



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.

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Nye County Commission
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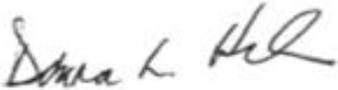
Administration

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)
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