



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board Table of Contents

**Full Board Meeting Handouts for
Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

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AGENDA

NSSAB FULL BOARD MEETING

National Atomic Testing Museum
755 East Flamingo, Las Vegas, Nevada

May 20, 2015 at 5 p.m.

Open Meeting / Announcements

Barb Ulmer, Facilitator

Chair's Opening Remarks

Donna Hruska, Chair

- Agenda approval

Public Comment

Barb Ulmer, Facilitator

U.S. Department of Energy Update

Scott Wade, DOE

Liaison Updates

- 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

Phil Klevorick
Richard Arnold
Ralph Keyes
Frank Carbone
John Klenke
Christine Andres
Jonathan Penman-Brotzman

Corrective Action Alternatives for Corrective Action Unit 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites (Work Plan Item #2)

- Presentation
- NSSAB Discussion and Recommendation Development

Tiffany Lantow, DOE
Donna Hruska, Chair

Break

Barb Ulmer, Facilitator

Soils Quality Assurance Plan (Work Plan Item #4)

- Presentation
- NSSAB Discussion and Recommendation Development

Tiffany Lantow, DOE
Donna Hruska, Chair

July 15 Full Board Meeting Agenda Discussion

- Revision to the Risk-Based Corrective Action Evaluation
Process Document - Work Plan Item #3
- Low-Level Waste Transportation - Work Plan Item #6

Kelly Snyder, DDFO

Other NSSAB Business:

- EM SSAB National Chairs' Meeting
 - ◆ Nevada Round Robin Presentation
 - ◆ Trip Report
 - ◆ Budget Best Practices Document
 - ◆ EM SSAB Draft Recommendation
- Conference Attendee Draft Recommendation
- Devils Hole Workshop Update

Donna Hruska, Chair

Steve Rosenbaum, Member

- Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP)
Workshop - July 20 - 23, 2015
- NSSAB Recommendation and DOE Response to FY 2017
Baseline Prioritization
- NSSAB Recommendation and DOE Response to Assessment
of Underground Test Area Quality Assurance Plan

Communication Improvement Opportunities (Work Plan #10) Barb Ulmer, Facilitator

Meeting Wrap-up/Assessment/Adjournment Barb Ulmer, Facilitator

- Next Membership Committee Meeting - Monday, June 8, 2015
Sahara Business Center, Las Vegas, NV
 - ◆ 1 p.m. Meeting
- Next Full Board Meeting - Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Bob Ruud Community Center, Pahrump, NV
 - ◆ 4 p.m. Full Board Meeting

NSSAB MEETING ATTENDANCE

Full Board Meetings

October 2014 through September 2015 (FY 2015)

Name	11/19/14	1/21/15	2/18/15	3/25/15	5/20/15	7/15/15	9/16/15	Max Terms
MEMBERS								
Michael Anderson	E	√	√	E	√			2020
Amina Anderson	√	√	√	√	√			2020
Michael D'Alessio	√	√	√	√	E			2020
Pennie Edmond	√	√	√	√	√	E		2020
Donna Hruska	√	√	√	√	√			2016
Janice Keiserman	√	√	√	√	√			2018
James Manner	√	√	√	√	√			2020
Michael Moore	√	√	√	√	√	E		2016
Donald Neill	√	√	√	√	√			2020
Edward Rosemark	√	√	√	√	√			2018
Steve Rosenbaum	√	√	√	√	√			2020
William Sears	√	√	√	√	√			2018
Thomas Seley	√	√	√	√	√			2020
Cecilia Flores Snyder	√	√	E	√	√			2020
Jack Sypolt	√	√	E	√	√			2017
James Tallant	√	√	√	E				2020
Francisca Vega	√	√	E	√	√			2020
LIAISONS								
Clark County	√	√	E	√	√			
Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations	√	√	E	E	E			
Elko County Commission	U	U	V					
Esmeralda County Commission	E	E	√	E	E			
Lincoln County Commission	U	U	E					
Nye County Commission	E	E	U	U	U			
Nye Co. Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office	√	√	√	√	√			
State of NV Division of Env Protection	√	√	√	√	√			
U.S. Natl Park Service	E	√	E	√	E			
White Pine Co. Commission	U	U	U					
KEY: √ = Present V=Vacant E = Excused U = Unexcused RM = Remove RS = Resign								

Corrective Action Alternatives Recommendation for Corrective Action Unit 568



Tiffany Lantow

Soils Activity Lead

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

May 20, 2015



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NSSAB Work Plan Item 2

Provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, to the Department of Energy on which corrective action alternative (closure in place or clean closure) should be presented to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for final approval for Corrective Action Unit 568 – Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites



Historical Safety Experiment Testing
(San Juan, Bernalillo, Otero)



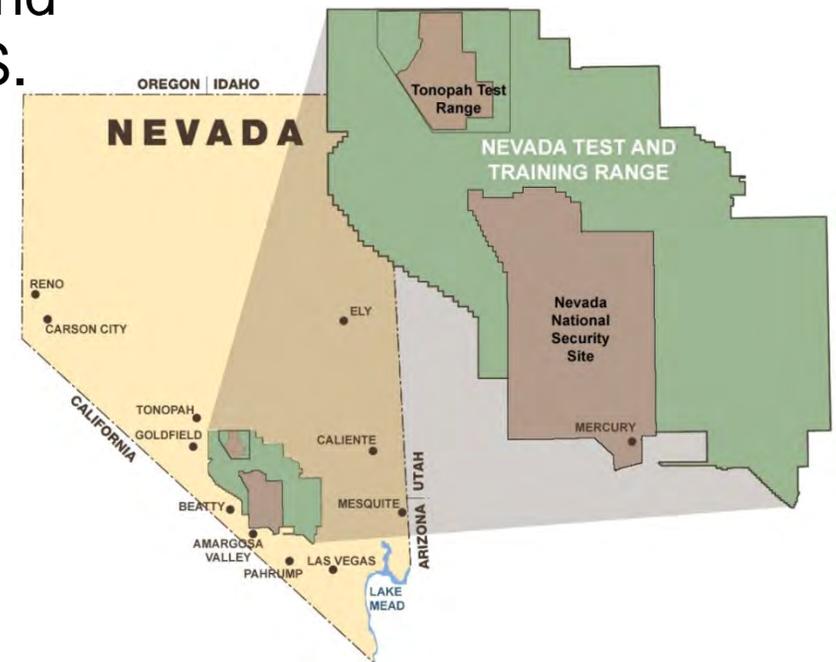
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What are the Issues?

