

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

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**Full Board Meeting Handouts for
Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

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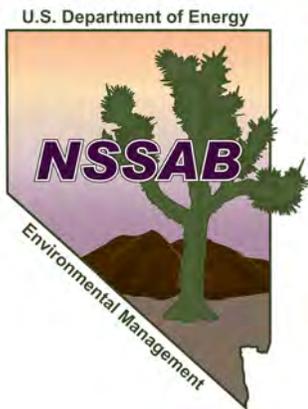


NSSAB MEETING ATTENDANCE

Full Board Meetings

October 2015 through September 2016 (FY 2016)

Name	11/10/15	1/20/16	3/16/16	5/18/16	7/20/16	9/21/16	Max Terms
MEMBERS							
Michael Anderson	√	√					2020
Amina Anderson	√	√					2020
Michael D'Alessio	√	√					2020
Pennie Edmond	√	√					2020
Donna Hruska	√	√					2016
Janice Keiserman	√	√					2018
Michael Moore	√	E					2016
Donald Neill	√	E					2020
Edward Rosemark	√	√					2018
Steve Rosenbaum	√	√					2020
William Sears	√	√					2018
Thomas Seley	√	√					2020
Cecilia Flores Snyder	√	√					2020
Jack Sypolt	√	E					2017
Francisca Vega	√	E					2020
LIAISONS							
Clark County	√	√					
Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations	√	E					
Esmeralda County Commission	√	√					
Nye County Commission	E	U					
Nye Co. Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office	√	√					
State of NV Division of Env Protection	√	√					
U.S. Natl Park Service	E	√					
KEY: √ = Present E - Excused V=Vacant U = Unexcused RM = Remove RS = Resign							



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

January 20, 2016

Mr. Robert F. Boehlecke
Environmental Management Operations Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Field Office
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Frenchman Flat Long-term Monitoring Plan
- Closure Report (Work Plan Item #5)

Dear Mr. Boehlecke,

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) was asked to provide recommendations, from a community perspective, to the U.S. Department of Energy as to if the draft Frenchman Flat Long-term Monitoring Plan (Closure Report) meets communities expectations and if there are any recommended changes.

After receiving a briefing, review of the document, and further deliberation, the NSSAB recommends the following changes:

- Provide a drawing/diagram/narrative to further explain and clarify the water flow directions that are contained within the regional flow system versus the local flow system.
- Develop a brief pictorial summary of the document for the general public that can be accessible on the Nevada Field Office's website.

The Board wishes to thank Nicole DeNovio, Irene Farnham, and Bill Wilborn for briefing and answering questions regarding this Work Plan item.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

cc: D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
K. K. Snyder, NFO
S. A. Wade, NFO
B. R. Wilborn, NFO
B. K. Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons

Members

Michael Anderson
Amina Anderson
Michael D'Alessio
Pennie Edmond
Donna Hruska, Chair
Janice Keiserman, Vice Chair
Michael Moore
Donald Neill
Edward Rosemark
Steve Rosenbaum
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Liaisons

Clark County
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and Organizations
Esmeralda County Commission
Nye County Commission
Nye County Nuclear Waste
Repository Project Office
State of Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection
U.S. National Park Service

Administration

Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro
Kelly Snyder, DDFO
U.S. Department of Energy,
Nevada Field Office

Path to Closure for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain ~ Work Plan Item #6



**Bill Wilborn, DOE UGTA Activity Lead and
Andrew Tompson, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain,
CAU Lead, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
January 20, 2016**



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NSSAB Work Plan Item #6

The NSSAB will provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, on if the Board supports the plan to closure for Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain and how it could be enhanced

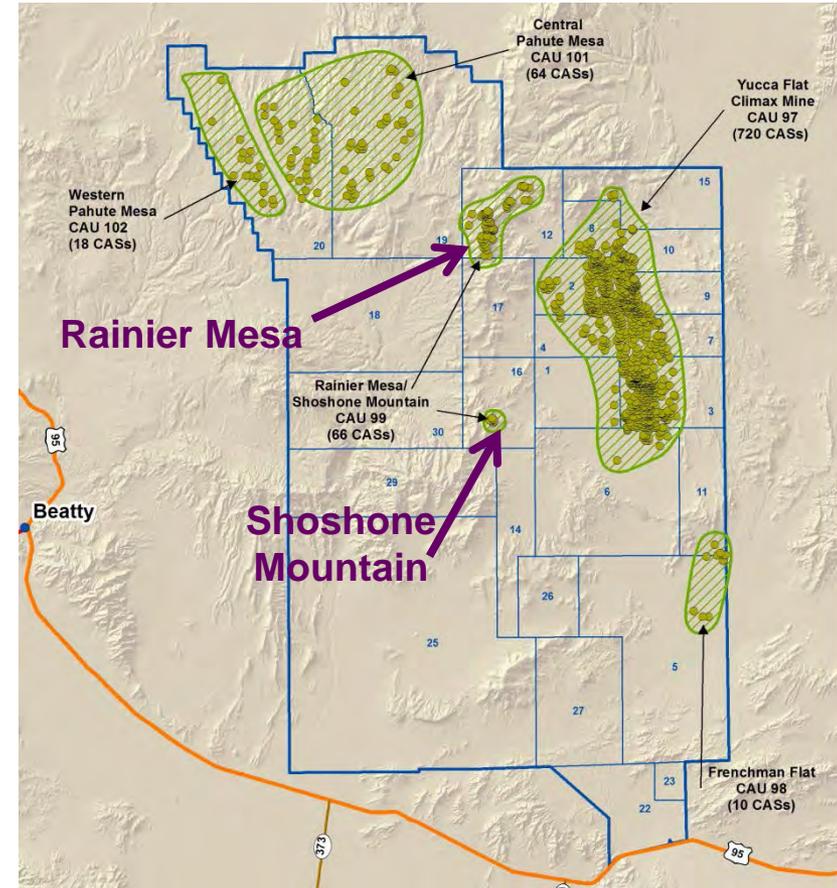


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Underground Test Area (UGTA) Activity Corrective Action Units (CAUs)

- Yucca Flat/Climax Mine – CAU 97
- Frenchman Flat – CAU 98
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain (RM/SM) – CAU 99
- Central Pahute Mesa – CAU 101
- Western Pahute Mesa – CAU 102



