



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

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### **Full Board Meeting**

**National Atomic Testing Museum  
755 East Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV  
5:00 p.m. – March 19, 2014**

Members Present: Kathleen Bienenstein (Chair), Thomas Fisher, Arthur Goldsmith, Donna Hruska (Vice-Chair), Janice Keiserman, Michael Moore, Edward Rosemark, Jack Sypolt

Members Absent: William Sears

Liaisons Present: Matthew Hodapp (The Meadows School), John Klenke (Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office [NWRPO]), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Mike Lemich (White Pine County Commission), Tim Murphy (State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP])

Liaisons Absent: Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations [CGTO]), Dan Schinhofen (Nye County Commission), Ralph Keyes (Esmeralda County Commission), Charlie Myers (Elko County Commission), Genne Nelson (National Park Service [NPS]), Kevin Phillips (Lincoln County Commission)

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

Facilitator: Barb Ulmer (Navarro-Intera [N-I])

Scribe: Rochelle LaGrow (N-I)

Others Present: Brian Holecheck (Pahrump, NV), Robert Mikes (Las Vegas, NV), Paul A. Miles (N. Las Vegas, NV), Brian Ramsey (Las Vegas, NV), Steve Rosenbaun (N. Las Vegas, NV), Cecilia Snyder (Las Vegas, NV), Barb Wilson (residence unknown)

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

It was announced that Robert Boehlecke has been designated the alternate DDFO as of February 20, 2014. Member Arthur Goldsmith 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*)

Scott Wade discussed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget stating that the President's request included an increase of \$2.5 million for Environmental Management (EM) activities, and the FY 2014 enacted budget is \$61.8 million. This request begins the congressional process and is not the final budget. The increase will be helpful in accelerating work that has previously been postponed due to reductions and widely impacted by sequestration. DOE will begin multi-year planning for FY 2016 and will request NSSAB's input in budgetary decisions.

In regard to the Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project (CEUSP) material, there are no major updates since the last Full Board Meeting. In January 2014, the CEUSP Working Group met and three actions were requested of DOE: 1) conduct a tabletop emergency exercise with local emergency responders and law enforcement for Clark County and Nye County, which is scheduled for the middle of April 2014; 2) review the Nevada National Security Site Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) - one item in particular that DOE received public and media feedback on was container limits for plutonium equivalent grams, which is not the disposal of plutonium, but rather a unit of measurement used for all isotopes as a standard of work to ensure worker safety; and 3) draft a white paper on the origin of the waste, transport, security concerns, and the *National Environmental Policy Act* requirements. The next meetings will be scheduled for the end of April or beginning of May 2014. There has been no shipment date scheduled for the CEUSP material. DOE met with the Southern Paiute Tribe in Pahrump, Nevada, in early March 2014 in regard to the CEUSP material.

Mr. Wade updated the Board on current events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico, which is the nation's single disposal facility for transuranic waste (TRU). On February 5, 2014, there was an underground fire involving a piece of underground excavation equipment. The fire was suppressed and the facility was evacuated. There was full accountability with no major injuries, and individuals with minor smoke inhalation were treated at a local hospital. While the facility was shut down for the investigation, the continuous air monitoring alarms went off in the underground portion of the facility on February 14, 2014. When that occurred, the system automatically switched to a high-efficiency particulate air system that controls any radiological emissions that pass through the air system. There was some release of radioactivity, but Mr. Wade did not know the extent. No personnel were underground; however, there were 15-20 individuals working on the surface maintaining the facility. No personnel have gone underground since this incident. A DOE investigation team issued an initial report for the week ending March 16, 2014. While investigations continue, all TRU transportation is at a standstill, and it is unknown when WIPP will resume its operations.

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

- Most of the information provided regarding the WIPP events was from the media.
- There were minor exposures to reportedly 17 individuals at very low levels; however, any exposure is a concern for DOE.
- Currently, the tabletop is scheduled for Clark County and Nye County, and if other counties should be considered; DOE will address.
- The tabletop is scheduled for one day. There will be no field exercises.
- The tabletop is not open to the public, and will be controlled.

