



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

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### **Full Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

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# NSSAB FULL BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

October 2020 through September 2021 (FY 2021)

Name	*11/18/2020	*1/20/2021	*3/17/2021	*5/19/2021	**7/21/2021	*9/22/2021	Max Terms
<b>MEMBERS</b>							
Gail Alexander	√	√	√	√	√	√	2026
Francis Bonesteel	√	√	√	√	√	√	2022
William DeWitt	√	√	√	√	√	√	2024
Bill Dolan	√	√	E	E	√	E	2026
Karen Eastman	√	√	√	√	√	√	2022
Gary Elgort	√	√	√	√	√	√	2026
Charles Fullen	√	E	√	√	E	√	2022
Anthony Graham	√	√	√	√	√	√	2024
Mark Hilton	√	√	√	√	E	E	2026
Bruce Jabbour	√	E	√	√	E	E	2026
Ron Korner	√	√	√	√	√	√	2026
James Moldenhauer	√	√	E	√			2026
Dan Peterson	√	√	√	√	U	√	2026
Janice Six	√	√	√	E	√	√	2024
Richard Stephans	√	√	E	√	√	E	2022
Favil West	√	√	√	E	√	√	2026
Dina Williamson-Erdag	√	√	√	√	√	√	2022
<b>LIAISONS</b>							
Clark County	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Consolidated Group of Tribes & Organizations	E	√	√	√	√	√	
Elko County Commission (limited)							
Esmeralda County Commission	U	E	U	U	U	U	
Lincoln County Commission	U	U	U	U	U	U	
Nye County Commission	U	E	U	U	U	U	
Nye County Emergency Management	√	√	√	U	√	√	
Nye Co. Natural Resources and Federal Facility	√	E	√	U	√	√	
State of NV Division of Env Protection	√	√	√	√	√	√	
U.S. Natl Park Service (limited)	√	√		√			
White Pine County Commission (limited)							
KEY: √ - Present    E - Excused    V - Vacant    U - Unexcused							
*Virtual Full Board Meeting							
**Hybrid Full Board Meeting							

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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Hanford	Idaho	Nevada	Northern New Mexico
Oak Ridge	Paducah	Portsmouth	Savannah River

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October XX, 2021

Mr. William “Ike” White  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM)  
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. White:

On October XX, 2021, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) passed the following recommendation concerning community engagement at EM sites. This recommendation was subsequently approved by XXXX local boards of the EM SSAB.

### **Background**

The EM SSAB understands that successful completion of the DOE-EM mission must include a significant community, public and stakeholder outreach. While DOE-EM has been engaging in public outreach from the beginning we believe that the effectiveness can be improved by any of several different approaches described in this document taking into consideration the complexity and uniqueness of each of the cleanup sites managed by DOE-EM.

Because of the challenges represented by the complexity and variety of sites with correspondingly different cleanup schedules, we are presenting a suite of potential activities that can be implemented by DOE EM and the SSABs at each of the sites but are applicable to all sites in some form. Individual site-specific advisory boards are in the perfect position to help develop and recommend implementation strategies because of our inherent connections within our respective communities. Advisory board involvement on DOE EM outreach would help by providing advice related to specific targeted areas based on feedback from actual communities and individuals who live near or are potentially impacted by site activities.

Below are observations from the SSABs developed during public outreach committee meetings. These are followed by specific recommendations from this committee.

### **Observations:**

- Some SSABs feel that the relationship between DOE and their communities is top-notch, while others feel that the public stakeholders need greater involvement in the cleanup conversation as decisions are being made.
- SSABs tend to agree that DOE sites are most successful when they host and encourage frank,

transparent conversations with the public and regulators regarding the decisions that are being made and the challenges they face. These are often difficult and complex topics that the public is eager to understand and need to have the opportunity to ask questions and see their concerns addressed.