Surface soils at the Nevada National Security Site and the Nevada Test and Training Range (operated by the U.S. Air Force) were contaminated by:

- Historical atmospheric nuclear weapons tests
- Nuclear weapon safety experiments
- Nuclear weapon storage-transportation tests
- Evaluation tests for peaceful uses of nuclear explosives



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Addressing the Issues



- The Soils Activity is responsible for:
 - Characterizing and/or remediating surface soil contamination
 - Characterize means to identify the nature and extent of the contamination present
 - Remediate means to select and complete a closure option (clean closure, closure in place, etc.)



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Addressing the Issues

(continued)

- The Soils Activity is responsible for:
 - Ensuring appropriate controls (i.e., signage/postings, barriers, etc.) are in place at the sites with remaining contamination
 - Conducting long-term monitoring of sites
- State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection provides oversight under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order

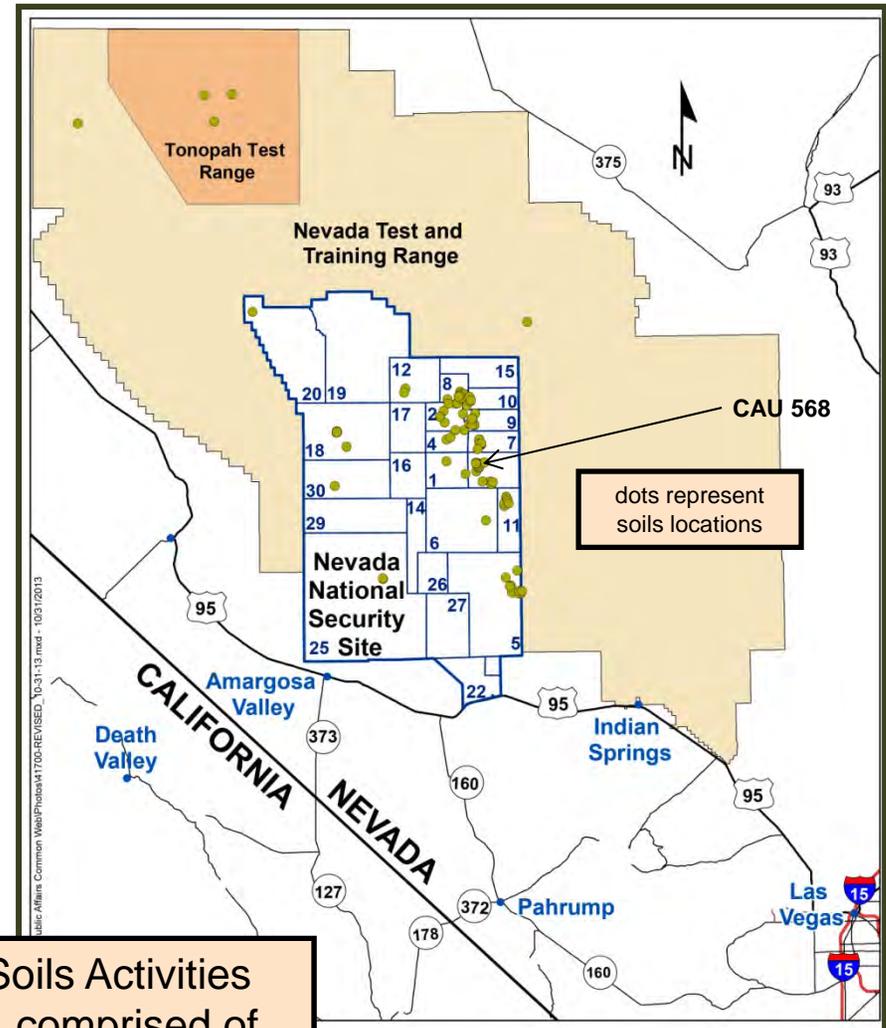


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Key Terminology

- Corrective Action Site (CAS)
 - A site that where a potential release of contaminants has been identified
- Corrective Action Unit (CAU)
 - Grouping of CASs that are similar in remediation technique, type of contaminants, or proximity to each other (grouped to create efficiencies)



As of 04/15/2015, Soils Activities consist of 31 CAUs, comprised of 138 CASs



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Principles of Soils Strategy

- Uses Soils Risk-Based Corrective Action Evaluation Process, which is:
 - Strategy to plan, implement, and complete environmental corrective actions
 - Establishes final action levels, the chemical or radiological level that, when exceeded, requires corrective action
- Corrective actions must be considered when site conditions exceed a final action level



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Corrective Action Alternatives

- Corrective Action Alternatives identified in the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order:
 - Closure in place with use restrictions, as necessary
 - Clean closure (removal of contaminants, no use restrictions)
 - No further action
- Corrective Action Alternatives evaluated based on general standards and remedy selection decision factors defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR 300.430(e)(9))



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Soils CAU/CAS Summary

- 31 total CAUs comprised of 138 total CASs*
 - 115 closed CASs
 - 48 Closure in Place
 - 7 Clean Closure
 - 60 No Further Action



**83% of
CASs
Closed**

*As of 04/15/2015



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Corrective Action Alternatives General Standards

- Only Corrective Action Alternatives that meet all of the following standards are scored:
 - Protection of human health and the environment
 - Compliance with environmental cleanup standards
 - Control the source(s) of the release
 - Comply with applicable federal, state, and local standards for waste management



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Corrective Action Alternatives Remedy Selection Decision Factors

- The remedy selection decision factors used for scoring Corrective Action Alternatives are:
 - Short-term reliability and effectiveness
 - Reduction of toxicity, mobility, and/or volume
 - Long-term reliability and effectiveness
 - Feasibility
 - Cost