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NSSAB Work Plan Tour and Briefing at Rainier Mesa ~ October 2015



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NSSAB Work Plan Tour and Briefing at Rainier Mesa ~ October 2015 (continued)



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NSSAB Work Plan Tour and Briefing at Rainier Mesa ~ October 2015 (continued)

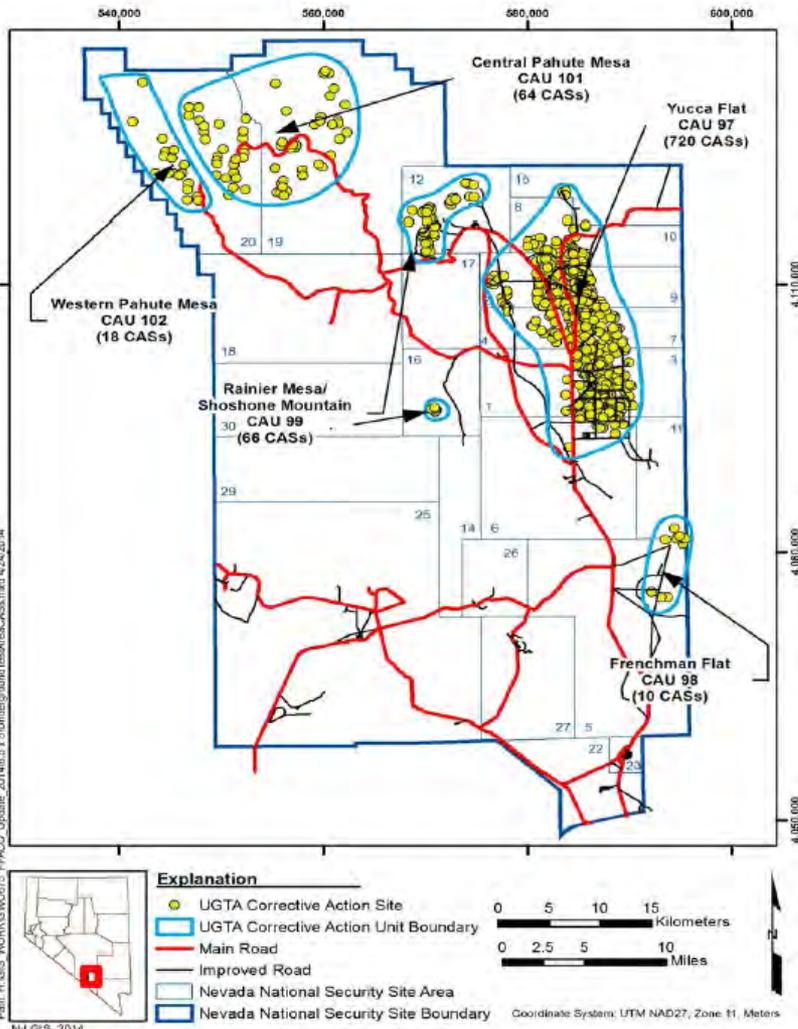


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RM/SM Legacy Tests

- **Eight percent** of total number of Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) underground tests (828)
- **0.7%** of total NNSS underground radionuclide inventory, by curies (largest fraction is tritium)
- All tests located above regional groundwater system, either in shallow “perched” groundwater or unsaturated rock



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Goal

Develop a Closure Plan for RM/SM CAU 99 that is protective of human health and the environment

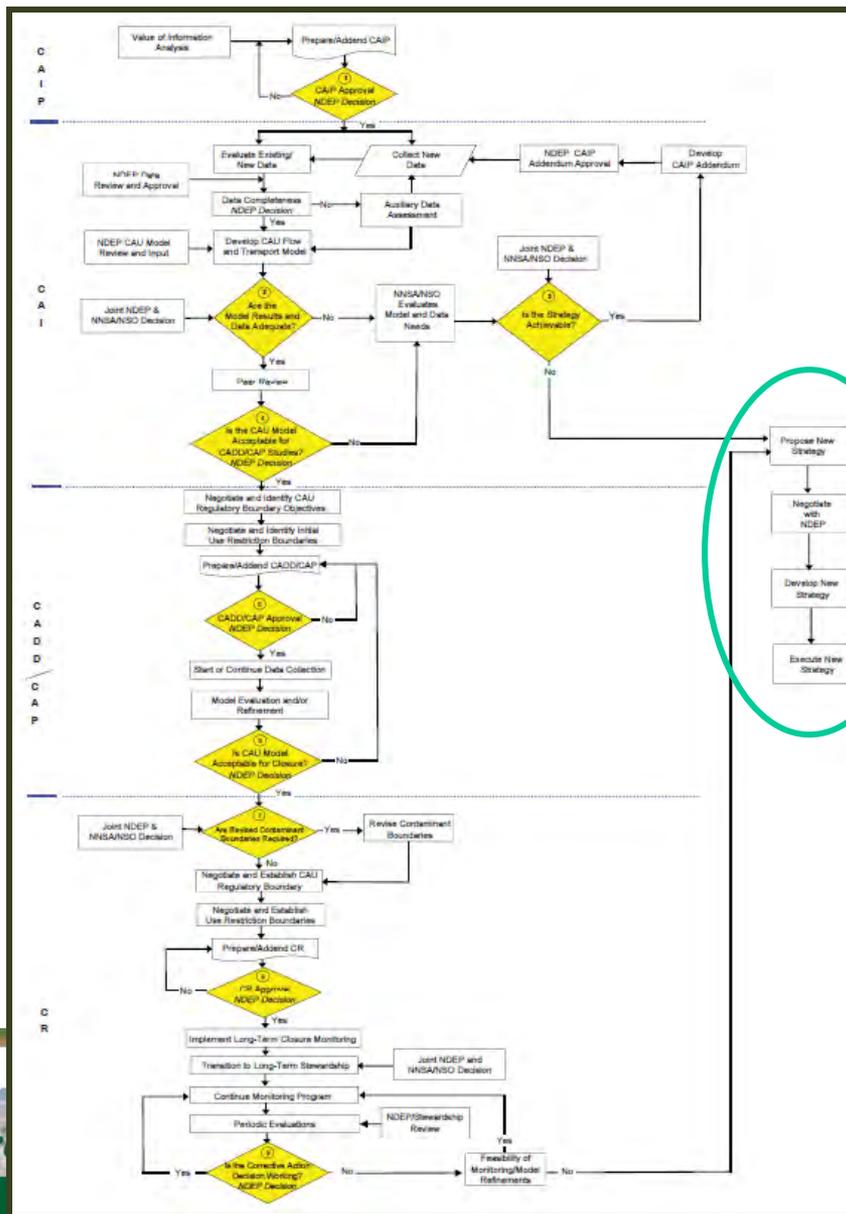
- Approach:
 - Collaboratively developed Technical Basis Agreement Document with the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)
 - Provides the justification for the Alternative Modeling Strategy



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UGTA Groundwater Closure Strategy



Why Use an Alternative Modeling Strategy?



