

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board Table of Contents

**Full Board Meeting Handouts for
Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

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NSSAB FULL BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

October 2017 through September 2018 (FY 2018)

Name	11/8/17	1/17/18	3/14/18	5/16/18	7/18/18	9/19/18	Max Terms
MEMBERS							
Michael Anderson							2020
Amina Anderson							2020
Arcadio Bolanos							2022
Francis Bonesteel							2022
Michael D'Alessio							2020
Pennie Edmond							2020
Karen Eastman			E				2022
Raymond Elgin							2022
Charles Fullen							2022
Richard Gardner							2022
Donald Neill							2020
Autumn Pietras							2022
Edward Rosemark							2018
Steve Rosenbaum							2020
William Sears							2018
Cecilia Flores Snyder							2020
Richard Stephans							2022
Jack Sypolt							2018
Richard Twiddy							2022
Dina Williamson-Erdag							2022
LIAISONS							
Clark County							
Consolidated Group of Tribes & Organizations							
Esmeralda County Commission							
Nye County Commission							
Nye County Emergency Management							
Nye Co. Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office							
State of NV Division of Env Protection							
U.S. Natl Park Service							
White Pine County Commission							
KEY: √ - Present E - Excused V - Vacant U - Unexcused							

Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Assessment Improvement Opportunities Work Plan Item #6



Rob Boehlecke

Program Manager-

Environmental Management Nevada Program
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

November 8, 2017



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NSSAB Work Plan Item #6

- Provide a recommendation for ways to improve the RWAP assessment process by September 2018
 - Up to two NSSAB members are invited to observe a RWAP facility evaluation and present their observations to the Full Board
 - DOE will try to implement the September 2017 RWAP recommendation



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NSSAB Path Forward

- Up to two NSSAB members to observe an RWAP facility evaluation
- NSSAB members report their observations to the Full Board by September 2018
- Full Board provides a recommendation for ways to improve the RWAP assessment process by September 2018



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Core Library ~ Work Plan Item #2



Bill Wilborn

Acting Deputy Program Manager for Operations-
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
November 8, 2017



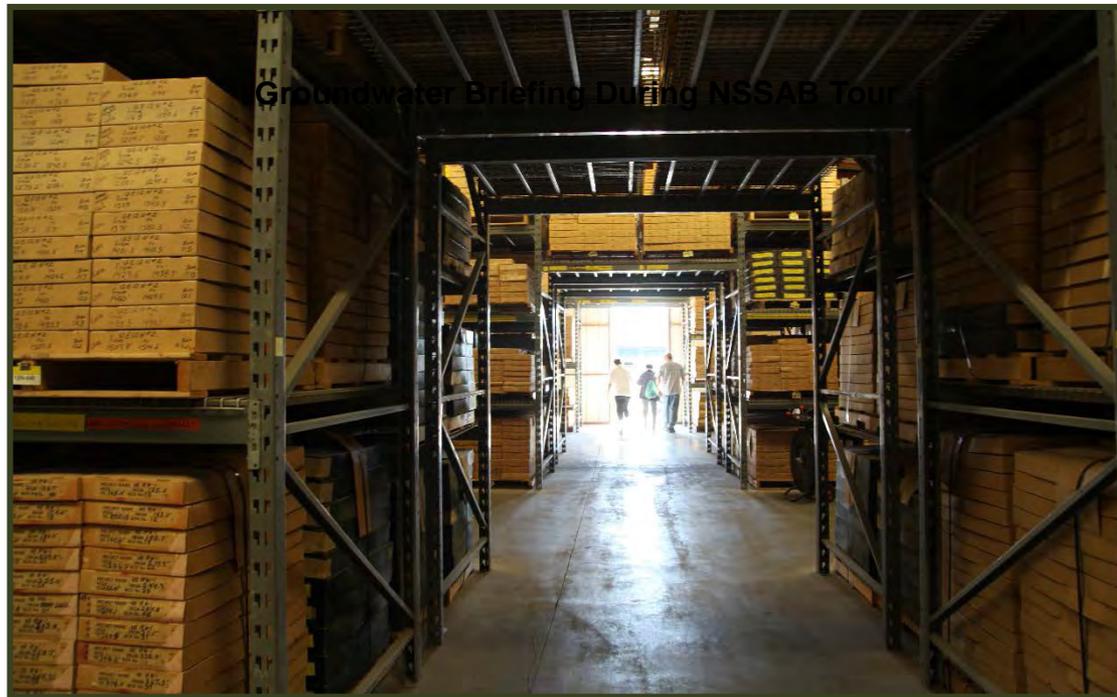
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NSSAB Work Plan Item #2

From a community perspective, provide a recommendation to the EM Nevada Program on its preferred path forward for the EM Underground Test Area (UGTA) Core housed at the Mercury Core Library



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Mercury Core Library and Data Center



Jeff Sanchez
Core Library Manager-
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)



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Overview

- What is a “Core Library” and Why libraries exist
- Location of the Mercury Core Library
- History and purpose
- Objectives and scope
- Summary of available samples and hard copy records
- Mercury Core Library webpage
- Staffing and facility overview
- Fiscal year (FY) 2017 utilization and report products
- Closing comments
- Questions



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Core Library: The What

- What is a Core Library?
 - A dedicated facility established for the purpose of
 - Long-term storage, management, and utilization of geologic samples (e.g., cuttings/core samples)
 - Long-term storage of records that provide supplementary data and information on the geologic samples
 - Work space and support for research scientists and academia utilizing the samples and records



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Core Library: The Why

- Why do Core Libraries exist?
 - Preserve the geologic record of the earth's subsurface (e.g., pre-testing/post-testing impacts)
 - Document and expand the knowledge of geology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, impacts of testing, etc.
 - Provide invaluable information for important models and decisions
 - Represent a large investment in time, effort, and funding
 - Link to 38 core libraries listed on the USGS Core website



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Log No 2017-191

Mercury Core Library Location

- Mercury, NV, on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)
- 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NV
- Physical address: Building A23-158
Mercury Highway



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History and Purpose

- Extensive underground nuclear testing began in the late 1950s and early 1960s at the NNSS
- The Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor to U.S. Department of Energy [DOE]) needed a central geologic/data repository
- DOE/USGS Interagency Agreement
- USGS continues to manage the Core Library
- Same facility since 1962 (prior to 1997: six facilities)



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Objectives and Scope

- Provide a long-term central repository for EM and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) core/cuttings samples and historical borehole records
- Provide technical support to DOE, national laboratories, contractors, and others who utilize the Core Library
- Provide work space, materials, and support to personnel utilizing the Core Library
- Fulfill requests from scientists and educators to display samples for examination and selection for on- and off-site analysis



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Objectives and Scope

(continued)

- Process cuttings, core, drilling core plugs, and composite samples for on- and off-site analysis
- Maintain necessary equipment including a wet saw, core drill, sample dryer oven, microscopes, electric forklift, and stock picker forklift
- Photograph new and archived core/cuttings samples (currently no funding available for archived samples)
- Other: provide a base of field operations and logistical support for ongoing USGS field projects conducted on the NNSS (e.g., groundwater monitoring networks, biological studies, etc.)