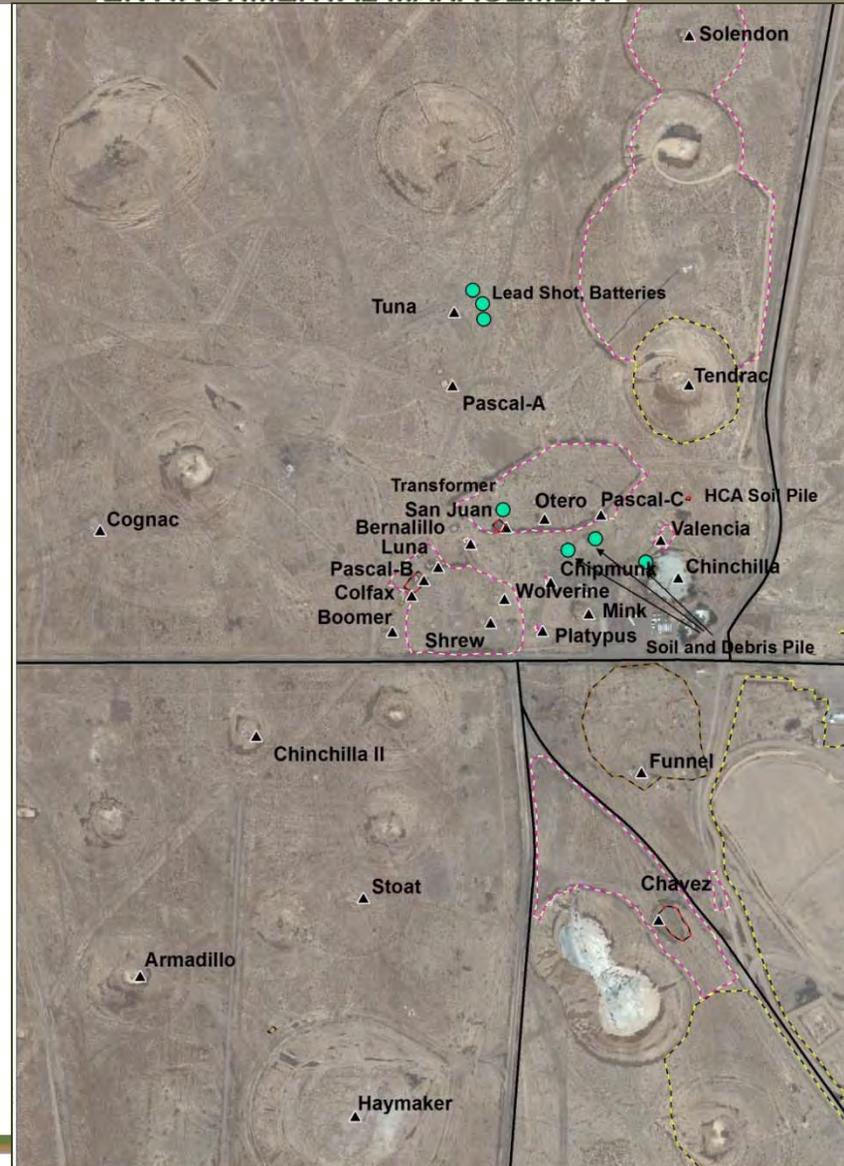


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CAU 568 Overview

- 14 CASs, consisting of:
 - 15 weapons-related tests conducted between 1961 and 1967
 - 11 safety experiments conducted between 1958 and 1962
 - Lead items, transformer, soil and debris piles, radiologically-contaminated metallic debris
 - One small drainage



Explanation	
▲ Test GZ	— HCA
● Debris/PSM Location	- - - CA
— Road	- - - RMA
	- - - URMA

Source: N-1 GIS, 2015; ESRI, 2015

0 100 200 400
Meters

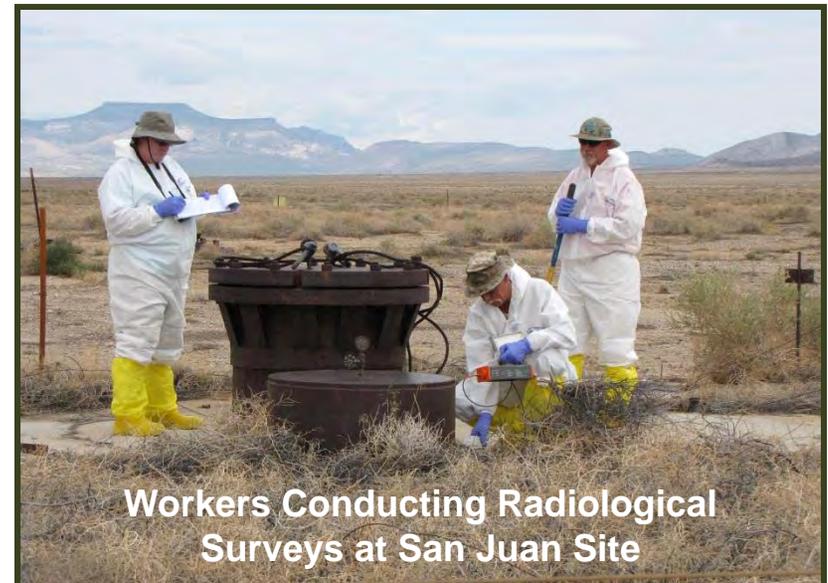
0 300 600 1,200
Feet

Coordinate System: NAD 1927 UTM Zone 11N, M



CAU 568 Field Activities

- Field Activities:
 - Sampling and radiological dose measurements conducted between April 2014 and April 2015, including:
 - Soil sampling (chemical and radiological)
 - Thermoluminescent dosimeter placement
 - Terrestrial radiological surveys
 - Characterization and removal of lead debris and transformer



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NSSAB Involvement

- Department of Energy requests NSSAB provide a recommendation this evening on which Corrective Action Alternative for the sites identified in the following slides that should be presented to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for final approval
- Possible Corrective Action Alternatives
 - Closure in Place with use restrictions
 - Clean Closure



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Corrective Action Alternatives Evaluation Base Assumptions

- Site remains in government control
- Site workers have radiological training
- No public access
- If this changes, site closures may be reevaluated



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CAU 568 Corrective Action Evaluation

- Corrective Action decisions are required for:
 - Well Head Covers at San Juan, Luna, and Valencia
 - Soil and Debris Piles
 - Lead Shot Area and Lead-Acid Battery Soil



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Evaluation – Well Head Covers

(CASs 03-23-23, 03-23-31, 03-23-33)



Wellhead Cover at Luna Site



Wellhead Cover at San Juan Site



Wellhead Cover at Valencia Site



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Evaluation – Well Head Covers