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Technical Basis Agreement Document Established Need for Alternative Strategy

1. RM/SM CAU is **remote** and **geographically isolated**
2. RM/SM radionuclide **inventory is low** and separated from the deeper regional water table
3. RM/SM has **geologic complexity** and **uncertain parameters**
4. Initial simulations suggested radionuclide transport would **not immediately challenge NNSS boundaries**
5. Alternative Modeling Strategy **appropriately reduces uncertainty** consistent with the risk
6. Complex geological conditions make monitoring the **optimal protective strategy** – well locations are the key



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Elements of the Alternative Modeling Strategy

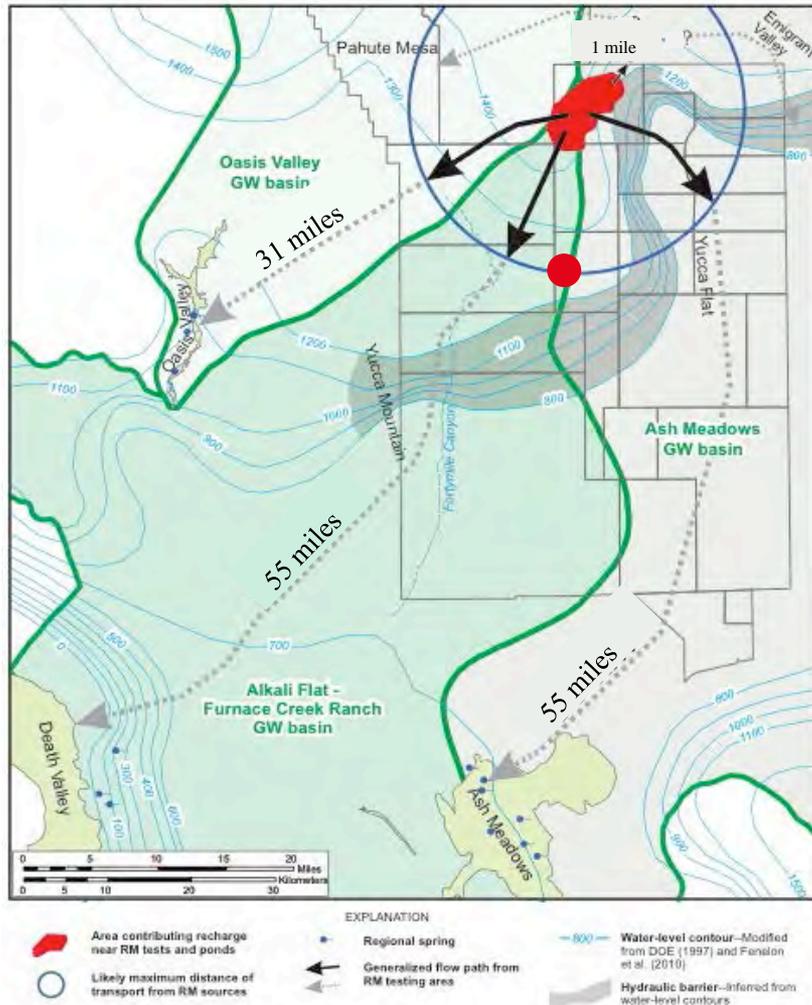
- Alternative Modeling Strategy provides a mechanism to revise the Flow and Transport Modeling Report to reflect:
 - A **broader range of transport alternatives**
 - **Simpler model analyses** to bound alternatives (a lesson learned from Frenchman Flat External Peer Review)
 - Potential exposure pathways to **support future monitoring strategies**



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RM/SM CAU Regional Flow Pathways



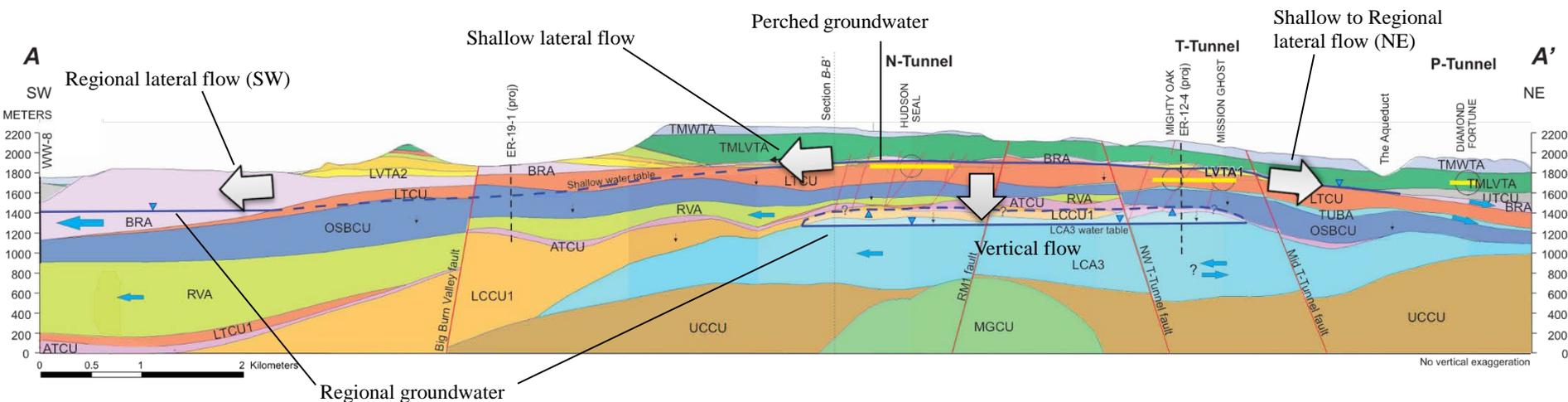
- Topographically elevated
- Largest NNSS precipitation rates
- Isolated regional groundwater mound
- Regional flow pathways generally move west, southwest, and southeast into Pahute Mesa and Yucca Flat CAUs
- Potential northeast path loops offsite to Nellis Range areas and then back to the south



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RM/SM Geologic and Hydrologic System



○ Portion of three cavity radii (3 Rc) sphere intersected by trace of section--Cavity radii based on maximum announced yield (DOE/NV, 2000) and equation 1 in Pawloski (1999).