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Summary of Available Samples

- Core/cuttings boxes in storage
 - Total: 42,283
 - EM: 2,496 (6%)
 - NNSA: 39,787 (94%)
- Total boreholes: 2,673 (over 2 million feet of drilled samples)
- NOTE: No “Rad Contaminated” samples or Yucca Mountain samples in storage



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Core Box Storage Bldg. 23-151



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Summary of Available Records

- Borehole history files: 5,902 boreholes
- Historical aerial photos: ~20,000
- Geophysical logs: estimated >6,000
- Maps: >1,000
- Historical reports: >2,500
- Over 150 file cabinets and storage bins in use



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Borehole History Records Storage



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Mercury Core Library Website

(<https://www.sciencebase.gov/mercury/#/>)

Mercury Core Library and Data Center

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Core Library and Data Center is located inside the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly Nevada Test Site (NTS)) at Mercury, Nevada. The Core Library was established as a repository for geologic, hydrologic, and geophysical data and materials collected in support of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) defense and environment programs at the (NNSS). The Core Library is operated by the USGS and has been used as a staging area for many scientific studies throughout the south western United States, in addition to NNSS. The Core Library houses drill-bit cuttings, drill core (both vertical and horizontal), geophysical logs, and other rock samples collected mostly from NNSS. Some samples are from other DOE facilities in New Mexico, Mississippi, Colorado, Louisiana, Alaska and other areas in Nevada. Currently, the Core Library stores more than 2,000,000 linear feet of cores and cuttings. Included within the facility is a small reference library with approximately 2,500 publications pertaining to the Nevada National Security Site and surrounding area. Most of the publications were prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the DOE; however, some are publications by past and present contractors to DOE.

Record and Image Archival of Rock Samples and Associated Data

The USGS has systematically compiled much of the historical data stored in paper files and reports located at the Core Library and the Nevada Water Science Center Henderson Office. Although these records were compiled from paper copies housed in the USGS historical files, much of the data was analyzed or interpreted by agencies other than the USGS; including Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and various DOE and U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) contracting organizations. Compilation of depth-interval specific locations by rock sample type, fracture and fault characteristics, and hydraulic properties began during 2002; lithologic and stratigraphic descriptions during 2003; physical and mechanical rock properties during 2004; site characteristics during 2006; interval-specific locations for thin sections during 2008. These data are available online as five Microsoft (MS) Excel spreadsheets and a MS Access database that includes all five spreadsheets, plus a sixth site-characteristic table. Most redundant data have been removed from the MS Access tables and records from all six tables.



Mercury Core Library Website (continued)

- Available core/cuttings images: >34,900 (>560 boreholes)
- Available thin-section images: >3,500 (>260 boreholes)
- Databases available on the webpage
 - Site characteristic records, rock sample and lithologic description records, rock property records, fracture characteristic records, hydraulic property records
 - NNSA petrographic, geochemical, and geophysical data
- Over 47,000 website visits in FY 2017

Reference Report: Wood, D.B., 2007, Digitally available interval-specific rock-sample data compiled from historical records, NNS and vicinity, Nye County, Nevada (ver. 2.2, February 2017): U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 297.



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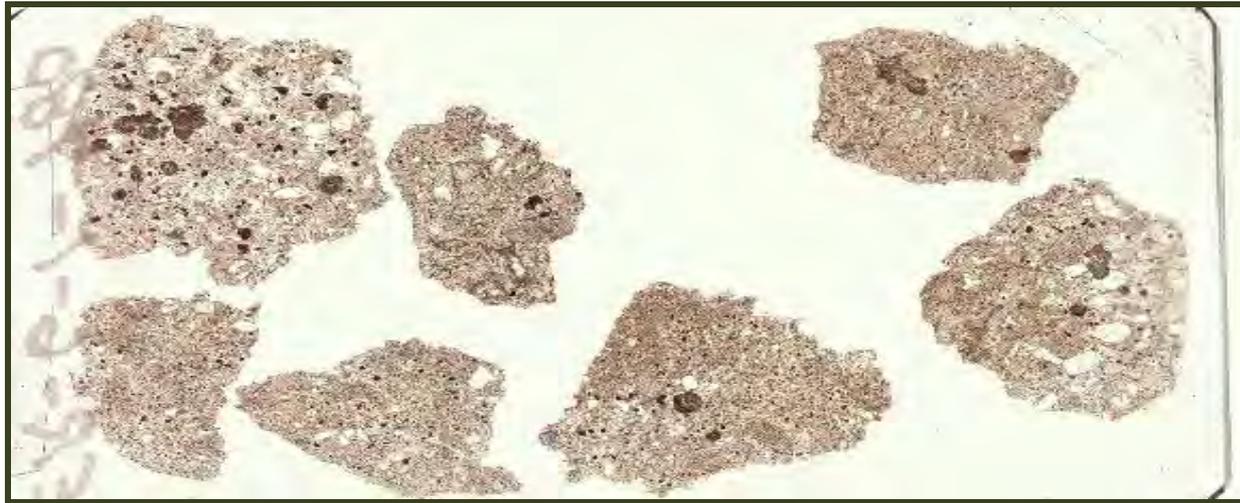
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Core/Cuttings/Thin-Section Photos



Bases labeled with sample number in case bottom of 10-# interval unless otherwise shown.



