



**U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management
Nevada Program
100 N. City Parkway, Suite #1750
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September 2, 2020

Frank Bonesteel, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
100 N. City Parkway, Suite #1750
Las Vegas, NV 89106

**RESPONSE TO THE NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)
RECOMMENDATION FOR WASTE VERIFICATION STRATEGY (WORK PLAN ITEM #1)**

Reference: Ltr Bonesteel to Cabbie, dtd 7/30/2020

I would like to thank the NSSAB for its recommendation on the Waste Verification Strategy work plan item in the above-mentioned letter. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program appreciates the time that the NSSAB spent in review and its subsequent support of the Waste Verification Strategy, including the Navarro recommendations.

Below are responses to NSSAB recommendations for consideration to the Waste Verification Strategy:

NSSAB Recommendation: Review and clarify the language in the Nevada National Security Site Waste Acceptance Criteria (NNSWAC) Section 2.2 and 2.1.5 to require (rather than encouraging) the reporting of “near-miss” events, along with the applicable investigative and corrective actions.

DOE Response: The DOE EM Nevada Program is in the early stages of rewriting the NNSWAC and it is intended to revise the language in the current Section 2.2 and 2.1.5 to clarify what changes, incidents or events are required to be reported. We welcome the NSSAB recommendation regarding “near miss” events and it will be considered as the final language is crafted.

NSSAB Recommendation: Establish, review, and use enhanced lines of inquiry, as appropriate (reference Navarro’s recommendations from January briefing).

DOE Response: The DOE EM Nevada Program has incorporated the use of the enhanced lines of inquiry for higher risk waste streams. The program will continue to review its more expanded use for waste streams. Additionally, other checklists used to target key programs under the NNSWAC have undergone additional reviews to strengthen lines of questioning.

NSSAB Recommendation: Expand on-site real-time radiography capability on the NNSS (enlarge, additional staff, container-size portal, etc.)

DOE Response: The DOE EM Nevada Program continues to review applications and frequency of the use of on-site real-time radiography (RTR) capability. Reviews of the physical configuration and capabilities of the current RTR system also continue to be evaluated. The overall waste verification goal is to optimize verifications at the generator sites coupled with on-site verifications to provide assurance that waste received is in compliance with the NNSSWAC.

Again, thank you for learning more about the EM Nevada Program's Waste Verification Strategy and providing recommendations for consideration.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Barbara K. Ulmer, NSSAB Administrator, at (702) 523-0894.

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