

EM SSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
Thursday, January 31, 2008
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Participants

Chairs/Representatives:

Idaho	Lisa Aldrich, John Bolliger, William Flanery, R.D. Maynard
Nevada	Rosemary Rehfeldt, Kelly Snyder, Walt Wegst
NNM	Fran Berting, J.D. Campbell, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	Steve Dixon, Spencer Gross, Pat Halsey, Pete Osborne
Paducah	William (Allen) Burnett, Mitch Hicks, Eric Roberts
Richland/Hanford	Susan Leckband, Karen Lutz, Cathy McCague, Erik Olds
Savannah River	Donna Antonucci, Gerri Flemming

DOE representatives:

EM-13	Melissa Nielson, Doug Frost
EM-12	Christine Gelles
EM-30	Cindy Rheaume
CI	Betty Nolan

OPENING REMARKS

Doug Frost welcomed participants to the conference call. In his review of the agenda, Mr. Frost noted that Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Engineering and Technology (EM-20), would not be able to participate due to a scheduling conflict.

Congressional Update

Betty Nolan from the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs reported that the Department of Energy (DOE) Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 budget roll-out would take place on Monday, February 4. DOE Headquarters (HQ) will hold a stakeholder briefing at 2:00 pm EST and will post all FY 2009 budget information to the DOE webpage, www.energy.gov. Materials specific to the Environmental Management (EM) budget will be made available through www.em.doe.gov.

Ms. Nolan also reported that Congress is back in session. DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman will testify on the Department's budget request in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at 10:00 am EST on Wednesday, February 6, and in front of the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee at 10:00 am EST on Thursday, February 7. Both events will last approximately two to three hours and will be webcast.

Revised Budget Guidance for Including EM SSAB Input

Cindy Rheame, Director for the Office of Budget (EM-31), reported that the Revised Budget Guidance for including EM SSAB input is with the DOE Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for concurrence.

In response to a question from Susan Leckband of Hanford, Ms. Rheame clarified that current year (FY 2008) validated baselines are already available to the public for their review.

Ms. Rheame also noted that EM-30 is working to provide the Field with guidance for the FY 2010 budget by the end of February. This will provide the sites with approximately six weeks to review and provide feedback to DOE-HQ.

Waste Disposition Strategies Update

Christine Gelles, Director for the Office of Disposal Operations (EM-12), provided an update on EM's waste disposition planning efforts.

EM-12 has continued to collect the revised lifecycle waste forecast data for the low-level and mixed low-level waste (LLW and MLLW) streams. Data from two sites is still outstanding as they work to conform with validated baselines received in late December 2007. EM-12 hopes to have all of the data sets reviewed and verified in the near future and still intends to meet its goal of uploading that information to the Waste Information Management System (WIMS) in March.

Regarding transuranic (TRU) waste disposition efforts, Ms. Gelles reported that EM has continued to refine the inventory estimates that are going to be used for the next Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compliance recertification application. Once the data is collected and reviewed, the revised inventory will need to be approved and incorporated into WIMS.

EM has revised the method through which it reports TRU waste shipment progress in the budget request's corporate performance measures. The FY 2009 budget request will reflect this change and will include revised projections for the lifecycle waste estimates and shipments for each of the TRU waste generating sites. Rather than tracking only the total cubic meters of TRU waste shipped to WIPP for disposal, EM has asked each site to identify its current inventory of wastes managed as TRU, differentiating between contact-handled and remote-handled (RH), and report volumes of waste removed from the inventory for disposal at WIPP or another disposal facility. This expanded metric will serve as a more meaningful method for measuring TRU waste inventory reduction and will provide EM with an enhanced understanding of its actual shipping progress, irrespective of receiver site.

EM-12 is working to bring the total lifecycle waste estimates for canisters of high-level Waste (HLW) and spent nuclear fuel destined for Yucca Mountain under configuration

control. Those data sets will not be uploaded to WIMS given the amount of uncertainty surrounding the repository's baseline. There have also been a number of strategic changes regarding how EM will disposition spent nuclear fuel at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and increase the utilization of H Canyon for aluminum clad spent nuclear fuel, thereby eliminating the need for canisterization at that site.

In terms of the National Waste Disposition Strategy, EM has revised the document to include the latest status of its strategic initiatives and integrated planning tools. However, EM-12 does not plan to redistribute the document for internal review or public comment until it can incorporate the latest lifecycle waste forecast data sets. Ms. Gelles indicated that public release will likely coincide with the WIMS update in March, or soon after.

EM recently established a LLW corporate board, which convened for the first time on January 16 at the Nevada Site Office. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for EM to present many complex-wide initiatives and corporate updates to its federal and contractor personnel in the field. The LLW corporate board is based largely on the program's TRU waste corporate board which plays a critical role in the continued management of integrated TRU waste projects. Similarly, EM-20 is working to establish a HLW corporate board.