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Staffing Overview

- Three full-time on-site staff
 - Core Library Manager (USGS)
 - Steward of NNSA and EM geologic samples and historical hard copy records
 - Supervisor managing and coordinating daily operations
 - Administrative Assistant (NNSA Management and Operating [M&O] Contractor)
 - Provides administrative, security, safety, and facility operations support



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Staffing Overview (continued)

- Teamster (NNS M&O Contractor)
 - Provides warehouse, maintenance, sample management and processing, and inventory support
- Other: two USGS Hydrologic Technicians
 - Maintain EM's well monitoring network



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Facility Overview

- Four facilities (~21,000 square feet [ft²])
 - Building 23-154: administrative/technician offices and hard copy records storage (~2,500 ft² ~12% footprint)
 - Building 23-156: EM core/cuttings storage warehouse, sample processing area, teamster office, and staging/display area (~4,000 ft² ~20% footprint)
 - Current EM core storage utilization: 43%
 - Building 23-158: NNSA core/cuttings storage warehouse, administrative office, and display area (~4,000 ft² ~20% footprint)
 - Current NNSA core storage utilization: 96%



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Facility Overview

(continued)

- Building 23-151: NNSA core/cuttings storage and equipment storage warehouse (~10,250 ft² ~48% footprint)
 - Current NNSA core storage utilization: 94%
- Other: two 10 x 20 foot railcar boxes used for storage of unused core boxes, sample containers, and field equipment



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Core Library Footprint

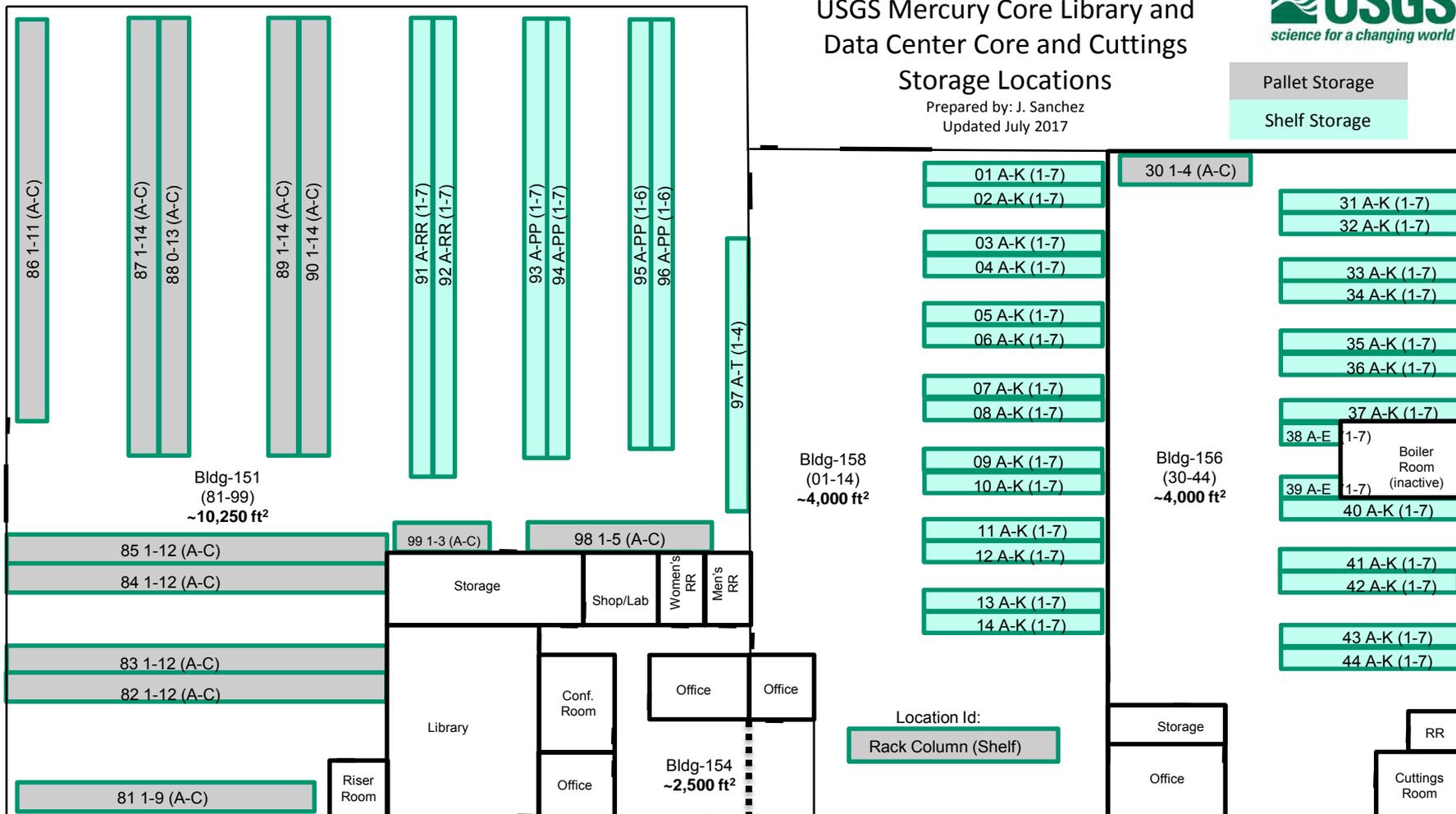


USGS Mercury Core Library and
Data Center Core and Cuttings
Storage Locations

Prepared by: J. Sanchez
Updated July 2017

Pallet Storage

Shelf Storage



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FY 2017 Utilization

- Received, processed, and added 101 boxes of core/cuttings to storage
- Pulled and photographed over 290 boxes of new and archived core/cuttings for the webpage
- Pulled over 450 boxes of core/cuttings for normal display and examination for
 - Global Security Program
 - UGTA Activity
 - National Security Technologies, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Navarro, and seven visitor bus tours



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FY 2017 Utilization (continued)

- Shipped out core/cuttings samples from three boreholes for off-site analysis
- Averaged 50 technical, support, maintenance, and guest personnel visiting the Core Library each month
- Provided cuttings sample containers and core boxes to the Global Security Program for collection of samples in the field



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Facility Tour



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Report Products

- Weekly, monthly, and annual reports summarizing Core Library operations were submitted to the USGS DOE Program Manager



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Log No 2017-191

Closing Comments

- The Mercury Core Library is an important and unique NATIONAL ASSET
- Invaluable resource for maintaining, documenting, and expanding knowledge concerning geology, hydrology, and geochemistry of the NNSS and vicinity
- Important to preserve the geologic record from an area impacted by nuclear testing
- Crucial information for decisions concerning future utilization of NNSS sub-surface testing



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Closing Comments

(continued)

- Geologic samples and historical hard copy records are
 - One-of-a-kind and cannot be reproduced
 - Represent a large investment in time, effort, and funding
 - Complement each other when stored together and properly managed



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Closing Comments (continued)

- Decisions affecting Core Library operations or changes in location needs to be a collaborative effort involving all stakeholders including EM, NNSA, National Laboratories, State of Nevada, USGS, and the public



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Questions



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Core Library ~ Work Plan Discussion



Bill Wilborn

Acting Deputy Program Manager for Operations-
EM Nevada Program



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Considerations Due to Change