Corrective Action Alternatives	Pros	Cons
Clean Closure Remove ~4 yds ³ of debris	Reduces environmental risk by removing hazard Long-term reliability and effectiveness Eliminates long-term monitoring and maintenance costs	Moderate occupational risk during removal due to heavy equipment and location within High Contamination Areas Moderate cost associated with waste packaging and disposal Located within larger contamination areas
Closure in Place	Feasible and cost effective Minimal environmental risk Consistent with other similar sites	Controls exposure but does not remove hazard Will require long-term monitoring and maintenance costs



Evaluation – Four Soil/Debris Piles

(CASs 03-08-04, 03-23-30)



Soil and Debris Pile (Eastern)



Soil and Debris Pile (Western)



Soil and Debris Pile (Central)



High Contamination Area Soil Pile



Evaluation – Four Soil/Debris Piles

Corrective Action Alternatives	Pros	Cons
<p>Clean Closure</p> <p>Remove ~535 yds³ of soil and debris</p>	<p>Reduces environmental risk by removing hazard</p> <p>Long-term reliability and effectiveness</p> <p>Eliminates long-term monitoring and maintenance costs</p>	<p>Moderate occupational risk during soil removal within High Contamination Areas</p> <p>Moderate occupational risk during soil and debris removal of three piles</p> <p>Moderate cost associated with removal, waste packaging, and disposal</p>
<p>Closure in Place</p>	<p>Feasible and cost effective</p> <p>Minimal environmental risk</p> <p>Consistent with other similar sites</p>	<p>Controls exposure but does not remove hazard</p> <p>Will require long-term monitoring and maintenance costs</p>



Evaluation – Lead Shot and Debris

(CAS 03-26-04)



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Evaluation – Lead Shot and Debris

Corrective Action Alternatives	Pros	Cons
<p>Clean Closure</p> <p>Excavate and remove ~75 yds³ of soil and debris</p>	<p>Reduces environmental risk by removing hazard</p> <p>Long-term reliability and effectiveness</p> <p>Eliminates long-term monitoring and maintenance costs</p>	<p>Low occupational risk during excavation</p> <p>Moderate cost associated with excavation, waste packaging, and disposal</p>
<p>Closure in Place</p>	<p>Feasible and cost effective</p> <p>Minimal environmental risk</p> <p>Consistent with other similar sites</p>	<p>Controls exposure but does not remove hazard</p> <p>Will require long-term monitoring and maintenance costs</p>



Summary of Options

Site	Closure Options
Well Head Covers – San Juan, Luna, Valencia (CASs 03-23-23, 03-23-31, 03-23-33)	Clean Closure
	Closure in Place
Four Soil/Debris Piles (CASs 03-08-04, 03-23-30)	Clean Closure
	Closure in Place
Lead Shot and Debris (CAS 03-26-04)	Clean Closure
	Closure in Place



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CAU 568 Next Steps

- Department of Energy considers NSSAB recommendations
- Complete Corrective Action Decision Document - August 2015
 - This document presents the Corrective Action Alternatives and identifies the selected alternative



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Questions / Comments?



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Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

May 20, 2015

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) 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites (Work Plan Item #2)

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 presented to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for CAU 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion 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 three sites in CAU 568 and recommends the following corrective action alternatives:

Site	Corrective Action Alternative Recommended by NSSAB
Well Head Covers – San Juan, Luna, Valencia (CASs 03-23-23, 03-23-31, 03-23-33)	Closure in Place or Clean Closure
Four Soil/Debris Piles (CASs 03-08-04, 03-23-30)	Closure in Place or Clean Closure
Lead Shot and Debris (CAS 03-26-04)	Closure in Place or Clean Closure

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a recommendation on this work plan item for CAU 568. The NSSAB appreciates the time federal and contractor staff provided the NSSAB in briefing the subject and answering questions.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

Members

- Michael Anderson
- Amina Anderson
- Michael D'Alessio
- Pennie Edmond
- Donna Hruska, Chair**
- Janice Keiserman, Vice Chair**
- James Manner
- 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

Soils Activity Quality Assurance Plan Work Plan Item #4



Tiffany Lantow
Soils Activity Lead
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
May 20, 2015



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NSSAB Work Plan Item 4

Provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, to the Department of Energy on ways the Soils Activity Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) could be improved or enhanced



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QAPs – What Are They

- Quality Assurance makes sure that quality standards are met
- QAP describes the procedures, specifications, and other technical activities that must be implemented to ensure that the results will meet the specifications
 - Defines roles and responsibilities
 - Establishes data collection, data management, records, and software/modeling requirements
 - Provides framework for assessments, reports to management, and corrective actions



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QAPs – What Are They (continued)

- Major objectives of a QAP is to ensure:
 - **Traceability:** is achieved when the flow of information from the beginning to the end is transparent
 - **Reproducibility:** is achieved when a model or data can be reproduced by an independent third party



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Soils Activity QAP

- Department of Energy document overarching Soils participant's quality programs
 - Base requirements
 - Does not preclude participants having corporate QAPs
- Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance and DOE Order 414
- Reviewed and approved by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection



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Soils Activity QAP (continued)



- Four sections:
 - Management
 - Work processes
 - Assessment and oversight
 - Environmental data usability