- Sites are most successful when they get in the “trust zone” with their local and regional stakeholders and partners.
- Frequent sharing of information about cleanup, schedules, and funding with local Chambers of Commerce and economic development organizations as well as city and county governments has been found to be very advantageous for one SSAB.
- Public involvement in shaping decisions is important to project success. In order to accomplish this overarching goal, several areas of the public involvement relationship could be improved. What is legally required is just the start.
- Public stakeholders appreciate when we see their values reflected in the activities, agreements, and products of site managers and regulators. Examples include DOE’s solicitation of board values and incorporation of those values in Federal Facility Agreement Public Involvement Plans, soliciting and incorporating board input on informational materials and effective public meeting designs.
- In-depth informational outreach is highly valued by the different SSABs.
  - This can take the form of monthly newsletters for those who can’t attend meetings, to virtual meetings that give the public access to SMEs on specific topics of interest, to regional in-person “dialogues” that promote a two-way communication between interested stakeholders and site managers from both DOE and the regulatory agencies.
  - Access to information digitally and in an approachable format are also highly valued in order to reach and inform the widest audience.
- Beyond virtual access, the ability to take in-person tours is deemed fundamental to the openness and transparency the public is seeking.
- In general, the SSAB boards are interested and willing to consult with DOE on how meetings and outreach materials are designed and distributed, and we encourage DOE to make use of this resource. New media such as videos, animations, virtual tours, regular newsletters, and digital histories are excellent tools for site outreach and education, and their continued development should be supported.
- Many sites like Paducah have a book on the history of the site.
  - These could be placed in the community, university, and local school libraries, city and county offices, tourism, and Chambers of Commerce offices.
  - These could also be presented to state and federal officials, Congressional delegation, state legislators and others.
- Exhibits on the history of the site and cleanup process placed in appropriate locations, such as area universities and colleges, city and county offices; public meetings regarding the site and cleanup and other appropriate locations.

### **Recommendation**

We recommend that the individual site managers/designees and their advisory boards work together to discuss and determine which activities best suit their circumstances and respond to public needs. The detail, depth, and implementation plan should result from this collaborative effort. The following thematic areas of improvement were agreed upon by the Chair Public Outreach Committee and are offered as recommendations to DOE EM, as well as some specific recommendations within each thematic area. Site-by-site recommendations may be found in the attachments to this letter.

1. Develop an optimal design and platform for virtual and hybrid meetings and make the most of virtual opportunities. Not only does this allow us to make the most of the change that COVID-19 brought to

the world but allows access by members of the public that might not be able to travel to SSAB meetings.

- Utilize social media to quickly disseminate important information to the public, State and local governments, and stakeholders.
- 2. Maintain efforts for in-person outreach.
  - Make site tours for board members a requisite, and include the public, stakeholder groups, and the media whenever possible.
  - Utilize local museums to house displays for preserving site history or virtual museums to tell the story of the site using online format that can be accessed at any time.
- 3. Outreach should be a mechanism for effective two-way communication between DOE-EM and the general public. DOE-EM outreach should seek to increase (1) the general public's awareness and understanding of DOE-EM activities as well as (2) actionable feedback from the general public regarding past, current, and future DOE-EM activities.
  - Engage the public early and often. Have interactive conversations with the public that allow the public to ask questions and get answers about complex subjects.
  - Share how public input has shaped or influenced cleanup decisions.
  - Ensure open and transparent decision making.
  - Promote success and planning ahead by incorporating and educating the public on strategic vision plans that cover at least the next 10 years.
- 4. Continue to support and improve informational outreach products to engage the public.
  - Utilize existing digital media outlets (i.e., YouTube channels, papers, blogs, and newsletters) to broadcast timely information about current events and upcoming activities at a site. [NOTE: Nevada has their own YouTube channel.]
  - Create videos, animations, and diagrams to use at public presentations or posted on websites to present engaging content the public would be interested in.
  - Create a listing of historical articles and books relevant to each site that could be accessed through each site's website. Consider providing hyperlinks for the public to view these documents. EM sites provide databases or libraries of the technical reports produced for EM cleanup actions. The aforementioned historical articles and books would not duplicate the EM libraries but rather provide information that is less scientifically complex and technical for interested but perhaps less informed members of the public.
  - Messaging regarding the cleanup of environmental impacts from nuclear development and research at the sites should be prioritized and increased relative to other, non-cleanup messaging.
- 5. Continue seeking ways to support and improve the impact of DOE's Site Specific Advisory Boards
  - Educate/inform the public, stakeholders, local and state officials and other appropriate entities on the purpose and responsibilities of the SSAB/CAB Boards in each community, including the current leadership and membership, through news releases, speaker presentations, social media, newsletters and other communication methods. When new leadership has been selected or new members have joined the Board, also announce the changes using similar methods as previously mentioned.
  - When DOE/EM officials visit EM sites, plan an opportunity to visit informally with local SSAB / CAB Board members in order to develop a relationship with its membership and to show that they are valued.
- 6. Facilitate and support cross-site sharing of activities and public outreach resources. Outreach efforts should be informed and motivated by relevant professional expertise and related quantitative and qualitative metrics. To ensure ongoing progress, outreach efforts should be reviewed periodically by recognized experts in the field of government public outreach, and the outreach efforts should be adjusted as appropriate.