- EM Nevada Program considering options for management of EM UGTA Core only
- Considerations include
 - More requests for core in the past; less mission need in the future
 - Efficiencies in electronic data files/ photographs



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Considerations Due to Change (continued)

- Past rental agreements for facilities may be less economical for the space needed
- Need for new Occupancy Agreements
 - Economic impact to NNSA
 - Shared resources
- Currently one location for all Core with one management and labor team



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Core Library Footprint



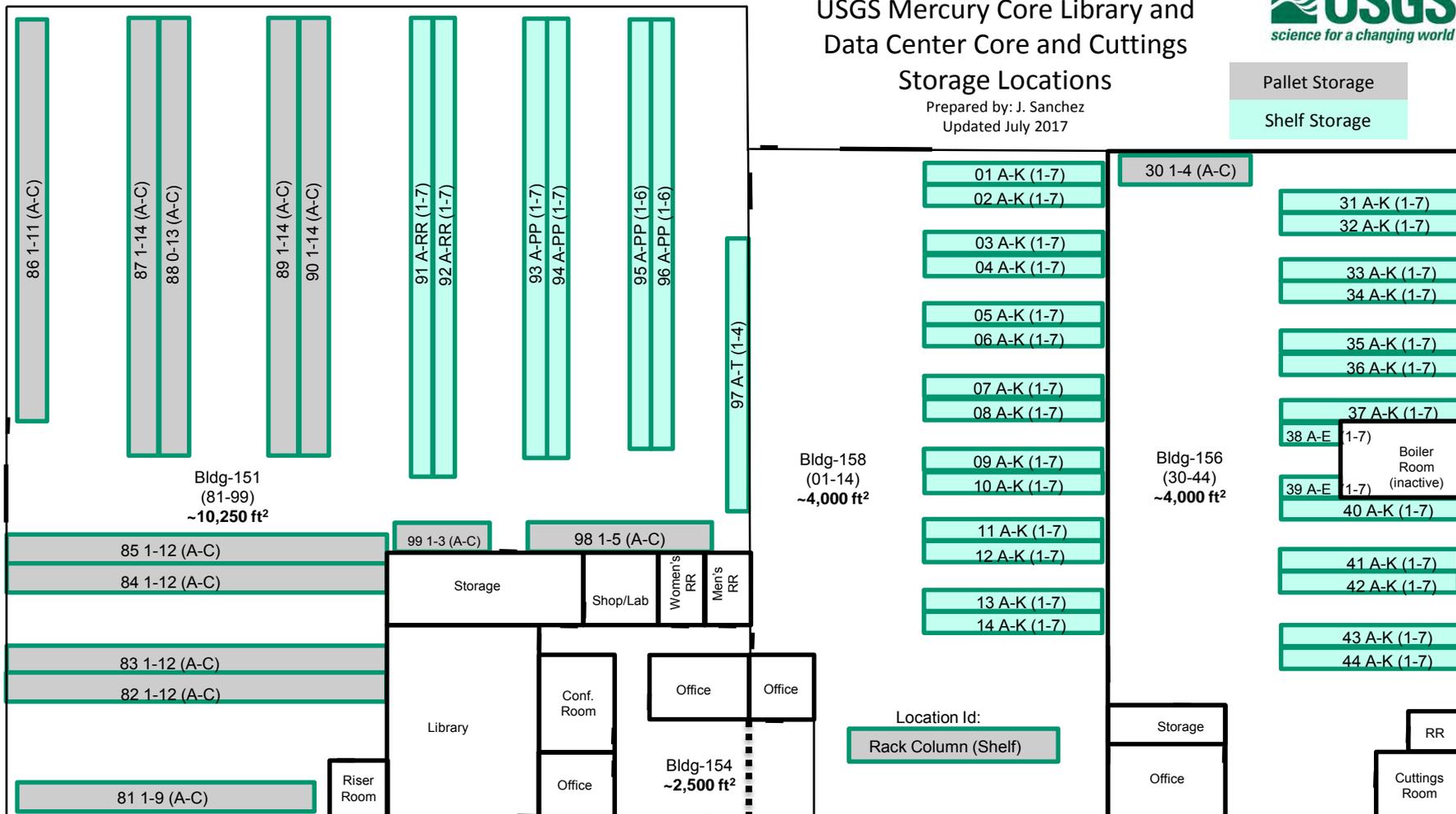
USGS Mercury Core Library and
Data Center Core and Cuttings

Storage Locations

Prepared by: J. Sanchez
Updated July 2017

Pallet Storage

Shelf Storage



Path Forward

From a community perspective, provide a recommendation to the EM Nevada Program on its preferred path forward for the EM UGTA Core housed at the Mercury Core Library



Core Library Visit During NSSAB Tour –
October 25, 2017



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Internal Peer Review Process Improvement Work Plan Item #3



Bill Wilborn

Acting Deputy Program Manager for Operations-
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
November 8, 2017



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NSSAB Work Plan Item 3

- From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations as to how the Underground Test Area (UGTA) internal peer review process could be enhanced
 - NSSAB members are invited to observe an Internal Peer Review and present their observations to the Full Board by September 2018



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UGTA's Planned Path Forward for Pahute Mesa Internal Peer Reviews

- Review water balance analyses (discharge, boundary, recharge, and chemistry)
- Corrective Action Investigation Plan revision kickoff meeting – develop schedule for Internal Peer Reviews
- Multiple Internal Peer Reviews to follow - not yet scheduled



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What to Expect

- Very technical exchange between the UGTA Leads and committee members
- Not a rubber stamp of approval
- Sessions held in Las Vegas, Nevada and may include conference calls
- Each session usually lasts between 3 and 5 hours



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What to Expect (continued)



- Dates typically not set more than 30 days in advance
- Agendas are set based on what needs to be accomplished
- Each session has a different subject matter – very dynamic dialogue/debate



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NSSAB Path Forward

- When schedule is set, choose members to observe UGTA Internal Peer Review sessions
- Members attending UGTA Internal Peer Review sessions will provide timely written updates after each session that will be emailed to the NSSAB
- Provide a recommendation by the Full Board as to how the UGTA internal peer review process could be enhanced by September 2018



Community Analysis Work Plan Item # 7



Kelly Snyder

Strategic Communications Manager-
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
November 8, 2017



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EM Nevada's Objective

- Better understand the level of interest and concern that communities near the NNSC have regarding EM activities
 - For this purpose, *community* is defined as the geographic locations near the NNSC
- NNSC's recommendation will help determine what needs to be communicated, how to communicate it, and how often
- Evaluating outreach efforts is subjective, and there is no measurable way to determine if outreach efforts are successful
 - Involving the NNSC may provide new, useful information to better shape the EM Nevada outreach program