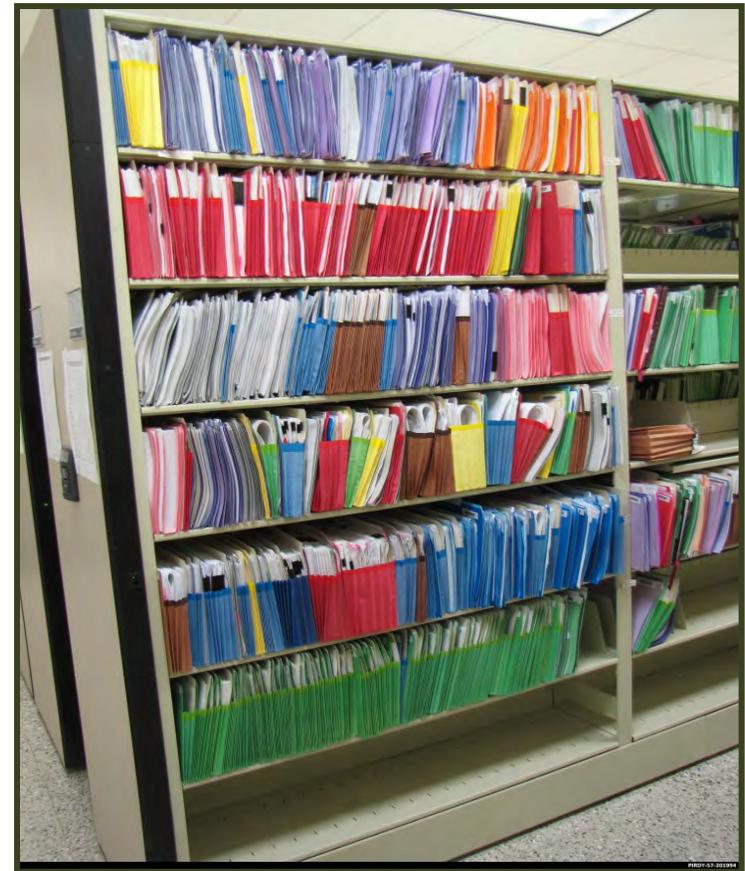


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Management Section

- Problem definition and background
- Schedule
- Roles and responsibilities
- Qualifications and training
- Quality objectives and criteria
- Document control
- Records management
- Software
- Procurement
- Identification and control of items
- Measuring and test equipment

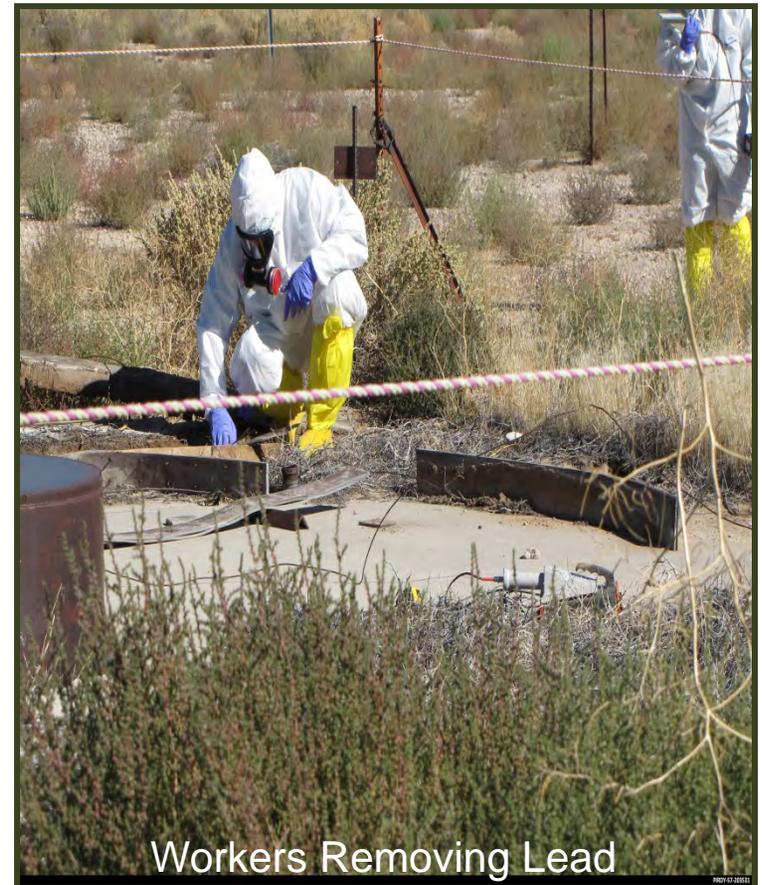


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Work Processes Section

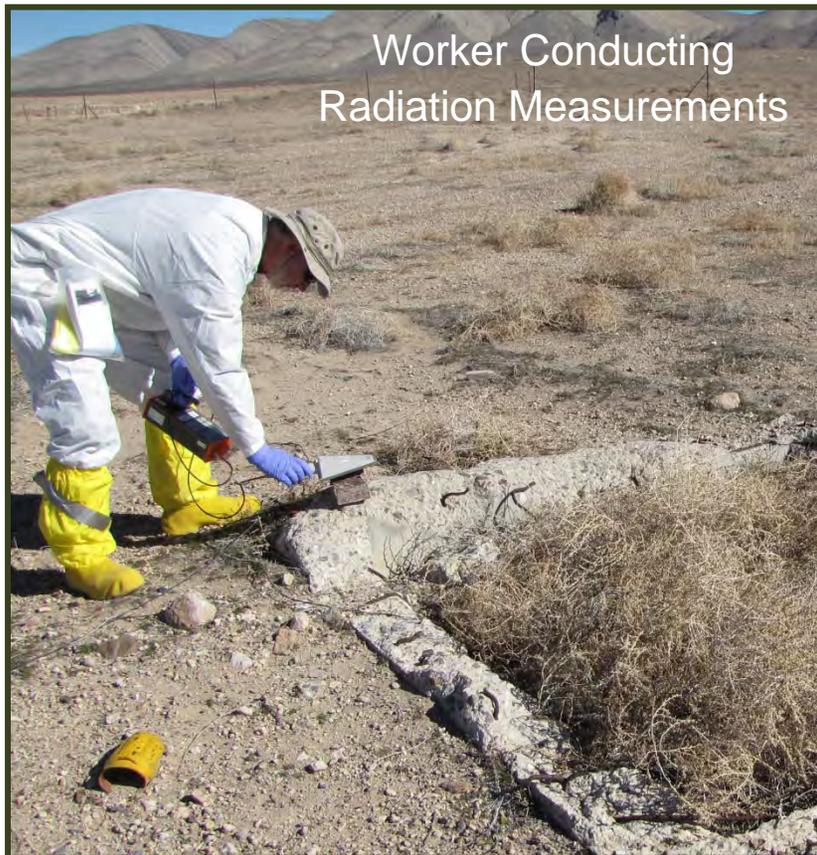
- Planning
- Field Documentation
- Decontamination
- Investigation-Derived Waste
- Decisional Data Collection
- Decision-Supporting Data Collection
- Informational Data
- Laboratory Types
- Subcontracted Commercial Laboratory Requirements
- Data Management



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Assessment and Oversight Section



- Assessments
- Reports to Management
- Issue Identification and Resolution



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Environmental Data Usability Section

- Verification
- Validation
- Data Quality Assessment



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NSSAB Involvement

Tonight, provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, to the Department of Energy on ways the Soils Activity QAP could be improved or enhanced



Questions / comments?



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Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

May 20, 2015

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 Soils Quality Assurance Plan
(Work Plan Item #4)

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 (DOE) on ways that the Soils Quality Assurance Plan could be improved or enhanced.

