U.S. Department of Energy

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

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U.S. Department of Energy, EM Nevada Program
Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro, Contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy, EM Nevada Program

July 30, 2020

Mr. Kevin Cabble, RWAP Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program
100 N. City Parkway, Suite 1750
Las Vegas, NV 89106

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Waste Verification Strategy (Work Plan Item #1)

Dear Mr. Cabble,

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 the potential waste verification strategies identified and/or how these strategies may be implemented.

At the January 15, 2020 NSSAB meeting, Marilew Bartling, Navarro's Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Manager, provided a briefing that included the purpose and objectives of waste verification, the strengthening of verification, the three elements of verification (programmatic, profile, and container), disposal sites verification comparisons, and proposed Navarro recommendations to improve and enhance the verification process. At the July 15, 2020 NSSAB meeting, Robert Boehlecke, EM Nevada Program Manager, provided a follow-up briefing that included a review and updates since January and answered Board questions.

After Board dialogue, the NSSAB recommends that the EM Nevada Program consider the following:

- Review and clarify the language in the Nevada National Security Site Waste Acceptance Criteria (NNSSWAC) Section 2.2 and 2.1.5 to require (rather than encouraging) the reporting of "near-miss" events, along with the applicable investigative and corrective actions
- Establish, review, and use enhanced lines of inquiry, as appropriate (reference Navarro's recommendations from January briefing)
- Expand on-site real-time radiography capability on the NNSS (enlarge, additional staff, container-size portal, etc.)

The NSSAB supports the waste verification strategy, including Navarro's recommendations, with additional consideration of the items listed above.

Sincerely,

Frank Bonesteel, Chair

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Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
Robert Boehlecke, EM
Catherine Hampton, EM
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