September 22, 2021

Frank Bonesteel, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
100 N. City Parkway, Suite #1750
Las Vegas, NV 89106

RESPONSE TO THE NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)
RECOMMENDATION FOR PUBLIC ACCESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
(EM) HISTORY IN NEVADA (WORK PLAN ITEM #7)

Reference: Ltr Bonesteel to Boehlecke, dtd 8/12/21

I thank the NSSAB for its recommendations on ways the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) EM Nevada Program can retain historical knowledge of the Department’s environmental restoration work in Nevada and means to make such information readily available to the public, as considered under the scope of NSSAB Work Plan Item #7 for fiscal year 2021. We appreciate the time, energy, and attention the Board directed to this effort.

Below are the NSSAB recommendations on Work Plan Item #7, followed by a summary response from the EM Nevada Program:

NSSAB Recommendation 1: Engage in an oral history project to document the human history of the EM mission in Nevada, including interviews of former and current employees and members of interested communities.

NSSAB Recommendation 2: Create a visual history showing signage, pictures, and visual comparisons of before and after the EM remediation work.

NSSAB Recommendation 3: Establish dialogue with the National Atomic Testing Museum (NATM) to determine its interest, extent of interest, ability, and commitment to expand EM information in the museum.

NSSAB Recommendation 4: Consider the possibility of establishing a museum of some type at the Mercury exit to document historic testing and EM remediation at the Nevada National Security Site.
**DOE Response:** On behalf of our Program, I thank the NSSAB for the creative and innovative recommendations offered under the scope of this work plan item. With regard to Recommendation 3, I am happy to report that EM Nevada has already initiated discussions with staff from the NATM to explore the potential expansion of environmental restoration-type exhibits and information currently offered at the NATM. It should be noted that a similar concept was raised during a recent appearance at the NATM by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Todd Shrader, and the NSSAB’s recommendation provides a timely nexus to the forthcoming discussions with the Museum.

With regard to Recommendations 1 and 2, we believe these concepts hold great promise and will offer each serious consideration moving forward. It is entirely possible that Recommendations 1 and 2 might be accomplished within the context of Recommendation 3, pending additional conversation with and consideration by the NATM.

With regard to Recommendation 4, the EM Nevada Program finds that logistical challenges are likely to preclude the establishment of a roadside-type museum at the Mercury exit off U.S. Route 95. However, EM Nevada also recognizes the core intent of this proposal is to make information on this history of DOE’s cleanup efforts in Nevada readily available to the public, and we will continue to seek out ways to meet the spirit of this recommendation moving forward.

Thank you again for the NSSAB’s partnership and collaboration in offering recommendations under Work Plan Item #7. As always, the Board’s input is valued, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the NSSAB Office at (702) 523-0894.

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