After receiving a briefing, review of the document and further deliberation, the NSSAB recommends that the following improvements and enhancements are included in the next revision:

- XXXXX
- XXXXX
- Etc.....

The Board wishes to thank the Soils Activity for the opportunity to provide meaningful input to DOE in regard to 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)
T. A. Lantow, NFO
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
K. K. Snyder, NFO
S. A. Wade, 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
James Manner
Michael Moore
Donald Neill
Edward Rosemark
Steve Rosenbaum
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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

EM SSAB Chairs Meeting
Augusta, Georgia
April 22-23, 2015

Best Practices for Informed Budget Advice/Recommendations

Budget priorities—EM wants to continue to partner with stakeholders to better align cleanup priorities and commitments with expected performance and funding levels.

Mark Whitney, 9-17-2014

Principles and Considerations

- Regular budget related communications between advisory boards and DOE should be enhanced. With changes in current and future budget situations, it is imperative that priorities are accurately set.
- Meetings between advisory board members and DOE managers should occur on a regular basis. A scheduled opportunity to discuss budget issues, concerns, and priorities is critical to maintaining a base of information that is transparent, up-to-date, and reliable.
- At least two meetings a year should engage the general public in a discussion of community issues, concerns, and priorities directly related to the site budget. A performance assessment detailing how changes to the budget affected goals and cleanup deadlines should be a part of these discussions.
- Budget advice, when provided, must be robust, well-founded and based on relevant Board/Community values. Community values must be integrated into budget discussions and board recommendations.
- Budget advice, if provided, deserves a sufficiently detailed response to prepare an evaluation of the value and the impact of that advice. An end of the year report comparing budget and task priorities as measured against board recommendations is desirable.
- Economic stability is an important, persistent factor that characterizes cleanup success; efforts to identify potential sources for economic stability are needed.

Information

- Budget information, particularly before and after an embargo or budget release, must be sufficiently transparent to enhance the reliability and usefulness of the information.
- Budget information, when shared with the general public, must be accessible and understandable. Critical concepts, definitions, useful terms and abbreviations must be identified and addressed.

- Budget information related to potential delays or works not done as a result of a budget shortfall, must be shared. The consequences of deferred maintenance must be part of the budget priorities discussion.
- Budget information should help audiences discriminate between funds allocated to site cleanup and costs related to general site infrastructure, security, maintenance (“hotel” costs), min-safe costs, and essential service issues.

Education

- Budget priority opportunities should be included regularly in subcommittee and board work plans. Budget discussions should not be a one-time-per-year process.
- Lessons learned and related successful strategies for how to work with site management budget issues should be shared and, when suitable, applied across the sites.
- Questions about where budget priorities originate should also involve discussions of how to best present those priorities through advice, recommendations, and related reports to a variety of audiences.
- Exercises engaging board members in ranking budget priorities across selected criteria stimulate critical thinking and board discussions; such exercises benefit from support provided, when possible, by subject matter experts (SMEs).

Communication

- Advisory boards should talk with DOE on how and where to engage the public in budget priority discussions aimed at getting informed input.
- Budget information shared with advisory boards and the general public must be timely enough to ensure that any corresponding budget advice, comments, or recommendations from the boards and the general public can actually be considered in decision making.
- Communications regarding budget priorities should always elicit considered responses from the parties involved.
- DOE-EM should act to make sure that the field sites understand what information can be shared, and when. Field offices should not always need to wait for guidance from HQ.
- Effective budget priority discussions with site management should consider near-term as well as mid-term, and long-term priorities. Long-term site, community, infrastructure, and employment benefits need to be weighed against short-term budget gains.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford
Oak Ridge

Idaho
Paducah

Nevada
Portsmouth

Northern New Mexico
Savannah River

Mr. Mark Whitney
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Whitney:

Background

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) was created to safely and reliably dispose of this waste, and did so from 1999 to February 2014. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has been operating since 1999 as the only underground repository for transuranic (TRU) waste disposal. Having the WIPP facility available for TRU waste disposal has been shown to be extremely important to the Department of Energy (DOE) as well as sites across the United States needing to safely and reliably dispose of TRU waste. WIPP operations on a continuing basis are critical to the success of the DOE Office of Environmental Management's (EM) waste disposal mission.

Observations and Comments

With the recent shutdown of WIPP, DOE efforts to complete programs for the shipment of TRU waste from sites needing this method of waste disposal have been jeopardized. The shutdown of WIPP has rendered these sites unable to complete commitments due to respective state consent orders or regulatory requirements. Planning for future shipments to WIPP is also now on hold with no effective time table of when shipments may be able to resume.

Exploring opportunities for additional TRU waste storage facilities at the various generator sites with limited lifetime expectancies is neither efficient nor cost effective. And while it does appear unwise to duplicate the permitting process at multiple sites, it is equally unwise to concentrate on just the one site that can truly facilitate permanent long-term disposal of TRU waste.

Intent

It is the intent of the EMSSAB to be assured that DOE accelerates and makes more transparent any activities in motion or planned that will resume the safe disposal of transuranic waste at WIPP and concurrently identify temporary safe storage locations for TRU waste.

Recommendation

To restore public confidence in its ability to safely manage TRU waste, meet its commitments to its state regulators, and minimize the risk to the public from the massive amounts of waste it currently has on hand, the EMSSAB recommends that DOE:

1. Create and make available to the EMSSAB and the public a realistic plan and timetable to restore WIPP to full operation. Resumption of safe WIPP operations should be the highest priority.
2. Given the possibility of another event, identify and evaluate safe alternatives to retaining waste at its point of generation until WIPP is restored to full operation.
3. Put the best of these alternatives into operation to deal with the current situation, and to be prepared in the event a similar situation arises in the future. Identification of the alternatives should include a quantitative evaluation of the financial and risk benefits and costs of the alternatives.

Summation

These actions need to be taken as soon as possible. To delay is to make a choice for distributing the risks associated with the temporary storage of nuclear waste at the generator sites around the nation, rather than being contained at a small number of sites such as Carlsbad, NM, Andrews, TX or other alternative sites.