### **Additional Information**

In preparation for this recommendation, the EM SSAB prepared the following three attachments that it believes represents viable activities and opportunities for effective public outreach that EM sites should consider in preparing public outreach plans.

- Attachment #1, *Outreach Activities for DOE EM, contractor, or SSAB*, is a compilation of outreach activities that have been used by SSABs with varying degrees of success. This can be used to develop approaches at Sites.
- Attachment #2, *Improvement Opportunities*, collates public outreach best practices submitted by the SSAB chairs at the Spring 2021 Virtual Chairs Meeting.
- Attachment #3, *Charge Responses Compiled*, contains the PowerPoint slides provided by each SSAB Chair at the Spring 2021 Virtual Chairs Meeting. The slides provide a detailed listing of the improvement opportunities offered by each of the SSAB chairs.

These observations and recommendations are respectfully submitted by the below signed chairs of the respective SSABs.

XXXXXXX, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

XXXXXXX, Chair  
Nevada SSAB

XXXXXXX, Chair  
Oak Ridge SSAB

XXXXXXXXX, Chair  
Paducah CAB

XXXXXXXXX, Chair  
Savannah River Site CAB

XXXXXXXXX, Chair  
Northern New Mexico  
CAB

XXXXXXX, Chair  
Portsmouth SSAB

XXXXXXXXXX, Chair  
Idaho Cleanup Project CAB

cc: Kelly Snyder, EM-4.32

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### **References**

1. Attachment #1, *Outreach Activities for DOE EM, contractor, or SSAB*
2. Attachment #2, *Improvement Opportunities*
3. Attachment #3, *Charge Responses Compiled*

## DRAFT

### 10 Year Strategic Plan Development:

- 1) DOE should hold 10 year Strategic Vision public meetings every year, at each site, in order to share the next iteration of programmatic goals, including discussions of successes, roadblocks, course changes, new scopes of cleanup and recognition of potential uncertainties. Public tutorial meetings should be held two weeks in advance of the beginning of any formal Public Comment period in order to build a common knowledge base.
- 2) EM Sites have the commonality of specific, near-term, three to five year, plans. These specific site plans should all trigger public involvement campaigns, outlining yearly updates on their next respective, goals. Site near-term plans should be aligned with 10 year Strategic Plan goals such that near-term plans can be used iteratively to benchmark programmatic progress.
- 3) Regarding the Strategic Vision, in addition to reducing jargon and allowing for a quicker means of identifying or getting to information pertinent to a specific site, the document needs a better explanation of how the priorities are established. What criteria are used with regard to public health, environmental risks, local economies, cost to complete, land transfers, etc.? Not details for each site, but an overall explanation of the process. This might help people understand why some sites have larger budgets or seem to be more active. Local SSABs are probably knowledgeable about planning for their sites, but each board should have some education on national priorities.