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NSSAB Work Plan

- The NSSAB will develop a plan for gathering information from fellow community members regarding their EM interests and to gauge their level of concern regarding these activities
- The NSSAB will provide a recommendation for how the EM Nevada Program could shape its outreach based on the results of the community feedback
- Final recommendation is due July 2018



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Tonight's NSSAB Objective and Near Term Activities

- Determine if this work plan will be led by the Full Board or through a committee
 - A committee is limited to 9 members or less
- The Full Board or Committee will then need to develop a plan that covers the following:
 - Determine what needs to be gathered from the community
 - Determine how members will gather that information



Tonight's NSSAB Objective and Near Term Activities

(continued)

- Develop a schedule
- Determine how this information will be consolidated and presented to the EM Nevada Program
- EM Nevada Program will need to review the plan before any official community outreach is conducted



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EM Nevada's Active Outreach Program

- NSSAB
- Open Houses
- Fact Sheets
- Websites
- Exhibits
- Operation Clean Desert
- Community Conversations
- Social Media



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Five Reasons for Low Attendance/Little Involvement

- *Unaware*
 - The message is not reaching the community
- *Uninterested*
 - The subject is not of interest or additional information is not wanted
- *Unavailable*
 - People are too busy
- *Unconcerned*
- *Unappealing*
 - The subject is too complex or poorly communicated



Considerations When Conducting Outreach

- What does the community want to know vs needs to know?
 - Example: DOE has an active groundwater monitoring program (wants to know) vs there is a near-term risk to the public (needs to know)
- Will the outreach cause unnecessary fear or negative attention?
 - Example: There must be something wrong if effort is being put into explaining this to the community
 - Consideration: nuclear-related items have a negative stigma



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Considerations When Conducting Outreach

(continued)

- Complex subjects require balancing highly advanced sciences with understandable explanations
- Resources and financial impacts
- Often there is a small set of community members who want others to care as much as they do about a specific topic
 - The loudest voice in the room gets the most attention but does not always represent the entire room's viewpoints



Tonight's NSSAB Objective and Near Term Activities

- Determine if this work plan will be led by the Full Board or through a committee
 - A committee is limited to 9 members or less
- The Full Board or Committee will then need develop a plan that covers the following:
 - Determine what needs to be gathered from the community
 - Determine how members will gather that information



Tonight's NSSAB Objective and Near Term Activities

(continued)

- Develop a schedule
- Determine how this information will be consolidated and presented to the EM Nevada Program
- EM Nevada Program will need to review the plan before any official community outreach is conducted



45-Day Review



Rob Boehlecke
Program Manager-
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
November 8, 2017



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45-Day Review Items

- NV-02 - Evaluate Planned Closure (status) of EM Nevada Landfill in 2030
- NV-03 - Optimize Selection of Groundwater Monitoring Well Sites
- NV-04 - Perform Analysis to Determine Need for EM Nevada Treatment Facility
- Nevada will also contribute to several EM HQ level reviews including looking at potential changes/updates to the way we interact with Site-Specific Advisory Boards and looking at grants and fee agreements
- NV-01 - Modify Regulatory Strategy to Allow Incremental Turnover of Closed Sites



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NV-01 – Modify Regulatory Strategy to Allow Incremental Turnover of Closed Sites

- What is the actual decision EM Nevada Program is pursuing
 - The decision statement is: Should EM Nevada Program pursue a change in regulatory strategy to allow for some of the closed sites to be turned over to the Office of Legacy Management (OLM) prior to closure of all EM Nevada Program Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) sites (currently planned for ~2030)
 - Initial analysis led to further refinement and we are now concentrating on the sites on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) that are accessed through the Tonopah Test Range



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Map of Sites on the NTTR that Require Long-Term Monitoring (NV-01)



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Partners for NV-01

- EM Nevada Program
- National Nuclear Security Administration
- DOE's OLM
- Sandia National Laboratory
- U.S. Air Force



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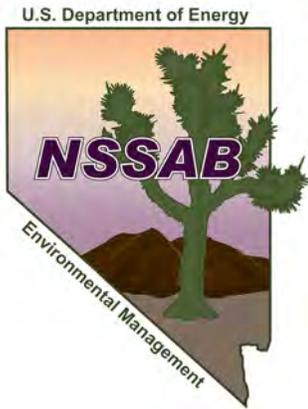
Next Steps for NV-01

- ~ December 2017: complete 45-day decision paper and gain EM HQ approval
- ~December 2019: complete all remaining FFACO investigation and closure work for sites to be turned over
- Date to be determined (likely in FY 2020 or beyond): complete all administrative actions to turn over sites to OLM



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Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

August 16, 2017

Members

Amina Anderson
 Michael Anderson
 Arcadio Bolanos
Frank Bonesteel (Vice-Chair)
 Michael D'Alessio
 Karen Eastman
 Pennie Edmond
 Raymond Elgin
 Charles Fullen
 Richard Gardner
 Donald Neill
 Autumn Pietras
 Edward Rosemark
Steve Rosenbaum (Chair)
 William Sears
 Cecilia Flores Snyder
 Richard Stephans
 Jack Sypolt
 Richard Twiddy
 Dina Williamson-Erdag

Liaisons

Clark County
 Consolidated Group of Tribes
 and Organizations
 Esmeralda County Commission
 Nye County Commission
 Nye County Emergency
 Management
 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
 Kelly Snyder, DDFO
 U.S. Department of Energy,
 EM Nevada Program

Mr. Robert Boehlecke
 Program Manager
 U.S. Department of Energy, EM Nevada Program
 P. O. Box 98518
 Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
 Recommendation for Proposed Changes to Long-term
 Monitoring at Closed Industrial and Soils Sites
 --Work Plan Item #3

Dear Mr. Boehlecke:

The NSSAB was asked to provide recommendations, from a community perspective, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the proposed changes to long-term requirements for closed Industrial and Soils Sites on the Nevada National Security Site.