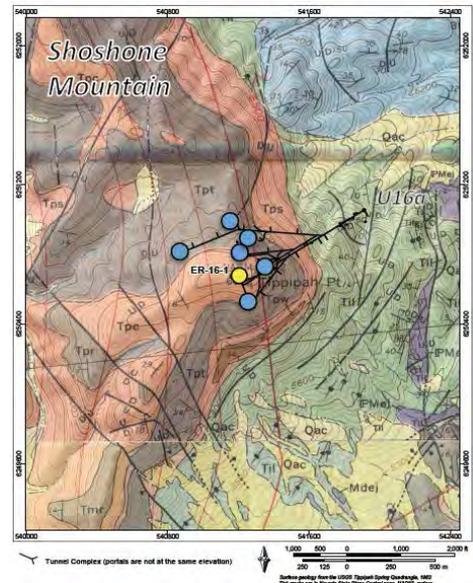
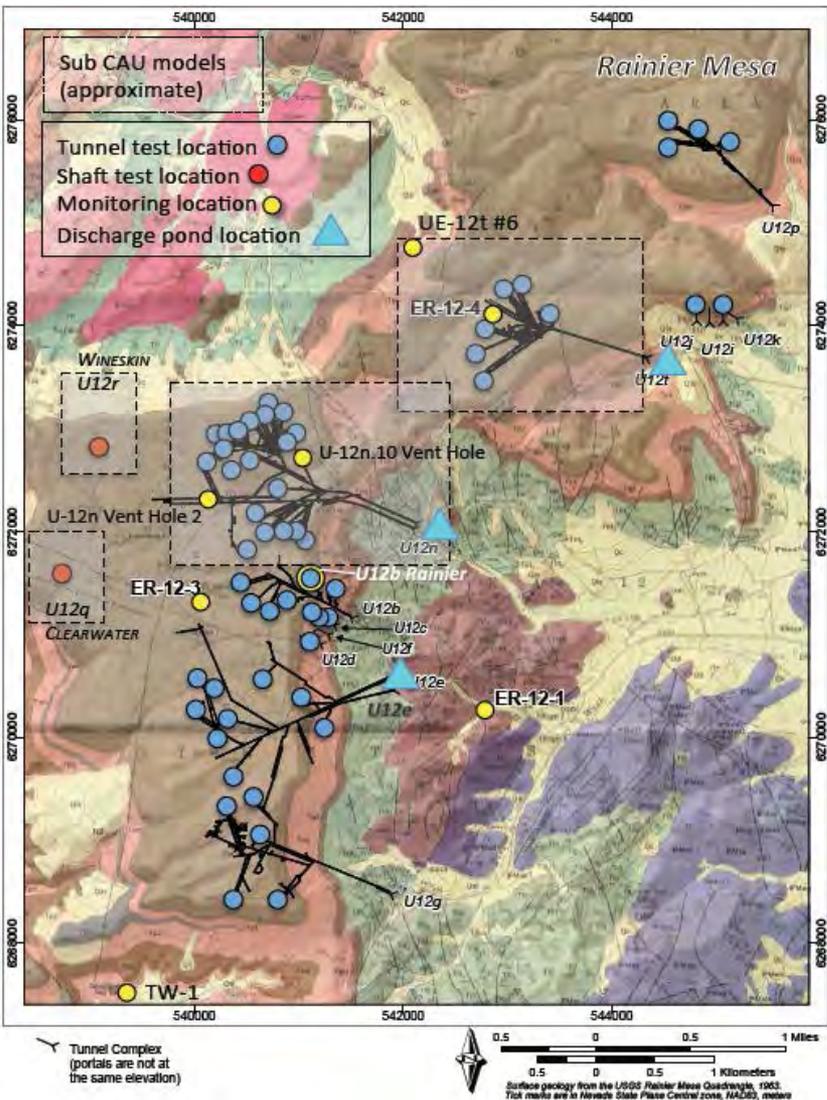


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Tunnels Offered Unique Testing Environment

- All but two of the tests were conducted in **tunnels** mined into the face of Rainier Mesa or Shoshone Mountain
- CLEARWATER and WINESKIN were the only tests conducted in vertical shafts



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RM/SM Closure Strategy

- Supplement the modeling work done to date
- Address lateral flow and other scenarios in a simpler way
 - Conceptual model based approach
 - Regional flow using measured parameters
 - Simplified one-dimensional transport analyses
- Monitoring program