### Communication:

- 1) DOE should put forth a concerted effort to define terminology so that FACA Boards and the public understand what is being considered and asked for, from them, within the decision matrix to be discussed. DOE needs to clearly communicate the boundaries of what is being considered. Additionally, DOE should articulate, in what manner, public policy advice can be successfully received by DOE-EM in order to see it incorporated into DOE's pending decisions. Lastly, DOE must convey how they will respond to public comments.
- 2) Utilize the strength of the SSAB Board's experiences and longevity by having them help to facilitate public meeting design, timing and locations. DOE-EM SSABs are now long-standing. They are formed from broad representation of the communities they represent and as such have the ability to help DOE regionalize presentations.
- 3) Evaluation of SSAB effectiveness should be based on several factors. This should include development of, but not limited to, guidance on when and what types of recommendations are needed. Although less objective, evaluative assessments from community stakeholders, DOE, DOE contractors, regulatory personnel and the SSAB's themselves should be incorporated.
- 4) Activities at some sites are long term and have reached the stage where little change is seen during the tenure of a typical SSAB member. Hence, the need for major decisions and recommendations is less or non-existent. Maintaining SSAB member interest is difficult. In this situation, DOE should consider ways to involve the SSABs in less consequential decisions and public outreach. DOE should

also consider what types of education might provide a better background for recommendations, decisions, community outreach that will occur in the future.

5) Written communication produced by DOE and the SSABs that is intended for the general public should be reviewed by site Public Affairs to verify that the use of jargon or uncommon terminology is understandable to a non-technical audience.

#### Public Involvement:

1) DOE should embrace the tenet that institutional knowledge and transparency in all aspects of the cleanup program is an essential component of building informed, useful and supportive public policy advice from the SSAB Boards, Tribes and the public. By engaging the public early and often, DOE can utilize the SSAB Boards and their operating structures such that they help prepare future generations of Board members and the public for informed engagement.

2) DOE should support STEM program development for local schools and colleges with curriculum development. Efforts should include supporting development of trained people for trade-focused careers.

3) DOE should actively provide opportunities for informational engagement and coordinate with the EM SSAB meeting schedule to the extent possible.

4) DOE should hold public tutorial meetings in order to share DOE interactions with regulatory bodies and formally convened scientific panels. Building a collective, scientific basis for remediation pathway development that incorporates informed public policy recommendations should be the goal.

5) SSAB membership should be consistent in reflecting community educational levels, proximity, racial and cultural diversity, and income levels. An exact mirror of the community is not necessarily beneficial. Interest and commitment are most important. Including actual stakeholders affected by public health or environmental risks or community economic and political factors is more important than simply looking at the community demographics. Also, having people that can contribute to SSAB decisions because of experience, education, and connections in the community is important. One criterion that should be emphasized is a member's willingness and ability to communicate with the general public.

6) Introductory training for new board members appears to be inconsistent. Site tours and in-person instruction should be required. These should be supplemented by online or other virtual resources. In addition to DOE and/or contractor personnel, current SSAB members should be involved in the tours and training. Introductory training can be spread out over time, but should be separate from SSAB meetings. A more formal schedule of when new SSAB members are added should be established to allow for a better introductory training schedule and to reduce the need for continual repetition of information that has already been addressed by longer term SSAB members.

7) Because of COVID, virtual meetings have become routine. Although these meetings allow for participation of people geographically distant or with health issues, they are not as effective regarding communication within and between SSAB, DOE, regulatory personnel, DOE contractors, and the general public. Virtual meetings allow for a lessened commitment among participants. SSAB in-person meetings should be prioritized, with hybrid meetings as needed.



Risk Communication:

- 1) DOE should address the Boards and the public on how risk assessments affect prioritization and decision making.
- 2) Training should be provided to Board members on communications surrounding high-profile or sensitive issues.

## RECOMMENDATION TO REVISE THE MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

### Background

The work of the DOE-EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) is in support of Department of Energy (DOE) programmatic missions focused on environmental cleanup of post-war nuclear and chemical contamination. At each of our respective sites, that work has been substantially and adversely impacted over the course of the past few years, in part, because of the length of time it is now taking to get appointment letters approved for individual Board members to participate. It has hamstrung Board abilities, at each site, to fulfill DOE goals for development and incorporation of public policy advice concerning the nature of cleanup and many other issues. For example, often potential members apply and later withdraw their applications due to extended delays in the appointment process. Boards have had to delay providing advice or recommendations due to a lack of membership, coupled with the loss of Board or Committee chair leadership while they wait for appointment approval. Reduced Board membership has also limited the development of institutional knowledge, so necessary at sites whose cleanup missions will extend decades into the future. In some cases, experienced and informed members are handicapped by a year or longer gap between their terms because they lack the special and immediate access to information on emerging issues that active members receive. More significantly, the extended approval process, which has often resulted in depleted Board rosters, has reduced Board legitimacy, and eroded public confidence in the DOE, including attracting complaints from community organizations and negative media coverage.