The TRU waste corporate board recently met in Albuquerque, New Mexico to ensure that EM optimizes its WIPP pipeline, continues to certify RH TRU generators, and initiates shipments to keep pace with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) receipt capabilities. New RH TRU generator certifications have become increasingly important since the current Idaho National Laboratory (INL) RH TRU program is set to ramp down toward the end of FY 2008. EM-12 is also working on a NEPA analysis to support the consolidation of TRU waste from sites with small quantities at a central location for characterization and processing, prior to shipment to WIPP.

Ms. Leckband asked if the previously discussed TRU waste forecast data sets account for pre-1970 suspect TRU waste.

Ms. Gelles explained that the inventories will only include waste that has previously been identified as TRU per the program's approved plans, including CERCLA agreements, which may or may not include pre-1970 suspect TRU waste. However, once the data sets have been received, there will be a sensitivity analysis to determine what each set does and does not include.

Bill Flanery of Idaho asked for more clarification regarding the various corporate boards; does their membership include representatives from either private industry or the stakeholder community?

Ms. Gelles explained that the TRU waste and LLW corporate boards are internal policy recommending bodies and do not include external members. However, the corporate boards only represent one of the many tools used by the EM program in addition to resources such as the EM SSAB. The fact that an external or stakeholder role is not

included in the membership is not a dismissal of the value of public input. Ms. Gelles emphasized that EM remains committed to recognizing the value of public input.

Planning Committee for Spring Chairs Meeting (Hanford)

Mr. Frost thanked the planning committee for all of its hard work and asked for feedback on the draft agenda provided to the conference call participants.

Ms. Leckband noted that the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) is excited to host the EM SSAB Chairs spring meeting and suggested that the participants focus on developing ideas for potential EM SSAB products.

Ms. Nielson asked the Chairs to consult their individual boards to see what specific questions and issues should be addressed by invited presenters Mark Gilbertson and Christine Gelles. Although the planning committee will likely take the lead in compiling specific topics for the presenters, the Chairs should provide the boards' input well in advance to facilitate a more meaningful dialogue.

Around the Complex:

Savannah River – Donna Antonucci

- The SRS Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) met on January 28-29. Discussions focused primarily on a proposal to use SRS for military training purposes. An environmental assessment will be released in March.
- Additionally, the SRS CAB held elections for new members during its January meeting and scheduled a new member orientation in February.
- The SRS CAB is in the process of reviewing a lengthy summary regarding the critical path for SRS liquid tank waste removal and disposition.
- The SRS CAB continues to follow information regarding the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for surplus plutonium disposition.
- The SRS CAB continues to monitor the status of remedial actions to prevent tritium contamination along Four Mile Branch.

Richland – Susan Leckband

- The HAB is anticipating reviewing the draft Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which has generated a great deal of public interest. Several major decisions will be made on the basis of the information contained in the EIS and a public comment period is expected to begin in either April or May.
- There is no new information regarding the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) negotiations or contract awards. The TPA negotiations in particular have generated a high level of public interest as they will likely push the milestones and completion dates for a number of projects, such as the vitrification plant and tank retrieval, further out into the future.

- Local regulators have issued a joint white paper on the Hanford 200-Area cleanup. The 200-Area is included on EPA's National Priorities List. The HAB is reviewing the white paper to determine how its values mesh with those of the board and the DOE baselines.
- The next regularly scheduled HAB meeting will be held on February 7-8. Members are anxious to receive EM budgetary information and begin participating in workshops.
- The HAB is pleased to announce that off-site plutonium shipments have begun.

Paducah – Allen Burnett

- The Paducah CAB has recently developed three recommendations, two of which pertain to long-term nickel disposition strategies.
- The Paducah CAB is currently reviewing the site's FY 2009 management plan. Comments are due in February.
- The Paducah CAB has recently gained access to Paducah's data warehouse, which contains information on various environmental studies and contamination issues. Members look forward to using this information as they review long-term planning and end state visions.
- The Paducah CAB will be involved with local Earth Day activities and will use the opportunity to increase its public outreach efforts and visibility.
- Efforts to expand the Paducah CAB's membership continue to be a challenge. The Board has collected three applications and plans to implement the practices contained in "The Politics of Cleanup" to more effectively recruit new members.

Oak Ridge – Pete Osborne

- In December, the Oak Ridge SSAB (ORSSAB) recommended that DOE develop a stewardship map to show the locations of remediated areas with residual radioactive waste and/or contamination. Once complete, the map will go on display at Oak Ridge's DOE Information Center in February and will be accompanied by a notebook describing the types of radioactive waste, contamination, and land-use controls left in place.
- Two members of the ORSSAB will attend the upcoming Waste Management Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona this spring. One of the members will present a paper on the Board's Stewardship Education Resource Kit.
- Steve McCracken, Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM, has asked ORSSAB to offer input regarding the historic preservation of the K-25 Building north tower. A memorandum of agreement was signed in 2005 regarding the preservation of the north tower; however, due to deteriorating conditions, that plan may no longer be feasible. The ORSSAB is co-sponsoring a public meeting regarding this and related issues on February 19 at Y-12's New Hope Center.
- The ORSSAB's Oral History Subcommittee has continued to work toward establishing an oral history program for Oak Ridge. The committee finally achieved its goal of forming a broad organization called the Oak Ridge Oral History Steering Committee. The steering committee held its first meeting in

January and looks forward to working with representatives from DOE, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and other local organizations to establish a comprehensive oral history program in Oak Ridge.