Work Since Alternative Modeling Strategy was Adopted

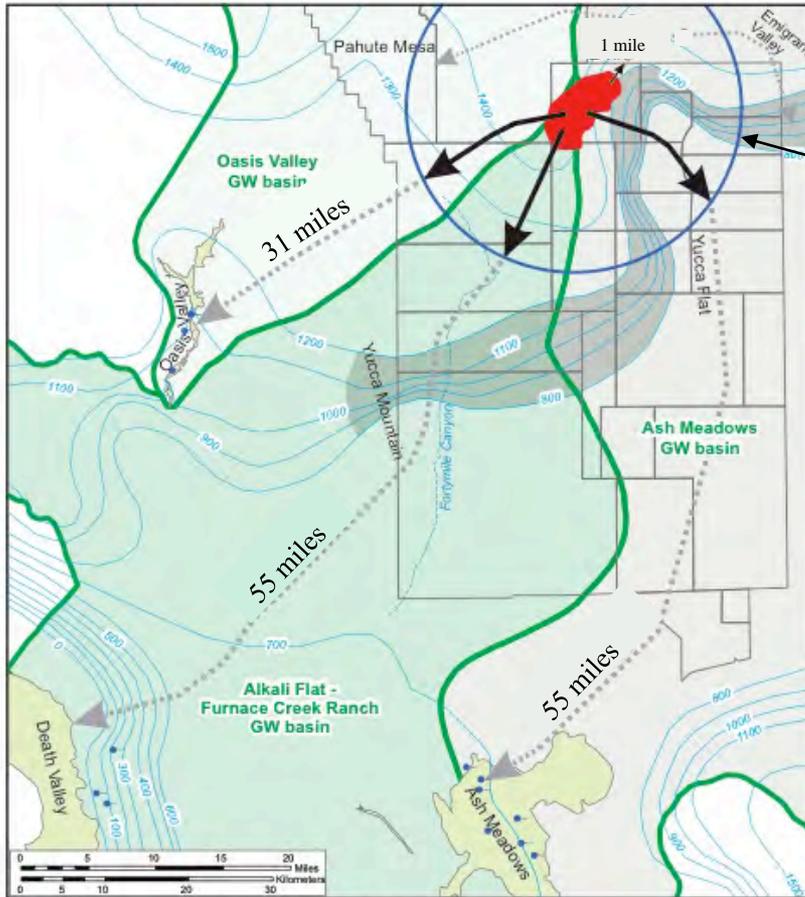
- Completion of a new **Conceptual Model Chapter**
 - Revisit all available hydrogeologic data
 - Identifies bases for regional transport pathways and alternatives
 - Preemptive review
- **Updated Hydrogeologic Framework Model** and associated documentation
 - Preemptive review
 - Modeling team review
- Development of a **path to closure** for RM/SM



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One-Dimensional Modeling



12 mile circle

- Red area represents the approximate perched water area
- Analyze the transport of radionuclides beginning from the edge of the red area (Conservative Assumption)
- Consistent with the Alternative Modeling System



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Work Remaining

- Flow and Transport modeling
 - Complete one-dimensional lateral flow models
 - Address residual comments from Preemptive Review as they relate to the Alternative Modeling Strategy
- Flow and Transport Report
 - Simpler Flow and Transport Report that augments earlier work, yet is better aligned with the Alternative Modeling Strategy



Benefits

- Provides simplified, but technically defensible forecasts of maximum and minimum contaminant transport scenarios from Rainier Mesa as per the Alternative Modeling Strategy
- Significantly reduces, or eliminates, the need to update existing models created prior to the adoption of the Alternative Modeling Strategy (will save years of effort and \$\$\$)
- Allows for relatively rapid analysis of multiple scenarios
- Protects human health and the environment



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Proposed Path Forward

- Fiscal Year 2016:
 - Minor revisions to existing models and reports
 - Conceptual Model Based Approach (which honors the existing data)
 - Use one-dimensional analyses to assess radionuclide transport under a variety of scenarios per the Alternative Modeling Strategy
 - Monitoring strategy
- Beyond Fiscal Year 2016:
 - Agreement from NDEP that model results and data are adequate
 - External Peer Review



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NSSAB Path Forward

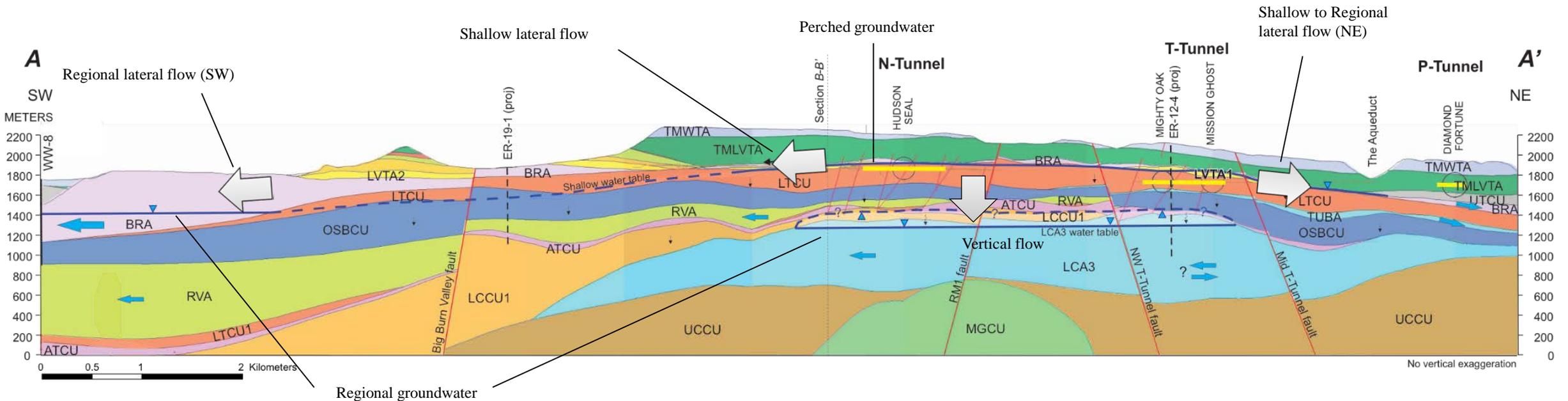
- NSSAB Discussion:
 - Are you in support of DOE's path forward?
 - Are there any enhancements to the path forward?
 - Are there any other questions or concerns?



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RM/SM Geologic and Hydrologic System




Portion of three cavity radii (3 Rc) sphere intersected by trace of section--Cavity radii based on maximum announced yield (DOE/NV, 2000) and equation 1 in Pawloski (1999).

Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Storm Impacts to Closed Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) Sites



**Robert Boehlecke, Environmental Management
Operations Manager**

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

January 20, 2016



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NNSS Storm Damage - October 2015

- On October 18, 2015, the NNSS experienced some of the worst flooding in the site's recent history
- Although flash flooding is not uncommon to the area, the overall duration and extent of this storm was much more widespread than typical "single-cell" events, covering a broad swath of the NNSS



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NNSS Storm Damage - October 2015 (continued)

- Primarily a rain and flash flooding event
- A factor contributing to the flash flooding event was the existing ground moisture from a previous storm