The NSSAB received a briefing at its August 16th Full Board meeting and considered the pros and cons for multiple options and recommends the following for each of the four sites listed below:

Site	NSSAB Recommendation
Underground Instrument House Bunker (CAS 01-34-01)	Discontinue inspections entirely
U-30a, b, c, d, e Craters (CAS 30-45-01)	Discontinue inspections entirely
UD-3a Disposal Hole (CAS 03-20-07)	Remove the sign entirely and discontinue inspections
CAU 551, Area 12 Muck-piles (CASs 12-01-09, 12-06-05, 12-06-07, 12-06-08)	Move use restriction postings and annual inspection point to the first access location (locked gate) along the road

The NSSAB appreciates the time Tiffany Lantow, Long-term Monitoring Technical Lead, and her contractor staff provided in briefing the subject and answering questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rosenbaum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Rosenbaum, Chair

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



U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management
Nevada Program
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SEP 27 2017

Steve Rosenbaum, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
232 Energy Way
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

RESPONSE TO NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO LONG-TERM MONITORING AT
CLOSED INDUSTRIAL AND SOILS SITES -- WORK PLAN ITEM #3

I would like to thank the NSSAB for taking the time to provide recommendations regarding proposed changes to long-term monitoring at closed sites on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in an August 2017 letter. Four closed sites on the NNSS were presented as possible candidates for changes to the post-closure monitoring and/or controls, and the NSSAB evaluated each site in order to recommend a path forward.

The NSSAB recommended that DOE:

- Discontinue inspections entirely at CAS 01-34-01, Underground Instrument House Bunker
- Discontinue inspections entirely at CAS 30-45-01, U-30a, b, c, d, e Craters
- Remove the sign entirely and discontinue inspections at CAS 03-20-07, UD-3a Disposal Hole
- Move the use restriction postings and annual inspection point to the first access location (locked gate) along the road at CASs 12-01-09, 12-06-05, 12-06-07, 12-06-08 (CAU 551, Area 12 Muckpiles)

The post-closure monitoring and controls at these four sites will be evaluated by the DOE with the NSSAB's recommendations in mind. The Environmental Management Nevada Program appreciates the support of the NSSAB in this endeavor and the efforts made by the Board to provide recommendations. When a final decision is made, the Board will be notified. As always, the NSSAB's input is valued and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Kelly Snyder at (702) 295-2836 if further information on this matter is needed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany A. Lantow'.

Tiffany A. Lantow
Long-Term Monitoring Lead
Environmental Management Operations

EMO:12519.TL

Steve Rosenbaum, Chair

-2-

SEP 27 2017

cc via e-mail:

David Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)

Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)

Barb Ulmer, Navarro

Navarro Central Files

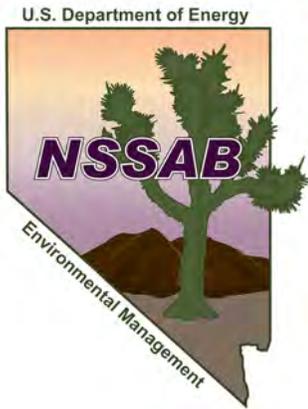
NSSAB Members and Liaisons

Rob Boehlecke, EM/NFO

Catherine Hampton, EM/NFO

Kelly Snyder, EM/NFO

NFO Read File



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

September 20, 2017

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U.S. National Park Service
White Pine County Commission

Administration

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Navarro
Kelly Snyder, DDFO
U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program

Mr. Jhon Carilli
LLW Disposal Facility Technical Lead
U.S. Department of Energy, EM Nevada Program
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program
(RWAP) Assessment Improvement Opportunities (Work Plan Item #4)

Dear Mr. Carilli,

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 ways to improve the RWAP assessment process.

In support of this work plan, you provided an extensive briefing on the RWAP assessment process at the April 19th NSSAB meeting. Also in August 2017, Dick Gardner and Richard Twiddy, NSSAB members, observed a surveillance of the generators for the Idaho National Laboratory.

Member Twiddy submitted a written report of his observations of the surveillance, although he was unable to attend the NSSAB meeting. Member Gardner provided a verbal narration of his two days of observations to the Board during the September 20th Full Board meeting.

Based on Member Gardner's comments and further Board discussion during the meeting, the NSSAB recommends that DOE includes NSSAB members to observe future facility evaluations of NNSS generators by scheduling the first day for a site tour and the second day to shadow RWAP auditors conducting interviews of generator staff and filling out the respective RWAP checklists, particularly for Quality Assurance and Waste Transportation.

Members Gardner and Twiddy's written reports are included as attachments. The NSSAB appreciates the opportunity to observe this surveillance and to provide this recommendation and extends a special thanks to the RWAP Team and Idaho staff who helped the NSSAB participate in the surveillance.

Sincerely,

Steven Rosenbaum, Chair

Richard T. Twiddy (P.E. Retired)
P.O. Box 549
Mesquite, NV 89024
(702) 613-4562
E-mail: rtwiddy@gmail.com

September 4, 2017

NSSAB

Reference: Observation of the RWAP Surveillance of Fluor Idaho (AMWTP and ICP)
By Richard Twiddy and others, dated August 29/30, 2017.

Overview:

The surveillance team meeting was conducted on Thursday, August 24 at 9 am. I called in, while traveling toward Idaho Falls, to listen and learn of the details. The meeting was conducted by the lead auditor, Ann Koplou.

The team met early August 29 for badging at the Fluor Facilities in Idaho Falls and attended the entrance meeting with staff and management of the Fluor organization. After the meeting, we promptly departed for the Idaho Research facilities some miles away. At the site, we viewed several aspects of the identification, sorting and packaging of Low level/mixed waste as well as the compacting and preparing the packages for shipping.

The following day we again traveled to the site, early, to witness a demonstration of a bagging system to be deployed, when approved. Later in the afternoon, the entire team met again at the Fluor Facilities in Idaho Falls to debrief in preparation for an exit meeting to discuss any findings as well as observations.

During this visit, I had the opportunity to witness the entire process of packaging, including the identification and analysis of the various materials to be discarded as well as the final documentation that will proceed to disposal with the mixed waste.

Observations:

1. While attending the sessions and demonstrations I asked many questions. In no case was there any attempt to avoid a direct answer; and in fact, it seems everyone involved, including the DOE and State of Nevada representatives, were anxious to see that we observers were involved in the discussions and had accurate answers. If an answer could not be met immediately it was not very long that we had the proper personnel to provide the correct answer. Everyone we met and talked with including managers, foreman and workers were open and always friendly.

2. I was particularly impressed with the cleanliness and order at the facilities, especially the compacting and packaging area. I feel, you can tell the professionalism and attention to detail when things are in order. Safety was always first on everyone's mind at all times.
3. The surveillance team did a remarkable amount of work in a short amount of time available. At the exit briefing it became clear that all the items selected to overview and audit were in fact covered adequately. I have the opinion that the auditors were professional, detail oriented, fair and dedicated.
4. One special observation occurred at the entrance meeting. All the managers including the President of the Company Facilities were present. It became clear that Fluor Individuals had upper management support and were ready and willing to provide whatever necessary to see that the audit/surveillance was successful. It was clear this was a team effort.