Examples of negative impacts specific to each site are attached to this recommendation.

### Recommendation

The EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) believes that the Department of Energy (DOE) should substantially revise the membership approval process to ensure that the continuity of Board and Committee activities is protected and remains intact such that there is no disruption of stakeholder involvement and input as per each Board's respective chartering agreements and operating rules.

While the larger effort to comprehensively revise the SSAB membership approval process is pursued by the Designated Federal Officer for the EM SSAB and in order to further enable stakeholder participation at their respective sites during this endeavor, the EM SSAB recommends:

1. The membership review and approval process should include all reasonable activities necessary to prevent lapsed memberships. A lapsed membership is defined as: a membership held by a member in good standing whose term has expired but has not reached the six-year limit.
2. The site manager should be empowered to temporarily extend the terms of lapsed members in good standing or to temporarily appoint other qualified members to replace lapsed members until a new membership package is approved.<sup>1</sup>
3. The DOE should publish the review and appointment process and then take feedback from the public and EM SSAB members. The published information should identify which elements are required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the General Services Administration, and the EM SSAB charter, and which elements are internal to the DOE, as well as where those DOE policies and procedures can be found.

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<sup>1</sup> For a related authority see the DOE EM SSAB Policies and Procedures Desk Reference (June 2013), Section III.C on "Delegated Authority to the Field for Member Appointments."

# Corrective Action Unit (CAU 114), Area 25 EMAD Facility Disposal Options – Work Plan Item #3



**Ryan Dodd, Industrial Sites Manager**  
Navarro, Contractor to the  
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program  
November 10, 2021



OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT  
NEVADA PROGRAM

[www.nnss.gov](http://www.nnss.gov)  
*safety – performance – cleanup – closure*



ID 2632 – 11/10/2021  
Log No: EMRP-2021-092

# NSSAB – Work Plan Item #3

- From a community perspective, the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) will provide a recommendation on what disposal option(s) (i.e., on/near project site, or in Areas 3/5/9) would be preferred for planned deactivation and demolition (D&D) activities at CAU 114, Area 25 Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility
- NSSAB recommendation is due tonight