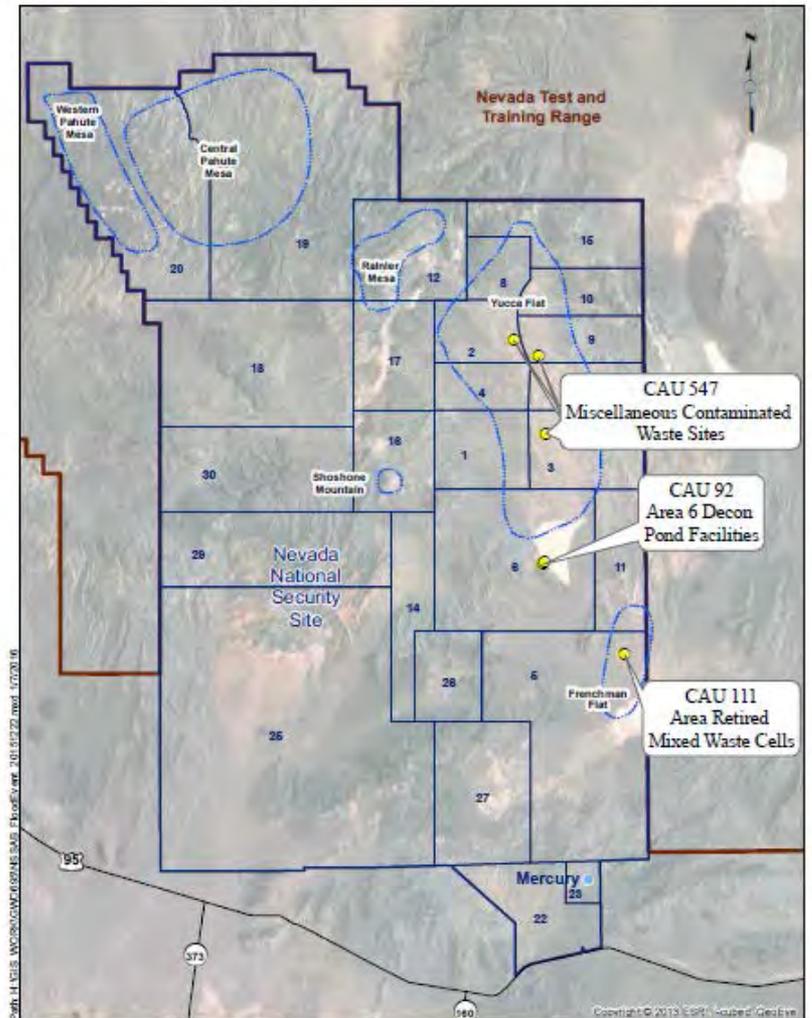


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Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites

- Within days of the event, inspections were conducted at several closed FFACO sites suspected to have been impacted
 - Three Corrective Action Units (CAUs) have precipitation triggers (i.e., inspection is required after a rainfall event that exceeds one inch in a 24-hour period)



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Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites (continued)

- CAU 547 (Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites - Player and Mullet Sites) - inspectors noted erosion of the run-off control features, but no damage to the integrity of the closure system



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Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites (continued)

- CAU 111 (Retired Mixed Waste Cells) in Area 5 - inspectors noted erosion of the side slopes consisting of drainage rills, although no waste was exposed
- CAU 92 (Area 6 Decon Pond Facility) - no damage was noted



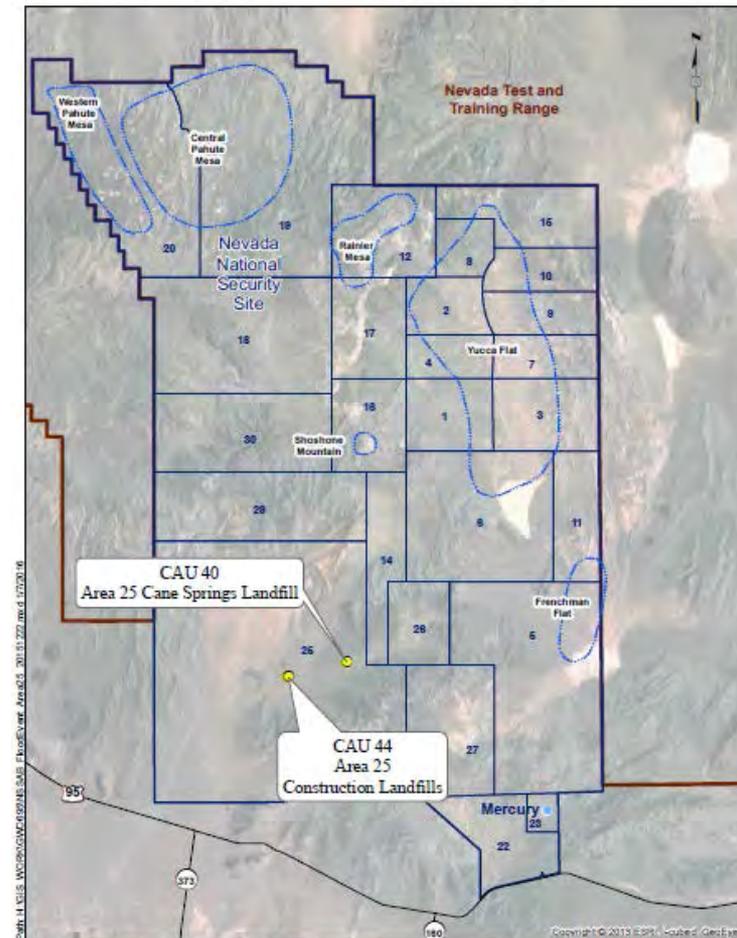
Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites (continued)

- Other sites were inspected throughout the month of November through mid-December 2015
 - Sites were prioritized based on location, radiological issues and access requirements
 - No radiological issues were identified through surveys conducted during the inspections
 - At many of the sites, postings are in need of repair



Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites (continued)