Suggested Improvement:

As an NSSAB observer, I was to witness and possibly suggest improvement to the Surveillance Process. What I did see suggests that the process and detailed preparations leaves little room for improvement. The planning was impressive. The auditors knew what they wanted to see and went about their work in a professional manner with very limited disturbance to the normal work.

One positive observation. The Lead Auditor, after the team briefing, brought in the respective leads and managers, that were involved in the specifics of the surveillance activities, to give them an overview of what was found and what would be reported to upper management at the upcoming exit meeting. I felt this was a nice touch and helped remove the got-ya factor. If this is not normal, within the organization, I would suggest it become normal at all audits/surveillance in the future.

Final:

With this trip, I learned that it is essential to begin disposal at the very first identification of the waste materials. It may seem simple; but the start determines the successful final disposal. Those of us not involved in the day to day operation can be satisfied that there are procedures and processes in place to assure adequate protection to the civilian population in the receiving states.

This was a successful visit, from my viewpoint. I would do this again if the opportunity presents. My special thanks to the Navarro Audit/Surveillance Team and a special thanks to our host Jhon and Mark. A separate report will be coming from Dick Gardner who also attended.

Report of Observation
A-631 Idaho Falls

You have read the report by Dick Twiddy, of which I generally agree with. My remarks are mine and is a short narration of the two days of observations.

We met for a team meeting on Tuesday morning, in Idaho Falls, where the team leader, Ann Koplow from Navarro, briefed the participants, Hope Sexton and Lee Stevens both from Navarro and the observers, Jhon Carilli, DOE and Mark McLane, State of Nevada as well as Dick Twiddy and myself from NSSAB, on why we were here. After introduction and remarks from the head of Fluor Idaho, we loaded into a van for a 1 hour trip out to INL. First stop was to RWMC to watch the loading of MLLW for shipment. Unfortunately the backhoe/loader had a broken hydraulic hose. It happens. One thing to change a hose in normal conditions and something else when you are wearing protective gear. They did get the hose repaired but after we had left. We did get to talk to some of the operators and they answered any and all questions that were asked. Other than the loading area, in this huge building, you couldn't see anything else because of the lack of lighting. Oh well.

In the afternoon we went to the AMWTP to observe the crushing facility. Our guide gave a great tour of the control room and dismantling area. We then went into the crusher area, but the crusher was shut down for maintenance/repairs. Bummer. We still got to ask questions and received answers. The whole crusher was operated by remote control and automation. All the crushing was in a controlled environment behind plenty of windows. We were given a tour of the storage and shipping areas. After we left the site we were informed that the crusher was back in operation and they are trying to arrange a tour the next day.

One hour trip back to town.

Next day an one hour trip back out to the site.

First stop was INTEC, where we were going to watch the encapsulation of barrels of waste. This process has just recently been approved for use and they are still working on the procedure of bagging the barrel. This process includes bagging a barrel with 3 bags. A lift raises the barrel then the the three bags are slipped over and attached in various ways. The 5 or 6 people that were bagging looked like a Chinese fire drill. A lot of people for one barrel. I'm sure with time this process will become more refined.

Afterward we were taken back to the crusher. This crusher uses 220,000 lbs. of force to crush a 55 gallon barrel filled with waste to about 4 to 5 inches. This "puck" is moved by automation to an area where 4, 5, or 6 of these "pucks" are then loaded and sealed into another barrel for shipment. Labels or identification are added everywhere. All this power, I couldn't help wondering what this would do to a beer can? Oh well. Upon leaving the crusher room we were thoroughly checked, which I assumed were Geiger counters. Since none of us were glowing, I guess we were OK.

After another hour ride to town, we gathered for a meeting with the auditors, Lee, Hope and Ann. Where Mark, Jhon, Dick and myself went over the results of the audits. Afterward

we were invited to the exit meeting and were allowed to make comments. Part of which you are now hearing.

Overall, my most impressive impression was about safety. It was stressed everywhere. Signs, banners and posters were everywhere. At all entrances we were read safety warnings about the hazards of radioactivity. A key part to the safety was the overall cleanliness of all the sites we visited. Sort of a “place for everything and everything in its place” attitude.

Special kudos to Stuart Gerard, our chauffeur extraordinaire, and Jared Dominik for getting us to and making arrangements for the tours. Stuart for ICP and Jared for AMWTP.

Everywhere on the tour there are letter designations. In ten years you might remember all them. We had the RWMC, WCO, INTEC, INL, MLLW, AMWTP, SP&C, ICP, DOE and DOD. I am sure there are others I forgot. I did not hear FBI, CIA or NCIS but I am pretty sure their presence is there.

In summary, I learned a lot on the processing, packaging and the preparedness for shipping. Shipping not only to Nevada, but other destinations as well. I will finally end with my own letters AOK.

Dick Gardner



U.S. Department of Energy
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Nevada Program
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OCT 16 2017

Steven Rosenbaum, 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 RADIOACTIVE WASTE ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM (RWAP)
ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES -- WORK PLAN ITEM #4

Reference: Ltr Rosenbaum to Carilli, dtd 9/20/2017

I would like to thank the NSSAB for taking the time to provide recommendations regarding RWAP Assessment Improvement Opportunities in the above mentioned letter. The Environmental Management Nevada Program recognizes the NSSAB's recommendations and will try to implement them when planning future generator site visits that the NSSAB observes. As always, the NSSAB's input is valued and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Kelly K. Snyder at (702) 295-2836 if further information on this matter is needed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jhon T. Carilli".

Jhon T. Carilli
LLW Activity Lead
EM Nevada Program

EMOS:12547.JC

cc via e-mail:
David Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
Rob Boehlecke, EM
Jhon Carilli, EM
Catherine Hampton, EM
Kelly Snyder, EM
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Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

August 16, 2017

Ms. Kelly Snyder
Deputy Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Department of Energy, EM Nevada Program
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
Recommendation for Groundwater Communication Activities
-- Work Plan Item #7

Dear Ms. Snyder:

The NSSAB was asked to provide recommendations, from a community perspective, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) if additional communication tools should be developed to help communicate groundwater-related topics to the general public.

The NSSAB received a briefing at its June 21st Full Board meeting regarding the current groundwater communication activities conducted by the Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program. Per the NSSAB's request, additional information on non-groundwater outreach efforts and cost information on the NSSAB was provided at a later date.

Based on the briefing, additional information requested by the NSSAB, and Board discussion, the NSSAB expressed that the DOE is doing a thorough job and does not have any additional ideas or improvements for groundwater communication activities. The NSSAB recommends that the DOE continue its current outreach efforts for groundwater communication activities based on the present level of interest by the general public.