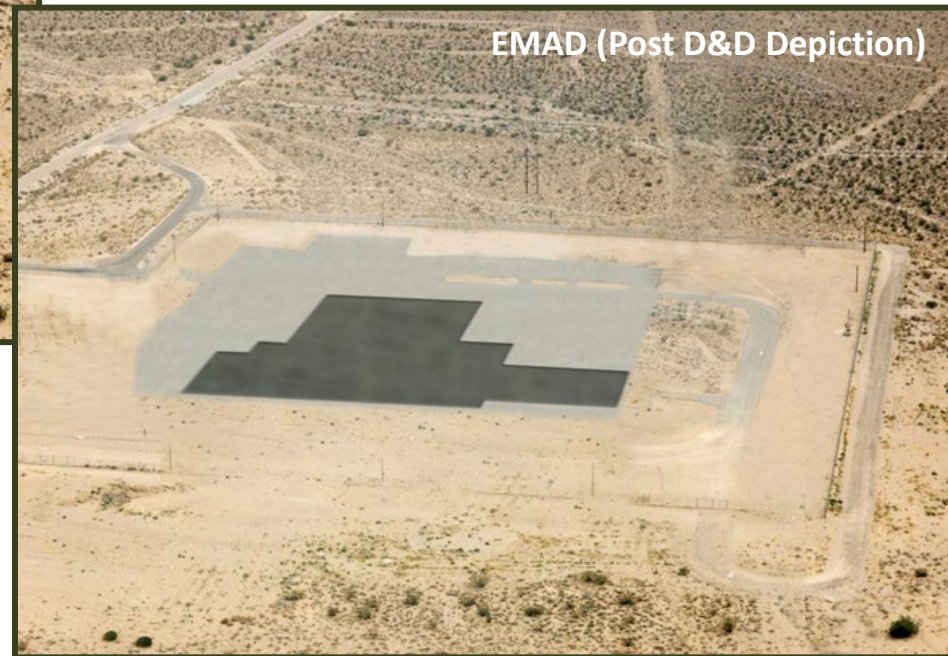
# Outline

- EMAD End State
- Waste Generation During EMAD Demolition
- Waste Disposal Options Evaluated by Navarro
  - Disposal at Current Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) On-site Disposal Outlets
  - Disposition on/near EMAD Project Site Footprint
  - Development of New Disposal Landfill in Area 25
- Navarro Disposal Recommendation





# EMAD End State



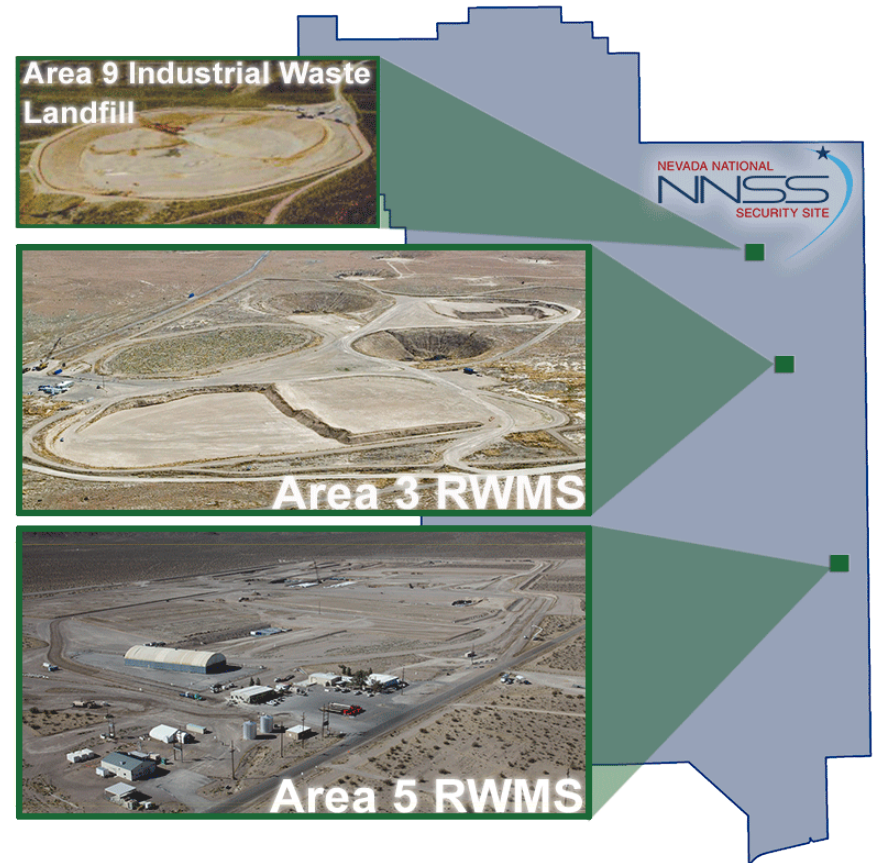
# Waste Generation During EMAD Demolition

	Low-Level Waste (LLW)	Industrial	Mixed LLW (MLLW)	Universal Hazardous Waste	Hazardous
Waste Volume (cubic yards)	60,000	3,900	500	300	5
Waste Truck Shipments	2,800	475	50	30	5



