



# Office of Environmental Management

## High-Level Waste

## Corporate Board

April 1, 2008



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# What Are Corporate Issues?

- They usually occur at multiple sites
- They usually have an impact that exceeds their initial point of application. Thus, they impact:
  - Policies
  - Planning
  - Standards & Guidance
  - EM's relationship with other agencies both internal and external to DOE



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# Current Corporate Issues

- Performance Assessment
- Quality Assurance
- Methods to Determine the Waste Inventory
- Chemical Processing
- Waste Forms
- Actual Disposition of Waste
- Waste Treatment



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# HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Performance Assessments
  - Based on a rigorous and thorough analysis
  - Incorporates appropriate lessons learned
  - Standardized, little site-to-site variation in approach
- Quality Assurance Program
  - Based on safety culture being in place
  - Recognizes importance of adhering to NQA-1
  - Auditable procedures
  - Makes it clear what is important
  - Rigorous change control



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# HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Methods to Determine the Waste Inventory
  - Methods need to be more consistent across the complex; results in fewer ad hoc decisions
  - Inventory must be known with high accuracy and reliability (poor data results in poor decisions)
  - Currently available data cannot be used to answer fundamental questions about the nature of the waste inventory
  - Reliable waste inventory data critical for the development of chemical processing methods
- Chemical Processing
  - Understanding the methods available is fundamental to moving forward
  - Must be based on sound science and engineering principles
  - Changes to methods must be demonstrable improvements; no change for the sake of change; Avoid the NIH syndrome



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# HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Waste Forms
  - Need to maximize waste loading and throughput, minimize the volume disposed
  - Maintain environmental protection and health and safety of the public and workers
  - Should push back on some stakeholder demands (vitrifying low-level waste)
- Actual Disposition of Waste
  - Revisit the Performance Assessment Models
  - Show how what we do conforms to the model's design and predictions (meet prior commitments)



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# HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Waste Treatment
  - No more “monuments to waste management”
  - Use modular approach
  - Favored approaches should be “at-tank” or “in-tank”
  - Will need new test methods for these new treatment methods
  - Drivers will be science & engineering



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# Marching Orders

The High-Level Waste Corporate Board should develop its own precepts starting with these just described.

In the future most meetings will be chaired by the Office of Science and Technology



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# The Corporate Approach

- EM needs a process to address common HLW issues, to provide advice, and to counsel EM management on key decisions.
- A corporate approach helps provide a single voice on policies, strategy and issues and results in consistent decisions.
- It also:
  - Provides for cross-fertilization among sites.
  - Takes advantage of the lessons learned at various sites.



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# Purpose of the HLW Board

- Identify the need for and develop policies, standards, planning, guidance and the integration necessary to implement an effective and efficient national HLW program.
- Evaluate the implications of HLW issues and their potential impact across the DOE complex and recommend solutions to senior EM management.



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# Objectives

- The Board will consider the following types of issues:
  - Strategy for getting HLW into the repository.
  - Policy for interacting with RW, EPA, and NRC on HLW issues.
  - Technical reviews to support the project management process.
  - Waste determination technical issues.
  - Tank closure plans.
  - Achieving consistency in technology and technical issues reviews and in performance assessments.



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# Board Meetings

- The Board will meet at least twice annually, or as necessary, to provide oversight and strategic direction for the HLW program.
- Board meetings will normally be open, and commercial firms offering services or technologies relevant to the issues before the Board may be invited by the Board to participate.
- The Chair will determine the need for closed meetings.
- Meeting agendas will be designed to encourage interactive discussion and minimize time spent for presentations.



# Board Recommendations

- The Board will make consensus recommendations to the Chair (for Board purposes, consensus will mean two-thirds of the assigned voting Members for a regular meeting).
- The Chair will prepare and transmit actionable recommendations to Senior EM management in the form of memorandums and reports.



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# In Order to Make Clear Recommendations, the Board Must Insist on:

- Rigorous, thorough, and disciplined work
- Standardized methodologies
- Implementation of lesson learned
- Information transfer

