



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

April 24, 2019

Mr. John Myers, UGTA Activity Lead
U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental
Management (EM) Nevada Program
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Approach for Pahute Mesa Completion
(Work Plan Item #2)

Dear Mr. Myers,

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) regarding if the more pragmatic approach for completion of Pahute Mesa is supported by the NSSAB and/or how it could be improved.

In support of this work plan item, Bill Wilborn, Deputy Program Manager, Operations for the EM Nevada Program, provided a briefing at the March 20, 2019 NSSAB Meeting on the Approach for Pahute Mesa Completion work plan item. The NSSAB also received a tour of Pahute Mesa and Rainier Mesa on April 10, 2019 in order to hear briefings, ask additional questions on the work plan item, and view in-person the geologic formations of the area.

After additional discussion at the April 24, 2019 NSSAB meeting, the NSSAB supports the more pragmatic approach for completion for Pahute Mesa, including DOE's consideration of the following improvements:

- Add new wells and monitoring at the Nevada Test and Training Range
- Set early warning monitoring standards
- Continue researching cleanup technologies
- Investigate possibility of a separate lower standard for tritium than the Safe Drinking Water Act standard

The NSSAB thanks Mr. Wilborn for his time in briefing and answering questions regarding this work plan item. Special thanks to Jeff Wurtz from Navarro for providing in-depth discussions on the complexities of the hydrogeology of the Pahute Mesa and Rainier Mesa areas and to Joseph Johnston from Navarro for sharing his historical knowledge of the Nevada National Security Site during the Pahute Mesa and Rainier Mesa tour.

Sincerely,

Frank Bonesteel, Chair

Members

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Frank Bonesteel (Chair)
William DeWitt
Karen Eastman
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Liaisons

Clark County
Consolidated Group of Tribes
and Organizations
Esmeralda County Commission
Lincoln 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

Kelly Snyder, Deputy Designated
Federal Officer (DDFO)
U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program
Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro, Contractor for the U.S.
Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program

Page 2
April 24, 2019
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cc: David Borak, DOE/HQ (EM-4.32)
Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-4.32)
Chuck Russell, DRI
Ken Rehfeldt, Navarro
Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
Jeff Wurtz, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
Robert Boehlecke, EM
Catherine Hampton, EM
Kelly Snyder, EM
Bill Wilborn, EM