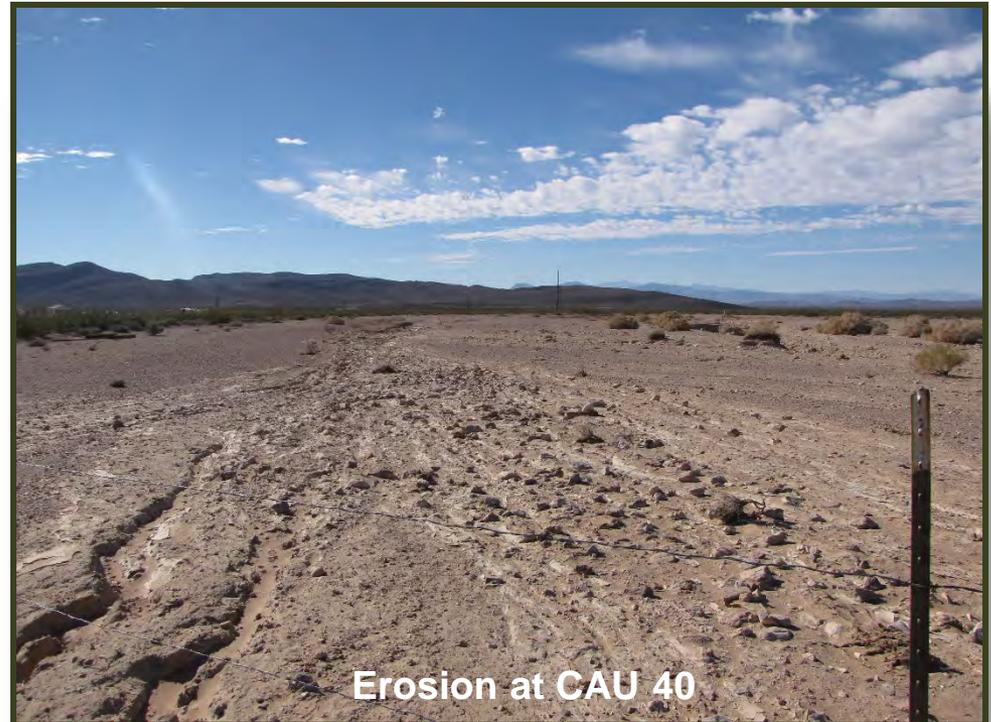
- CAU 40 and CAU 44 in Area 25 require repairs to the closure caps due to erosion
 - o Historic landfills used to dispose of non-radioactive, non-hazardous refuse, rubbish, and construction debris



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Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites (continued)

- CAU 40, Area 25 Cane Springs Landfill – inspectors noted the presence of large drainages cut into the northeast and northwest corners; minimal debris also observed



Impacts to Closed FFACO Sites (continued)

- o CAU 44, Area 25 Construction Landfills – inspectors noted a large erosion through the center of the landfill cap

Landfill
Monuments



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CAU 44 Repair Plan

- Complete visual survey downgradient
 - Preliminary site walks have identified debris approximately 55 yards downgradient
 - Additional visual surveys will be conducted to 110 yards
 - If additional debris is located, surveys will extend another 110 yards until no debris is identified
- Pick up debris and disposition
- Complete cover repairs in 2016



Consequences

- The flooding event impacted roads, buildings, and areas where surface contamination exists
 - Most contaminated sites are within closed basins
 - In drainages that flow off-site, it is estimated that less than one percent of the total soil erosion is from contaminated areas
 - During the last 40-50 years of seasonal flooding, radiological surveys have not identified any significant contamination in eroded sediments



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Path Forward

- Perform repairs to affected CAUs
 - CAU 111 – February 2016
 - CAU 547 – February 2016
 - CAU 40 and 44 – May 2016
- Repair or replace damaged postings – Fall 2016



Fallen
Monument



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Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

September 16, 2015

Mr. Frank Marcinowski
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20585

Mr. Robert F. Boehlecke
Environmental Management Operations Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Field Office
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Recommendation Regarding Low-Level Waste (LLW) Transportation through Nevada

Dear Mr. Marcinowski and Mr. Boehlecke,

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) has predominantly supported LLW disposal at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and supports that continued activity. In conjunction with waste disposal activities, the NSSAB has become more involved in understanding waste transportation activities. At its July 2015 Full Board meeting, the NSSAB had the opportunity to receive information on radiological basics, radioactive material shipping packages, and hazard recognition. In addition, a presentation was also given by Nye County officials on their perspectives on LLW transportation to the NNSS.

The Board is aware that many of the issues related to transportation are dictated by non-Department of Energy (DOE) entities, such as the Department of Transportation. However, the Board feels it is important for the DOE to take a more active role in ensuring communities on LLW transportation routes, both at the local/county government and community levels, are being actively consulted with and have an opportunity to participate in transportation related decisions. We recommend that this be done from both DOE Headquarters (HQ) and the Nevada Field Office (NFO).

The NSSAB makes the following specific recommendations to DOE HQ and the NFO regarding transportation:

- DOE HQ and the NFO should pursue partnering with local governments in Nevada to create safe havens in Nevada communities along LLW transportation routes to the NNSS, in particular Pahrump, for carriers who transport LLW shipments to the NNSS.

Members

Michael Anderson
Amina Anderson
Michael D'Alessio
Pennie Edmond
Donna Hruska, Chair
Janice Keiserman, Vice Chair
Michael Moore
Donald Neill
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Steve Rosenbaum
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Repository Project Office
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U.S. National Park Service

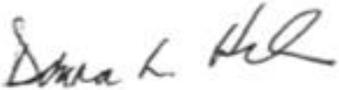
Administration

Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro
Kelly Snyder, DDFO
U.S. Department of Energy,
Nevada Field Office

- DOE HQ and the NFO should review the existing Nevada transportation routes in regard to road conditions and explore ways to help obtain additional funding for safeguards and improvements to ensure the ultimate safety for shipping of LLW to the NNSS.
- DOE HQ should continue to support/fund Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program training for emergency responders from communities near and/or on LLW transportation routes throughout the country.
- DOE HQ and the NFO should explore ways to increase funding for rural emergency preparedness support, in addition to the \$0.50 a cubic foot grant.
- The NFO should reestablish the Transportation Working Group, or similar forum for Nevada stakeholders, which was an avenue that allowed for multiple entities, organizations, and others to address local concerns regarding necessary improvements to transportation infrastructure along LLW shipment routes.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide this recommendation to DOE relating to the transportation of LLW to the NNSS.

Sincerely,



Donna L. Hruska, Chair

cc: D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
K. K. Snyder, NFO
S. A. Wade, NFO
B. K. Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 7, 2015

Ms. Donna Hruska
Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
232 Energy Way
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Dear Ms. Hruska:

Thank you for your September 16, 2015, letter regarding Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) recommendations on transportation. On behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Office of Waste Management and the Nevada Field Office (NFO), I appreciate the NSSAB's interest in improving the transportation of low-level waste (LLW) within the state of Nevada. Below are the Board's recommendations and corresponding responses from the Office of Waste Management and the NFO:

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE HQ and the NFO should pursue partnering with local governments in Nevada to create safe havens in Nevada communities along LLW transportation routes to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), in particular Pahrump, for carriers who transport LLW shipments to the NNSS.