The NSSAB appreciates the time that Federal and contractor staff briefed on this topic and also for the additional information requested by the NSSAB in support of this work plan item.

Sincerely,

Steven Rosenbaum, Chair

cc: D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
B. K. Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
R. F. Boehlecke, EM/NFO
C. E. Hampton, EM/NFO
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Administration

Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
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U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program



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OCT 12 2017

Steve Rosenbaum, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
232 Energy Way
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

RESPONSE TO NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB) RECOMMENDATION
FOR GROUNDWATER COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES (WORK PLAN ITEM #7)

The Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program appreciates the time that the NSSAB invested in reviewing current groundwater communication tools in an effort to determine if additional methods should be developed to help communicate groundwater-related topics to the general public.

Based on the NSSAB's recommendation dated August 16, 2017, the EM Nevada Program will continue its current outreach efforts for groundwater communication activities based on the present level of interest by the general public.

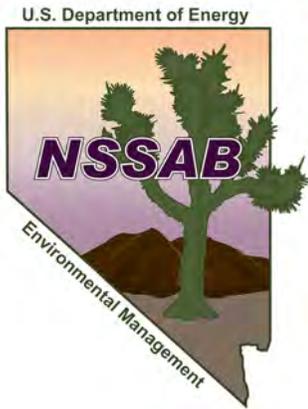
If in the future it is determined that another groundwater communication tool would be beneficial to the public, please feel free to contact me to discuss at (702) 295-2836.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly K. Snyder".

Kelly K. Snyder
Deputy Designated Federal Officer

EMOS:12546.KKS

cc via e-mail:
David Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
Navarro Central Files
Robert Boehlecke, EM NV Program
Catherine Hampton, EM NV Program
Bill Wilborn, EM NV Program
NFO Read File



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

September 20, 2017

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*U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program*

Ms. Kelly K. Snyder
Deputy Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Department of Energy, EM Nevada Program
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Communication Improvement Opportunities
(Work Plan Item #9)

Dear Ms. Snyder,

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 DOE can improve/enhance communication to the public (i.e. presentations, open houses, documents, fact sheets). Interim suggestions from NSSAB Members were documented in the official minutes of each Full Board meeting.

During fiscal year 2017, the NSSAB made the following recommendations for ways DOE can improve/enhance communication to the public:

- DOE should conduct additional tours of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) for the public and local high school students.
- DOE should provide follow-up and possibly an ongoing series on the NSSAB and NNSS on KPVM-TV.
- DOE should increase public involvement with the kiosk.
- The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, (UNLV) student intern newsletter should be distributed to a wider audience.
- DOE should do an interview on KPVM-TV before NSSAB Full Board meetings in Pahrump, NV.
- DOE should simplify the path to the NSSAB pages on its website.
- DOE should include more Nevada-specific articles in the Environmental Management (EM) Updates newsletter that is published by EM Headquarters.

Kelly Snyder
September 20, 2017
Page 2

The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide meaningful input to DOE on ways to enhance/improve communication to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rosenbaum", written in a cursive style.

Steven Rosenbaum, Chair

cc: D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
B. K. Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
R. F. Boehlecke, EM NV Program
C. E. Hampton, EM NV Program
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Nevada Program
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OCT 11 2017

Steve Rosenbaum, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
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North Las Vegas, NV 89030

RESPONSE TO NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB) RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES (WORK PLAN ITEM #9)

The Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program appreciates the NSSAB's recommendations on ways to enhance/improve communications to the public.

Below are the Board's recommendations and the EM Nevada Program's responses:

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE should conduct additional tours of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) for the public and local high school students.

EM Nevada Program Response: As the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) hosts the public tours, the EM Nevada Program will share this feedback with NNSA. The EM Nevada Program will continue to work with local high schools and organizations to provide EM-specific tours of the NNSS, upon request.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE should provide follow-up and possibly an ongoing series on the NSSAB and NNSS on KPVM-TV.

EM Nevada Program Response: This recommendation will be considered during future event planning and execution.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE should increase public involvement with the kiosk.

EM Nevada Program Response: DOE will continue to make its two kiosks accessible to the public in communities across southern Nevada. Locations the kiosks have been in since 2012 include: Central Nevada Museum in Pahrump, NV, Creech Air Force Base Cafeteria, *Public Reading Room in the Frank H. Rogers Science and Technology Building in Las Vegas, NV, *UNLV Lied Library in Las Vegas, NV, Beatty Museum, Amargosa Valley Library, Indian Springs Library, Pahrump Library, and Paseo Verde Library, Windmill Library, Sahara Library, Green Valley Library, Las Vegas Library, Aliante Library, Centennial Hills Library, Rainbow Library, Enterprise Library, West Las Vegas Library, West Charleston Library in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson, NV. *Current locations.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) student intern newsletter should be distributed to a wider audience.

EM Nevada Program Response: Since the UNLV newsletter is not a product of the EM Nevada Program, we are unable to direct where the newsletter is distributed. However, Student Intern Anthony Graham from UNLV agreed to look into dispersing his newsletter to a wider distribution for both college and high school students.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE should do an interview on KPVM-TV before NSSAB Full Board meetings in Pahrump, NV.

EM Nevada Program Response: The NSSAB Office will continue to work with setting up interviews for NSSAB leadership to conduct interviews on KPVM-TV before each NSSAB Full Board meeting held in Pahrump, NV.

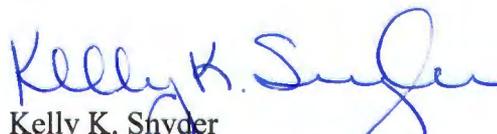
- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE should simplify the path to the NSSAB pages on its website.

EM Nevada Program Response: Currently, the NSSAB webpages can be accessed directly from the main NNSS webpage (hover over Public Affairs/Outreach and select Advisory Board – first item on the list). The EM Nevada Program is unable to further simplify accessing the NSSAB website.

- **NSSAB Recommendation:** DOE should include more Nevada-specific articles in the EM Updates newsletter that is published by EM Headquarters.

EM Nevada Program Response: The EM Nevada Program will continue to promote Nevada-specific articles for the EM Updates newsletter and will increase articles as resources and topics are available.

The EM Nevada Program has found these recommendations to be very valuable in communicating with the public and look forward to receiving any additional feedback on communication enhancements in the upcoming fiscal year.


Kelly K. Snyder
Deputy Designated Federal Officer

EMOS:12539.KS

cc via e-mail:

David Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)

Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)

Barbara Ulmer, Navarro

NSSAB Members and Liaisons

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Catherine Hampton, EM/NFO

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