# Waste Disposal Options Evaluated by Navarro

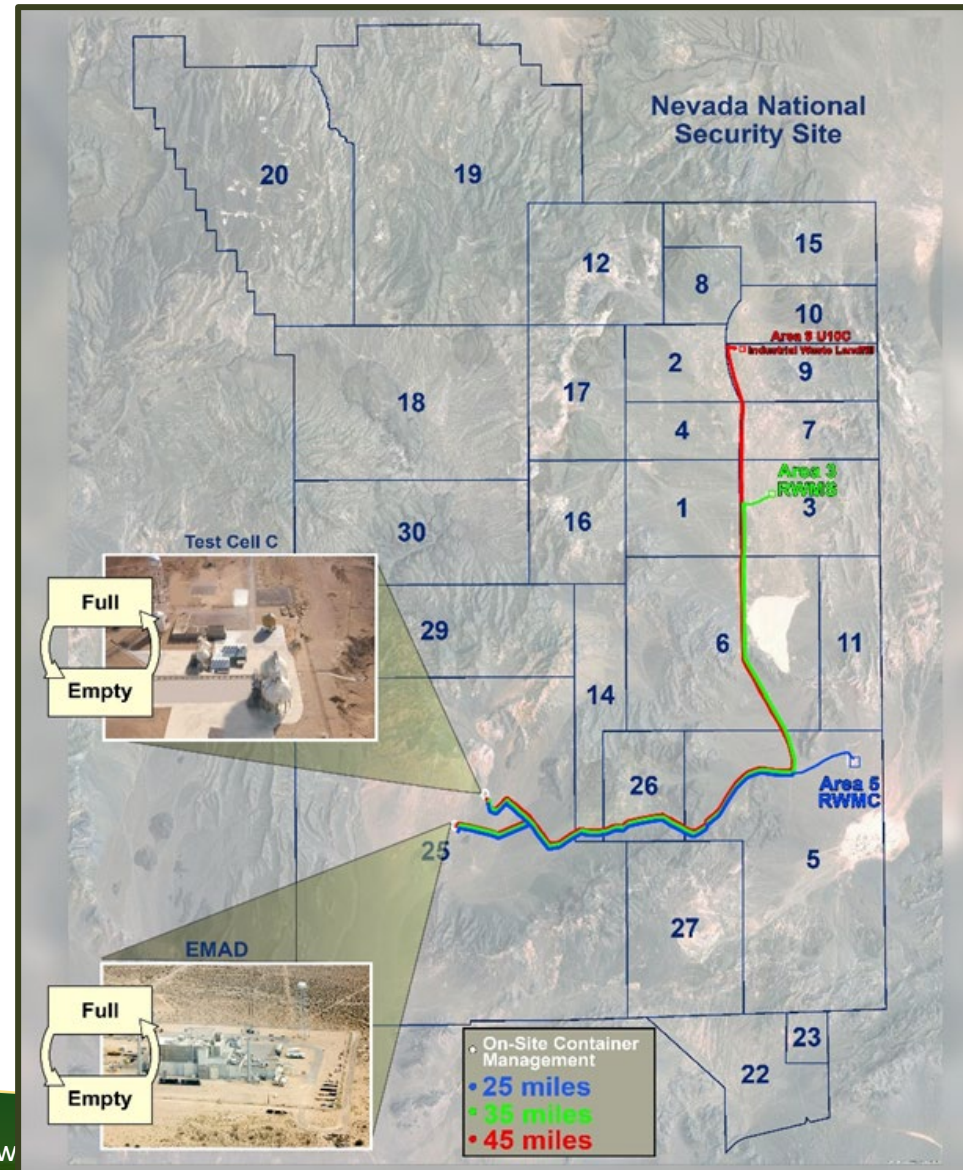
- Disposal at current NNSS on-site disposal outlets
  - Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS) for LLW
  - Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) for MLLW
  - Area 9 Landfill for Industrial Waste
- Disposition on/near EMAD project site footprint
- Development of new disposal landfill in Area 25