**FY 2016 Baseline Prioritization (Work Plan Item #6)** (Robert Boehlecke, DOE)

- **Tonight's Path Forward**
  - Baseline Briefing
  - The Ranking Process
  - Description of Each Task
  - Group Discussion
  - Individuals Rank Tasks
  - Tallying of Prioritizations
  - Vote on Final Recommendation
- **EM Baseline Defined**
  - Tool that provides for life-cycle planning and execution of a mission
    - Includes scope of work, budget, and schedule
    - Elements are fully integrated
- **EM Baseline Components**
  - Scope of Work – the description of all work elements that need to be accomplished
  - Budget – the estimated cost, number of hours, and type of labor resources, material, equipment, etc.
  - Schedule – timeline and prioritization of work to be completed that identifies predecessor/successor tasks
- **EM Baseline Planning Considerations**
  - Annual Funding
    - Approved FY budgets versus continuing resolution
    - Scope prioritized to maximize the amount of work that can be accomplished
  - Resource Availability
  - Weather Conditions
  - Risk Analysis
    - Uncertainties built into baseline
- **EM Baseline Status and Changes**
  - EM Contractors report monthly performance status to Nevada Field Office (NFO)
  - Baseline changes are made when scope is added, deleted, or modified
    - Requires NFO approval
- **Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) EM Baseline Project Baseline Summaries (PBSs)**
  - NNSS EM Baseline separated into three PBSs as follows (not in priority order):
    - Soil and Water Remediation (PBS VL-NV-0030)
      - Soils
      - Underground Test Area (UGTA)
      - Industrial Sites (IS)
      - EM Program Management (includes NSSAB support)

- Operate Waste Disposal Facility (PBS VL-NV-0080)
  - Low-Level Waste (LLW)
- Nevada Community and Regulatory Support (PBS VL-NV-0100)
  - Agreements in Principle and Grants
- EM Life-Cycle Baseline for FYs 2014 - 2030

Scope	Budget (\$K)	Schedule Completion
Soils	\$125,887	FY 2030
UGTA	\$409,336	FY 2030
IS	\$79,235	FY 2030
Program Management	\$130,298	FY 2030
LLW	\$493,168	FY 2030
Agreements in Principle and Grants	\$73,444	FY 2030
<b>EM NFO Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,311,368</b>	<b>FY 2030</b>

- **The Ranking Process**
  - Presentation of each of the 10 tasks
    - Each task has been assigned a letter
    - Tasks are either individual items or groupings of items
  - Group discussion with members and liaisons
  - Each member will rank the tasks with 1-10 points using their worksheet
    - 10 points being highest priority and 1 point being lowest priority
  - NSSAB Office will tally the rankings and present the results to the Full Board tonight
  - Further discussion, if necessary
  - NSSAB will vote on final ranking recommendation
- **FY 2016 Soils Tasks**
  - Task – A: Off-Site Soils – Two Corrective Action Units (CAUs) (*Baseline - \$263K*)
    - CAU 413, Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion (located on the Nevada Test and Training Range [NTTR])
      - Initiate Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP)
    - CAU 541, Small Boy (located on both the NNSS and NTTR)
      - Complete Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) and submit to NDEP
  - Initiate Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Task – B: NNSS Soils – Three CAUs (*Baseline - \$1,194K*)
    - CAU 571, Area 9 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites
      - Continue closure activities
    - CAU 568, Area 3 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites
      - Complete CAP activities and submit CAP to NDEP
      - Start closure activities
    - CAU 573, Alpha Contaminated Sites
      - Complete CADD activities and submit CADD to NDEP
      - Start closure activities
  - Task – C: Soils Studies (*Baseline \$1,111K*)
    - Conducted by Desert Research Institute (DRI) in support of the Soils Activity
    - Includes:
      - Air monitoring on NNSS and NTTR
      - Fire studies
      - Contaminant transport studies