Due to the difficulties that the shutdown of the WIPP has caused the various DOE facilities that must ship TRU waste, the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board recommends that DOE-EM Headquarters identify and evaluate potential above-ground temporary waste storage installation sites and conduct required environmental impact studies in an effort to prevent similar problems in the future

Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

Herbert Bohrer, Chair
Idaho National Laboratory
Site EM Citizens Advisory
Board

Donna Hruska, Chair
Nevada SSAB

Doug Sayre, Chair
Northern New Mexico
Citizens' Advisory Board

David Hemelright, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB

Ben Peterson, Chair
Paducah Citizens
Advisory Board

William E. Henderson II, Chair
Portsmouth SSAB

Harold Simon, Chair
Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Kristen Ellis, EM-3.2
David Borak, EM-3.2



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

May 20, 2015

Mr. David A. Borak, Designated Federal Officer
Office of Environmental Management (EM-3.2)
100 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: Conference Attendance for Environmental Management (EM)
Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Members

Dear Mr. Borak:

Recently, two Board members were scheduled to go to the Waste Management Symposia 2015. However, close to the conference date the Board was told that the Nevada Field Office could only send one Board member. This was a result of Headquarter-directed attendee restrictions. Field locations were directed to limit the number of attendees to a Headquarter prescribed number for each category of attendees (e.g., federal or contractor). Unfortunately, the federal employees category also encompassed advisory board members; as there is no category established for just advisory board members. As a result, the Nevada Field Office had to choose between sending a federal programmatic employee vs an advisory board member even though funding was available for both individuals to attend.

The NSSAB feels that it would be beneficial to the Board and the DOE to allow multiple Board members to attend conferences, as there are dual sessions that are of interest and value. It is the NSSAB's recommendation that the Department of Energy (DOE) create an advisory board attendee category within the conference management system, similar to the federal and contractor categories. This would allow field offices to identify which conferences are endorsed and allocate the number of advisory board member(s) spots, contingent on local funding availability.

The NSSAB appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the DOE in regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

cc: K. G. Ellis, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
R. F. Boehlecke, NFO
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
K. K. Snyder, 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
James Manner
Michael Moore
Donald Neill
Edward Rosemark
Steve Rosenbaum
William Sears
Thomas Seley
Cecilia Flores Snyder
Jack Sybolt
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



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

March 25, 2015

Members

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

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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. Scott Wade
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Field Office
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
Recommendation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Baseline
Prioritization—Work Plan Item #7

Dear Mr. Wade:

The NSSAB has completed its annual review and prioritization of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Nevada Field Office Environmental Management (EM) activities for the FY 2017 budget submittal.

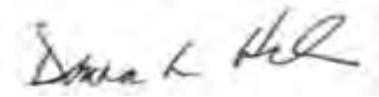
At the March 25 Full Board meeting, the NSSAB was provided a list of EM activities and was asked by DOE to prioritize them by related groupings. The items listed below were ranked by the Board from the highest to the lowest priority, as follows:

- 1. Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Disposal Operations**
- 2. Mixed Low-Level Waste Activities**
- 3. Pahute Mesa—Flow and Transport Activities**
- 4. All UGTA CAUs—Annual Sampling**
- 5. Pahute Mesa—Geologic and Hydrologic Analysis of Data Collection**
- 6. Off-Site Soils—Three Corrective Action Units (CAUs)**
- 7. NNSS Soils—Two CAUs**
- 8. Yucca Flat—Multiple-Well Pumping Test**
- 9. Yucca Flat—Model Evaluation Activities**
- 10. Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain—Closure Activities**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the annual budget prioritization and for the assistance provided by the EM staff. The federal and contractor

staff took the time to meet with the NSSAB and provided detailed information. We sincerely appreciate this support and look forward to your response regarding this year's budget submittal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna L. Hruska". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

cc: K. G. Ellis, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
R. F. Boehlecke, NFO
J. T. Carilli, NFO
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
T. A. Lantow, NFO
K. K. Snyder, NFO
W. R. Wilborn, 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



APR 2 2015

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

RESPONSE TO THE NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017 BASELINE PRIORITIZATION RECOMMENDATION – WORK PLAN ITEM #7

I would like to extend my appreciation to the NSSAB for evaluating the tasks included in the FY 2017 baseline for Environmental Management. The NSSAB's baseline prioritization recommendation is important to the Nevada Field Office's Environmental Management program and will not only be considered in the development of our prioritized budget submission to Headquarters, but will also be sent directly to Headquarters along with our FY 2017 budget request.

I would also like to thank the NSSAB for the dialogue during the March 25, 2015, Full Board meeting on this work plan item. This discussion allows my staff to understand the Board's perspectives and insights for future baseline prioritization planning.

Again, thank you for the time and the effort the NSSAB devoted to the FY 2017 baseline prioritization process. The Nevada Field Office values the NSSAB's input and my staff will utilize the Board's feedback when making baseline decisions into the future.

If you have questions or comments regarding this recommendation, please contact Kelly K. Snyder at (702) 295-2836.

Scott A. Wade
Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management

EMOS:11185.KKS

cc via e-mail:

K. G. Ellis, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)

M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)

E. B. Schmitt (EM-3.2)

NSSAB Members and Liaisons

B. K. Ulmer, Navarro

R. F. Boehlecke, NFO

J. T. Carilli, NFO

T. A. Lantow, NFO

C. G. Lockwood, NFO

K. K. Snyder, NFO

W. R. Wilborn, NFO

NFO Read File



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

February 18, 2015

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Michael Anderson
Amina Anderson
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Pennie Edmond
Donna Hruska, Chair
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Nye County Nuclear Waste
Repository Project Office
State of Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection
U.S. National Park Service
White Pine County Commission

Administration

Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro-Intera
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 Assessment of the Underground Test Area (UGTA) Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) Implementation (Work Plan Item #8)

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 (DOE) on possible improvements to the assessment process and/or the UGTA QAP.