DOE Response: DOE cannot endorse nor create a safe haven parking lot in Pahrump or other communities as such an endorsement may be viewed as preferential treatment toward those communities and toward the particular businesses that might benefit from proximity to the safe haven. Additionally, there is no current regulatory requirement for safe haven parking areas. However, should a community wish to establish its own safe haven parking area, DOE and the NFO will advise drivers that the option is available to them. DOE will continue to communicate with state and local government and stakeholders on future transportation and parking observations/suggestions.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE HQ and the NFO should review the existing Nevada transportation routes in regard to road conditions and explore ways to help obtain additional funding for safeguards and improvements to ensure the ultimate safety for shipping of LLW to the NNSS.

DOE Response: DOE funding is Congressionally-mandated for spending on specific activities. Environmental Management funding for the NFO is designated for waste management and clean-up activities, not for off-site infrastructure or road projects. However, we are aware that the State of Nevada is undertaking State-funded improvements to some road segments on Highway 160.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE HQ should continue to support/fund Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program training for emergency



responders from communities near and/or on LLW transportation routes throughout the country.

DOE Response: This recommendation has been implemented. DOE's Office of Packaging and Transportation manages the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP), and will continue to support and fund the program. In calendar year 2015, TEPP provided local training to over 400 first responders and hospital personnel in the communities surrounding NNSS.

- NSSAB Recommendation: DOE HQ and the NFO should explore ways to increase funding for rural emergency preparedness support, in addition to the \$0.50 a cubic foot grant.

DOE Response: DOE will continue to provide support for rural emergency preparedness through the TEPP program and through the current grant with the State of Nevada. This grant agreement has provided more than \$12.5 million in emergency services support during the past 15 years. We invite the NSSAB to provide details on any resources that rural emergency responders may currently be lacking, so that we can further discuss solutions to any shortfalls.

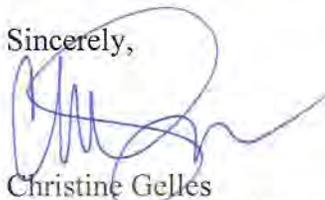
- NSSAB Recommendation: The NFO should reestablish the Transportation Working Group, or similar forum for Nevada stakeholders, which was an avenue that allowed for multiple entities, organizations, and others to address local concerns regarding necessary improvements to transportation infrastructure along LLW shipment routes.

DOE Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The NFO has committed to restarting the Transportation Working Group, to include scheduling a meeting in 2016.

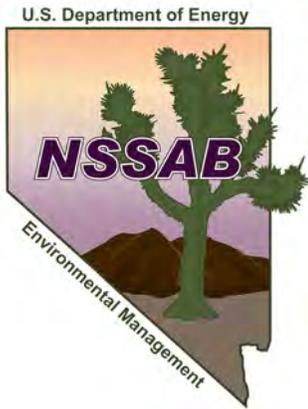
The Office of Waste Management and the NFO look forward to further discussion and collaboration on transportation of LLW in Nevada. Transportation remains an important component of the NSSAB work plan, and I encourage the NSSAB to continue working efforts in support of the fiscal year 2016 work plan.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Robert Boehlecke, Operations Manager for Environmental Management, Nevada Field Office, at (702) 295-2099.

Sincerely,



Christine Gelles
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Waste Management



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

November 10, 2015

Members

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

Liaisons

- Clark County
- Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations
- Esmeralda County Commission
- Nye County Commission
- Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office
- State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- U.S. National Park Service

Administration

- Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
- Navarro
- Kelly Snyder, DDFO
- U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Field Office

Mr. Robert F. Boehlecke
 Environmental Management Operations Manager
 U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Field Office
 P. O. Box 98518
 Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Corrective Action Alternatives for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 573, Alpha Contaminated Sites (Work Plan Item #1)

Dear Mr. Boehlecke,

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, to the U.S. Department of Energy on which corrective action alternative should be selected by the Nevada Field Office for CAU 573, Alpha Contaminated Sites. The NSSAB considered Corrective Action Alternatives of clean closure or closure in place with use restrictions as identified in the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order.

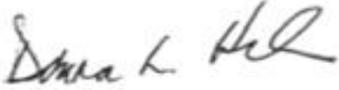
The NSSAB has completed the requested review of the two sites in CAU 573 and recommends the following corrective action alternatives:

Site	Corrective Action Alternative Recommended by NSSAB
GMX (CAS 05-23-02)	Closure in Place
Hamilton (CAS 05-45-01)	Clean Closure

Robert Boehlecke
November 10, 2015
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a recommendation on this work plan item for CAU 573. The NSSAB appreciates the time federal and contractor staff provided the NSSAB in briefing the subject and answering questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna L. Hruska". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

cc: D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
T. A. Lantow, NFO
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
K. K. Snyder, NFO
S. A. Wade, NFO
B. K. Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Field Office
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518



JAN 14 2016

Donna L. Hruska, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
232 Energy Way
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

**RESPONSE TO NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)
RECOMMENDATION FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION ALTERNATIVES FOR CORRECTIVE
ACTION UNIT (CAU) 573, ALPHA CONTAMINATED SITES (WORK PLAN ITEM #1)**

I would like to thank the NSSAB for taking the time to provide recommendations regarding the corrective action alternatives at CAU 573: Alpha Contaminated Sites. Two sites at CAU 573 require a corrective action decision, and the NSSAB evaluated each site for the corrective action alternatives of clean closure or closure in place with use restrictions.

For the GMX site, the Board recommended closure in place; DOE concurs and will select closure in place. For the Hamilton site, which consists of a large debris pile, the Board recommended clean closure. DOE concurs and will select clean closure. Both recommendations will be reflected in the Corrective Action Decision Document that will be submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The Nevada Field Office appreciates the support of the NSSAB in this endeavor and the efforts made by the Board to provide recommendations. As always, the NSSAB's input is valued and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please direct comments and questions to Kelly Snyder at (702) 295-2836.

Tiffany A. Lantow, Soils Activity Lead
Environmental Management Operations

EMO:11626.TL

cc via e-mail:
D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
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S. A. Wade, NFO
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