- Research can affect closure decisions for CAUs in similar environments or with similar features to those studied
- **FY 2016 Groundwater Characterization Tasks**
  - Task – D: Frenchman Flat Groundwater Characterization Closure Activities (*Baseline - \$1,703K*)
    - Complete drilling of one post-closure monitoring well
    - Complete Well Development and Testing of one post-closure monitoring well
    - Initiate long-term monitoring and sampling
  - Task – E: Pahute Mesa Geologic, Hydrologic, and Flow & Transport Analysis and Evaluation (*Baseline - \$2,550K*)
    - Complete Hydrologic Analysis and Evaluation (A & E)
    - Complete Contaminant Transport Parameters A & E
    - Complete Source Term A & E
    - Adjust Geologic Model, as needed
  - Task – F: Pahute Mesa Aquifer Tests (*Baseline - \$4,566K*)
    - Continue data collection activities during two multiple well aquifer tests
  - Task – G: Yucca Flat (*Baseline - \$3,321K*)
    - Complete Yucca Flat CADD/CAP
      - Documents the result of the characterization, the recommended corrective action, and the plan for implementing the corrective action
    - Begin model evaluation drilling operations
      - Drilling campaign projected from FYs 2016-2018
  - Task – H: Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain (CAU 99) Closure Report (*Baseline - \$879K*)
    - Complete negotiations with NDEP regarding regulatory boundaries
    - Establish long-term monitoring requirements
    - Prepare closure document
  - Task – I: UGTA Annual Sampling Activities (*Baseline - \$2,419K*)
    - Continue ongoing sampling activities for each CAU as prescribed by the UGTA Sampling Plan
- **FY 2016 LLW Tasks**
  - Task – J: Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Disposal Operations (*Baseline - \$17,693K*)
    - Maintain capability to safely dispose up to 1.2 million cubic feet (ft<sup>3</sup>) of DOE LLW/Mixed LLW
    - Continue environmental monitoring activities at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex
    - Maintain Performance Assessment, Composite Analysis, and Documented Safety Analysis to dispose waste
    - Continue facility evaluations of generators per the NNSS WAC

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

- DOE will always be responsible for these sites; however, when they are closed the monitoring work will be passed to another office for long-term stewardship. NDEP will continue to provide oversight for these sites.
- Desert Research Institute (DRI) has performed fire studies at analog sites with similar vegetation and soil types to CAUs on the NNSS, and there has been some suspension of soil. DRI is continuing to work on the reports.

- If the CEUSP material was accepted at the NNSS, there would be additional funding provided to pay for the additional personnel needed at the disposal site in Area 5.
- DOE has a multi-year baseline that runs through FY 2030.
- If a new site is found with contamination, typically those sites do not impact the budget greatly because they are included in existing CAUs.
- DOE understands the groundwater flow regimes well, but the largest risk comes from the possibility of other entities mining water in the area surrounding the NNSS in large quantities. This would change the equilibrium state of the regional aquifer system.

Board members held group discussion regarding the presentation and individually ranked the tasks. Results were tallied and final rankings listed below:

Rank	Task	Title
1	J	Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Disposal Operations
2	E	Pahute Mesa Geologic, Hydrologic, and Flow & Transport Analysis and Evaluation
3	F	Pahute Mesa Aquifer Tests
4	I	UGTA Annual Sampling Activities
5	C	Soils Studies
6*	A	Off-Site Soils - Two CAUs
6*	B	NNSS Soils - Three CAUs
7	D	Frenchman Flat Groundwater Characterization Closure Activities
8	G	Yucca Flat
9	H	Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain (CAU 99) Closure Report

\*Note: there is not a 10<sup>th</sup> place ranking due to tasks A and B tied for sixth priority

After review of the draft recommendation letter for FY 2016 Baseline Prioritization, Member Goldsmith moved to approve the letter with the understanding that the list of prioritizations reflects the rankings above. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **NNSS Communication Plan for Groundwater Sampling Results (Work Plan Item #5)**

From the presentation and Board discussion at the February 19, 2014 Full Board meeting, Robert Boehlecke noted that feedback from the Board was that there is a great interest in providing a recommendation to DOE on the methods, ( i.e. media, posters, flyers, video, animations, website graphic representation, etc.), that will be utilized in communicating groundwater sampling results to the public. Following ongoing discussion on this Work Plan item, no resolution was determined and there will be additional follow-up at the next Board meeting.

#### **Liaison Updates**

##### **Clark County (Phil Klevorick)**

Liaison Phil Klevorick reported that he attended the Waste Management Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona, and it was very informative. Liaison Klevorick suggested that DOE provide a briefing for the NSSAB involving the information shared at the Waste Management Symposium. He is scheduled to attend the CEUSP tabletop event, and he will also be participating in the Office of Secure Transport training exercises with Clark County Fire Department.