- The ORSSAB was pleased to have Ms. Gelles attend its January meeting to discuss its site's waste disposition strategy. The board will discuss her presentation, which may result in future recommendations.
- During its February meeting, the ORSSAB will discuss EM Budget Prioritization and will consider a recommendation pertaining to engineering and technology development for the Oak Ridge Reservation.
- The ORSSAB recently published the latest edition of its Advocate Newsletter and completed an overhaul of its exhibit at the local science and energy museum.

Northern New Mexico – J.D. Campbell

- The Northern New Mexico (NNM) CAB recently welcomed a number of new members, bringing total membership up to 24.
- The NNM CAB is currently finalizing plans for its April 16 Material Disposal Area (MDA) G public forum.
- The NNM CAB is reviewing several permits and providing comments to DOE and regulatory groups. One permit of particular interest comes from EPA and pertains to storm water run-off which could spread contamination to the areas surrounding the affected buildings. Much of the work in these permits is not included in the site's baseline, as they have not been issued. The NNM CAB will continue to review the documents and monitor their status.
- The NNM CAB passed its bylaws during its January meeting. Notable changes include developing performance assessments for both the Board and DOE, and striving for "unanimity" in its recommendations rather than "consensus."
- The NNM CAB is currently preparing for the FY 2010 Budget comment period. In order to do so, members have requested copies of LANL's management plan, which includes validated baseline information.
- The NNM CAB is reviewing correspondence between DOE and the New Mexico Environment Department regarding MDA-H and will provide comments to DOE.

Nevada – Walt Wegst

- The Nevada Test Site (NTS) CAB's membership has recently dropped due to a number of term limits and resignations; however, recruitment efforts have been successful, tentatively yielding as many as nine new members.
- Recently, the NTS CAB has made an effort to hold its meetings outside of Las Vegas in order to include more rural communities; however, despite outreach efforts including newspaper and radio announcements, public participation has been low.
- The NTS CAB has decided to form an outreach committee to increase visibility and communicate more effectively with the citizens in Las Vegas and the surrounding rural communities.

- The committee would like to begin by developing an education-oriented program that could be presented to local schools.
- Other EM SSAB members and/or staff with experience in public outreach and education are respectfully asked to contact the NTS CAB Facilitator, Rosemary Rehfeldt, to share their experiences. Any advice would be greatly appreciated and Ms. Rehfeldt would like to set up conference calls to discuss; she can be contacted at ntscab@nv.doe.gov.

Idaho – Bill Flanery

- The INL CAB recently welcomed three new members aboard and held elections for new officers, voting Mr. R.D. Maynard chairman.
- INL CAB members, facilitators, and DOE representatives plan to visit WIPP in March.
- The INL CAB’s current focus pertains to the decommissioning of the CPP601 building, a large facility that previously processed spent nuclear fuel. CPP601 has been inactive for a number of years. EM has pursued and shared a variety of decommissioning alternatives.
 - The INL CAB will likely recommend EM’s second alternative which involves filling the facility with concrete rubble and encasing it in dirt.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Nielson explained that per the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the EM SSAB Charter must be renewed every two years; the Board’s current charter expires on April 11. Ms. Nielson’s office has submitted a charter renewal package for concurrence in order to comply with the deadlines set forth by the DOE Advisory Committee Management Manual, which requires that charter renewals be initiated 120 days prior to expiration.

The new EM SSAB charter is very similar to the current charter with the exception of new language pertaining to membership. The revised language broadens justifications for term-limit exception requests to include not only instances of limited member pools, but also instances where a nominee represents a specific interest.

For former members who have been term-limited, Ms. Nielson emphasized that their service can continue in EM SSAB activities through a variety of alternative roles, including subcommittees and working groups.

Ms. Nielson clarified that the revised charter is in the concurrence process, and has not been approved yet, but she hopes to have it officially in place by April.

Mr. Frost reported that the EM-13 staff has continued to scout venues for the proposed September EM SSAB meeting to be held in Washington D.C. Currently, the conference organizer is negotiating with the Marriott Key Bridge in Rosslyn, Virginia, to secure a block of overnight rooms and meeting spaces for September 15-17. In the event that a

commitment is reached, the Idaho and Paducah CAB's may need to reschedule their local board meetings. The Marriott Key Bridge is located just across the Potomac River from DOE-HQ and is within two and a half blocks of the nearest Metro station.

Ms. Nielson and Mr. Frost thanked the participants for their time.

The next EM SSAB Planning Committee conference call is scheduled for February 28 at 3:00 p.m. EST.

The next EM SSAB Chairs' bi-monthly conference call is scheduled for March 27 at 3:00 p.m. EST.