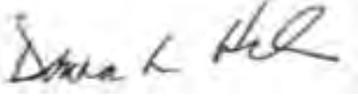
During the November 19, 2014 Full Board meeting, the NSSAB was provided a briefing on the UGTA QAP process. In support of this work plan, two NSSAB members attended and observed a two-day oversight assessment (OA) of Desert Research Institute (DRI) in December 2014. After an update by the members and Board discussion and deliberation at the January 21, 2015 Full Board meeting, the NSSAB recommends the following to the UGTA QAP process:

Item	Status	Issue	Recommendation
Notices	Sustain	DOE informed DRI via formal letter that OA would take place and attached specific assessment checklist	
Position Hand-off	Improve	New assessor on the team	A better hand-off by DOE to the new assessor could lead to better continuity in the assessment process.
Org Chart	Improve	Upon arriving, it was unclear who was giving direction. This created confusion among the different organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An OA Lead should be established prior to OA. • Briefing should be held to establish expectations, areas of responsibility, etc.
NSSAB Incorporation	Sustain	DOE, Navarro-Intera (N-I), and DRI were very patient, engaging, hospitable and accommodating of the observers from NSSAB	
Outlook	Sustain	Open transparency—both assessors and DRI established a positive outlook on the assessment experience. (Continuous Improvement) This leads to open, honest communication.	
Work in Parallel	Sustain	Three assessors broke off into separate functional area groups from the assessment checklist and worked simultaneously	
Approach	Sustain	Assessors were professional and thorough (evidence trail). Personable manner, and helpful throughout the questioning.	
Status Updates	Sustain	DOE/N-I continuously updated DRI representatives on status of the OA items (individual, briefings, debriefings, etc.)	
Work Distribution	Improve	Assessors' work load was unevenly distributed	
Personnel Availability	Improve	Not all the Subject Matter Experts (SME) were present for questions	Advanced notice could have been given to SME. DRI indicated they had no prior notice.
Material Availability	Improve	Some labels/equipment was not accessible by the personnel available for questions	Assessors could indicate these needs prior/DRI could pre-read assessment checklist and pull out in preparation.
Records Availability	Sustain	Pertinent procedures/records were provided to assessors prior to assessment. Other records were easily accessible throughout the assessment.	

Robert Boehlecke
February 18, 2015
Page 3

The NSSAB appreciates the opportunity to observe the DRI assessment and to provide this recommendation and extends a special thanks to the Assessment Team—Kevin Cabbie, Susan Krenzien, and Ann Koplow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna L. Hruska". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

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



Department of Energy
 National Nuclear Security Administration
 Nevada Field Office
 P.O. Box 98518
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APR 13 2015

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

**RESPONSE TO THE NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)
 RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE UNDERGROUND TEST AREA
 (UGTA) QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN (QAP) – WORK PLAN ITEM #8**

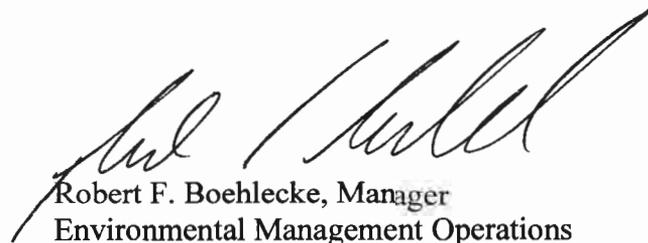
The Nevada Field Office appreciates the recommendations that the NSSAB provided for the assessment of the UGTA QAP. The following are responses to NSSAB recommendations for improvements to the assessment process:

Item	Issue	Recommendation	Response
Position Hand-off	New assessor on the team.	A better hand-off by the Department of Energy to the new assessor could lead to better continuity in the assessment process.	A pre-audit team meeting will be held to ensure the previous auditor conveys all applicable information to the new auditor. If time allows, the previous auditor may participate in the next audit until the new auditor is comfortable with the procedures.
Org Chart	Upon arriving, it was unclear who was giving direction. This created confusion among the different organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Oversight Assessment (OA) Lead should be established prior to OA. Briefing should be held to establish expectations, areas of responsibility, etc. 	When applicable, an in-briefing agenda will be developed and reviewed during auditor pre-audit meeting. (see example, enclosure 1)
Work Distribution	Assessors' workload was unevenly distributed.	N/A	Criteria and Review Approach Documents (CRADs) 1, 3, and 4 were combined into two CRADs and re-distributed between two auditors. There are now three evenly distributed CRADs.

Item	Issue	Recommendation	Response
Personnel Availability	Not all the Subject Matter Experts (SME) were present for questions.	Advanced notice could have been given to SME. Desert Research Institute (DRI) indicated they had no prior notice.	On a site-by-site basis, a schedule will be developed and sent to the Site with the 30-day audit notification letter. (See example, enclosure 2).
Material Availability	Some labels/equipment was not accessible by the personnel available for questions.	Assessors could indicate these needs prior/DRI could pre-read assessment checklist and pull out in preparation.	On a site-by-site basis, a schedule will be developed and sent to the Site with the 30-day audit notification letter. (See example enclosure 2).

I want to especially thank the two NSSAB members who took the time to observe and report back to the Full Board regarding the Oversight Assessment of Desert Research Institute. Your input on ways to improve the assessment process for the UGTA QAP is valued, and I look forward to future interactions with the NSSAB.

If you have questions or comments regarding this response, please contact Kelly K. Snyder at (702) 295-2836.



Robert F. Boehlecke, Manager
Environmental Management Operations

EMOS:11191.KKS

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls. via e-mail:
K. G. Ellis, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
E. B. Schmitt, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
B. K. Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
K. J. Cable, NFO
C. G. Lockwood, NFO
K. K. Snyder, NFO
S. A. Wade, NFO
NFO Read File

Enclosure 1

In-Brief Agenda

1. Introductions and functional responsibility
2. Audit scope
3. Audit process
 - a. CRADs
 - b. Checklist
 - c. Observations
 - d. Interviews
4. Daily Schedule
5. Establish points-of-contact
6. Schedule interviews

Enclosure 2

Daily Audit Schedule OA-AMEM-XX-YYYY Facility			
Function:	CRAD 1 Name	CRAD 2 Name/Lead	CRAD 3 Name
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Entrance Meeting		
	Management Qualifications and Training	Quality Objectives and Criteria	Information/Data Management Computer Software and Codes
	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch		
	Document Control	Data Quality Indicators Field Operation documentation	Groundwater Flow and Transport Model
	3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Team Meeting 4:00 p.m. Daily out briefing		
Wednesday	Records	Laboratory Analyses Sample Storage	Model Evaluation
	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch		
	Procurement	PEPs	Configuration Control
	3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Team Meeting 4:00 p.m. Daily out briefing		
Thursday	Measuring and Test Equipment	Analytical methods	Assessment and Oversight
	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch		
	Identification and Control of Items	Analytical Data	Corrective Action
	3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Team Meeting 4:00 p.m. Exit Meeting		