**The Meadows School** (*Matthew Hodapp*)

Liaison Matthew Hodapp reported that a DOE speaker is scheduled to provide an overview of EM activities during an assembly at The Meadows School on April 28, 2014. Liaison Hodapp will then conduct a post-questionnaire to measure student increase in knowledge of EM activities at the NNSS.

**Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office** (*John Klenke*)

Liaison John Klenke reported that the Nye County NWRPO's funds have been depleted, and its contractors have been instructed to discontinue work. Liaison Klenke position will be funded through the completion of the Yucca Flat External Peer Review. The Gravity Fault test is funded separately and will be completed as planned.

**State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection** (*Tim Murphy*)

Liaison Tim Murphy announced that he is retiring and this is his last NSSAB meeting. There is a transition plan in place, and NDEP will conduct recruitment activities in the near future. A new liaison will be present for the next NSSAB meeting in May 2014. Chris Andres will still be active with the Board.

**White Pine County** (*Mike Lemich*)

Liaison Mike Lemich had nothing to report.

**Liaison Discussion Wrap-Up** (*Scott Wade, DOE*)

Mr. Wade stated that the NNSS will be a focus site for next year's Waste Management Symposium, and DOE requests that NSSAB Members and Liaisons participate next year. An overview of this year's Waste Management Symposium and a formal request to the Board will be submitted at a later date. The NSSAB may discuss participating in a panel discussion regarding the community perspective on waste disposal.

Mr. Wade noted that DOE has recently conducted several tours focused on missions of the NNSS for residents of Pahrump, the Las Vegas City Council, and Representative Titus' staff.

**Other NSSAB Business** (*Kathleen Bienenstein*)

Chair Bienenstein stated that she and Vice-Chair Donna Hruska will be attending the EM SSAB National Chairs' Meeting in Pasco, Washington, on April 21-24, 2014. Each board is allowed a PowerPoint slide and a five minute presentation to bring forward round robin topics to EM-1's attention that highlight the Board's top concern and/or notable accomplishments. Following discussion, the Board agreed to include the Groundwater Open House, the Membership Drive and its advertisement, and the success of the Student Liaison position and project. The 'Recommendation on Capitalizing on EM Successes', which will be discussed at the National Chairs' Meeting, was provided to Board members for review and comment.

Vice-Chair Hruska stated that the Board is looking to add six to eleven new members and the Membership Committee has received 14 applications for membership as of March 19, 2014. The deadline for application submission is March 31, 2014. A new advertisement method was implemented for this membership drive in the form of two billboards and electronic sign in Pahrump, Nevada.

On the Chairs' Conference Call held on March 19, 2014, Chair Bienenstein noted that an update was provided for FY 2015 EM budget. In honor of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Vice-Chair Hruska reported that EM launched a new timeline that offers members of the public an opportunity to view nuclear cleanup achievements and related Cold War history at <http://energy.gov/em/em-historical-timeline>. This website continues to be developed.

The NSSAB recommendation letter and the respective DOE response letter were provided to the Board for Radionuclide Decay at Use-Restricted Soil Sites (Work Plan Item #3) for informational purposes.

The Devil's Hole Workshop is scheduled for April 30 - May 2, 2014. Chair Bienenstein, Vice-Chair Hruska, Member Jack Sypolt, and Member Edward Rosemark will be in attendance.

In early May 2014, Chair Bienenstein and Vice-Chair Hruska will accompany DOE staff to tour the commercial facility, Waste Management Specialists in Texas, in support of Work Plan Item #9.

Mr. Boehlecke noted two educational session topics that will be presented prior to Full Board Meetings in the future:

- Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, the order by which all NNSS work is completed between DOE and NDEP – May 21, 2014
- Low-Level Waste Federal Review Group, the group that reviews all performance assessments for all low-level waste disposal facilities – not yet scheduled

**Meeting Wrap-Up/Exercise/Assessment/Adjournment (Barb Ulmer)**

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 5 p.m. at the Bob Ruud Community Center, Pahrump, Nevada. There will be an educational session prior to this meeting, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the same location.

Based on feedback from the last evaluation, members participated in an exercise to learn more about one another and discussed their thoughts on improvements/suggestions for meetings.

Member Moore moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.