAB Recommendation – September 2015
    - DOE Response – Board action tonight
  - Review FY 2017 baseline funding needs and provide a recommendation to the DOE prioritizing the work by activity
    - NSSAB Recommendation – March 2015
    - DOE response to NSSAB – April 2015
    - Budget Guidance Issued by EM HQ to Field Offices – April 2015
    - NFO Presented Budget Briefing to EM HQ – April 2015
    - Integrated Priority List Submitted to EM HQ – June 2015
    - Final DOE Budget to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – TBD ~ September 2015
    - OMB Budget Decisions Issued – TBD
    - OMB Passback – TBD ~ November/December 2015
    - President's Budget to Congress – TBD ~ February 2016
- **Proposed FY 2016 NSSAB Work Plan Item**
  - FY 2018 Baseline Prioritization
  - Communication Improvement Opportunities

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- The annual allocated budget for the NFO includes funding for public outreach and communications, and the Public Involvement team performs a variety of outreach activities every year. The budget for the NSSAB also comes from the NFO budget, and approximately \$200K was spent on the Board in the last fiscal year, that includes advertising, rental space, printing, travel, contractor salaries, but does not include the federal salaries to support the Board. The NSSAB budget will need to be increased for FY 2016 to cover costs incurred with the membership drive and the hosting of the EM SSAB National Chairs' meeting. Every dollar spent on communications and public involvement is

a dollar less that can be spent on cleanup activities; therefore the NFO prioritizes these activities during the decision-making process.

## **FY 2016 Work Plan Development**

### **FY 2015 Evaluation Results**

DDFO Snyder highlighted some key items in response to the FY 2015 NSSAB Member and Liaison evaluations:

- A recurring theme is members would like more education, more explanation on certain items, and more time to explore and understand the EM world; therefore educational sessions will continued to be offered in FY 2016. NFO will look at ways to provide more time for other educational opportunities during Full Board meetings as well.
- In regard to the length and frequency of meetings, there were differing opinions. There were comments that members sometimes feel rushed to provide a recommendation. There were also comments that meetings are too long, but there were also comments that members would like more information and briefings. DDFO Snyder provided information on the frequency and length of Full Board and planning meetings for the other seven EM SSAB.
- There were several suggestions that a meeting be held in Tonopah.
- Another recurring theme is that the Board would like to send more members to conferences, workshops, national meetings, etc.

DDFO Snyder asked the Board to consider the following items:

- When voting on the proposed FY 2016 work plan, consider not supporting all the items; therefore having less items to work on and more time to work on each item without extending the length of the meeting. The proposed Full Board meeting schedule for FY 2016 is structured around holding a meeting every other month with a number of out-of-town events. If the Board approves all the work plan items and chooses to meet more often, it will leave less travel dollars to attend workshops, conferences, national meetings, etc.
- On some, but not all, work plan items, there are milestone deadlines associated that require a quick turnaround for recommendations.
- Within budget, the Board does have control on who attends workshops, conferences, national meetings, etc., except that it is outlined in the bylaws that the Chair is required to attend the EM SSAB National Chairs' meetings.

In response to Board questions/comments, the following clarifications were provided:

- If DOE reimbursement is unavailable, members may attend EM-related workshops, conferences, EM SSAB National Chairs' meetings, etc. and chose to use their own money. NFO will let members know of these opportunities in advance.
- Members are encouraged to borrow and review any materials that attendees receive after attending events. Agendas, minutes, recommendations, presentations for the national EM SSAB National Chairs' meetings are available online at:  
<http://www.energy.gov/em/services/communication-engagement/em-site-specific-advisory-board-em-ssab>.

The NFO proposed ten work plan items related to EM activities planned for FY 2016 for the NSSAB's consideration. The DOE Activity Leads communicated whether the deadline for the recommendations for each of the work plan items was linked to a milestone deadline.

### **Other NSSAB Task Input**

Member Michael Moore proposed a work plan item to provide a recommendation on unique waste streams, i.e. Husman irradiators, disposed at the NNSS. After Board discussion and deliberation, the NSSAB chose not to include as a proposed work plan item but as a future educational session.

After reviewing the tasks, members voted on each task separately and all ten tasks received a majority vote:

### **DOE FY 2016 Proposed NSSAB Work Plan Tasks:**

1. From a community perspective, provide recommendations on which corrective action alternative (closure in place or clean closure) should be selected by the NFO for CAU 573, Alpha Contaminated Sites.
2. From a community perspective, provide a recommendation regarding the proposed changes to current requirements for long-term monitoring at closed sites.
3. From a community perspective, provide recommendations suggesting a path forward regarding the cover at CAU 111, Area 5 Closed Mixed Waste Cells.
4. From a community perspective, provide recommendations for whether air monitoring stations at the Tonopah Test Range should be moved to different locations or continue at the current locations, or a combination.
5. From a community perspective, provide a recommendation as to if the draft Frenchman Flat long-term monitoring plan (closure report) meets communities' expectations and if there are any recommended changes.
6. From a community perspective, provide a recommendation on if the Board supports the path to closure for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain plan and how it could be enhanced.
7. From a community perspective, provide a recommendation on ways to improve the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program assessment process.
8. From a community perspective, review the FY 2018 baseline funding needs and provide a recommendation prioritizing the work by activity.
9. From a community perspective, provide a recommendation on how waste transportation could be improved by the DOE.
10. From a community perspective, provide recommendation(s) on way that DOE can improve/enhance communication to the public (i.e. presentations, open houses, documents, fact sheets).

Member Thomas Seley moved to approve the draft Work Plan Recommendation letter to DOE with the work plan tasks. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **FY 2016 Chair/Vice-Chair Election Results**

The nominee for the Chair position was Donna Hruska and for the Vice-Chair position was Michael D'Alessio, Janice Keiserman, Steve Rosenbaum, and Thomas Seley. Election was held by written ballot. Donna Hruska was elected Chair and Janice Keiserman will serve as Vice-Chair for FY 2016.

## **FY 2016 Meetings and Locations**

- **Approval of Proposed Schedule**

A proposed schedule was provided based on the timing of briefings and due dates of recommendations included in the FY 2016 Work Plan. The Full Board meeting schedule for FY 2016 was decided by the NSSAB, as follows:

- Wednesday, November 10 or 12, 2015 (TBD)
- Wednesday, January 20, 2016
- Wednesday, March 16, 2016
- Wednesday, May 18, 2016
- Wednesday, July 20, 2016
- Wednesday, September 21, 2016

- **NSSS Tour**

An NSSS Tour is open to all members and liaisons, and is scheduled for a full day on Thursday, October 15, 2015. More details are forthcoming. The tour will include sites in the FY 2016 Work Plan to enrich the Board's knowledge base and assist with recommendations.

- **Next Full Board Meeting**

Since DOE Federal staff and county liaisons will be attending an Intergovernmental meeting out-of-state the third week of November 2015, the NSSAB suggested either November 10 or November 12 as alternates. The NSSAB Office will review the voting for the meeting locations and the date of the November 2015 Full Board meeting and notify the Board when finalized. An educational session on groundwater will begin at 4 p.m.

## **Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Keiserman moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.