



**Department of Energy**  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Nevada Field Office  
P.O. Box 98518  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518



**SEP 12 2013**

Kathleen Bienenstein  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board  
232 Energy Way  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

**RESPONSE TO THE NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)  
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL  
MONITORING PROGRAM (WORK PLAN ITEM #6)**

First, I would like to thank Michael Moore and you for participating in the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) Workshop in Tonopah, Nevada. I recognize and appreciate the extra effort required to attend the workshop and to prepare the recommendation to brief to the board. Also, I would like to thank the NSSAB for providing input from an informed community perspective which will prove useful as we move forward with aligning the CEMP with today's mission and environment for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

As recommended in the August 21, 2013, NSSAB correspondence, the Department of Energy (DOE) has initiated a change in the community focus of the monitoring from air to water at the CEMP stations downgradient of the NNSS. As noted at the CEMP Workshop and validated by your recommendation, there is little value in continuing water sampling in areas upgradient of the NNSS and shifting sampling from those areas to locations downgradient is an enhancement to the CEMP and will be instituted in FY 2014.

Instead of eliminating air sampling at any of the stations recommended by the NSSAB, the Desert Research Institute is working with the Community Environmental Monitors (CEMs) to implement a transition to quarterly air monitoring in areas upwind of the NNSS as well as those stations most distant from the NNSS with the downwind stations retaining the regular two week sampling schedule. The Boulder City station is under consideration to be relocated to a more accessible area in Boulder City or moved to Searchlight as suggested by the NSSAB. No other changes to the CEMP stations or locations are being implemented. Also consistent with the NSSAB recommendation, the website and brochure will be updated to reflect these changes, but no other modifications are being considered at this time.

In addition to the near-term items noted above, as the DOE continues to evaluate and transition the CEMP to ensure the program adds value to the community and to the DOE, the NSSAB recommendations regarding replacing equipment, establishing performance metrics for the CEMs, expanding the audience for the workshop, and reevaluating the CEMP and the workshop on an ongoing basis will be incorporated.

As noted in my previous experiences with the NSSAB, your input and recommendations are valued, appreciated, and make a difference to the programs I manage. I look forward to future interactions with the NSSAB. Please direct comments and questions to Kelly Snyder at (702) 295-2836.



Kathryn S. Knapp  
CEMP Manager  
Environmental Management Operations Support

EMOS:10037.KK

cc via e-mail:

- C. B. Alexander, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2) FORS
- D. A. Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2) FORS
- M. R. Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2) FORS
- B. K. Ulmer, N-I, Las Vegas, NV
- NSSAB Members and Liaisons
- NSTec Correspondence Management  
Coordinator, MS NLV008
- R. F. Boehlecke, EMO, NNSA/NFO,  
Las Vegas, NV
- C. G. Lockwood, EMOS, NNSA/NFO,  
Las Vegas, NV
- K. K. Snyder, EMOS, NNSA/NFO,  
Las Vegas, NV
- W. R. Wilborn, EMO, NNSA/NFO,  
Las Vegas, NV
- D. J. Morgan, OPA, NNSA/NFO,  
Las Vegas, NV
- S. A. Wade, AMEM, NNSA/NFO,  
Las Vegas, NV
- NNSA/NFO Read File