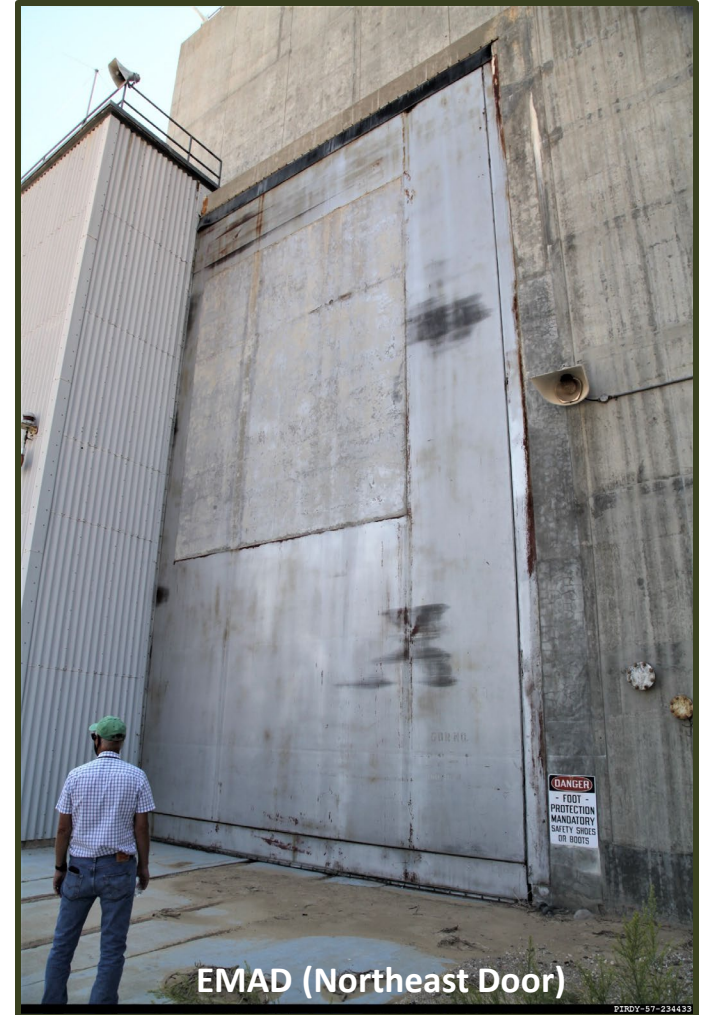
# Disposal at Current NNSS On-site Disposal Outlets

- Pros
  - Clear regulatory authority
  - Established waste acceptance criteria
  - Operating processes, procedures, and trained staff
  - Low risk to disposal readiness
- Cons
  - Distance to disposal area
  - Integration with off-site waste
  - Road improvements to the disposal outlets needed



# Disposition on/near EMAD Project Site Footprint

- Pros
  - Distance to disposal area
  - Reduced fill material needed for EMAD area contouring
- Cons
  - No established permit
  - No operating processes, procedures, and trained staff
  - High risk to demolition disposal readiness
  - Additional cost of final surface barrier/cap
  - Lack of space needed to accommodate total anticipated disposal volumes



# Development of New Disposal Landfill in Area 25

- Pros
  - Distance to disposal area
  - Supports potential future demolitions
- Cons
  - Siting and construction of new disposal cell
  - No established permit
  - No operating processes, procedures, and trained staff
  - High risk to demolition disposal readiness
  - Schedule prohibitive: Extensive process to site a new disposal facility
  - Likely cost prohibitive: Disposal infrastructure, cover cap, etc.





# Navarro Disposal Recommendation

- Uncertainty (risk) associated with permitting and regulatory authorization of disposal on/near EMAD Project Site footprint is high
- Development of new disposal cell in Area 25 likely cost and schedule prohibitive
- **Following qualitative review of the disposal options, Navarro's current recommendation is disposal at Areas 3, 5, and 9 for the respective waste types**



# Review

- EMAD End State
- Waste Generation During EMAD Demolition
- Waste Disposal Options Evaluated by Navarro
  - Disposal at Current NNSS On-site Disposal Outlets
  - Disposition on/near EMAD Project Site Footprint
  - Development of New Disposal Landfill in Area 25
- Navarro Disposal Recommendation



# Questions



EM Nevada Program Subject Matter Experts (SMEs):  
Kevin Cabble and Tiffany Gamero

Navarro SMEs:  
Mark Burmeister, Ryan Dodd, Joseph Martin,  
Pat Matthews, Christopher Watson



# NSSAB Path Forward – Work Plan Item #3

- From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation on what disposal option(s) (i.e., on/near project site, or in Areas 3/5/9) would be preferred for planned D&D activities at CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility
- NSSAB recommendation is due tonight

