

Friday, January 30, 2004

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Participants:

Chairs/Representatives:

Fernald	JAMES BIERER
Hanford	TODD MARTIN
Idaho	MONTE WILSON, David Kipping, Shannon Brennan, Wendy Lowe
Nevada	CHARLES PHILLIPS, Carla Sanda
NNM	JAMES BRANNON, Katherine Guidry
Oak Ridge	DAVID MOSBY, Pete Osborne, Norman Mulvenon
Paducah	BILL TANNER, Linda Long
Rocky Flats	VICTOR HOLM, Ken Korkia
Savannah River	JEAN SULC, de'Lisa Bratcher, Mel Galin, Mike Schoener, Dawn Haygood

DOE representatives:

EM-30.1 Sandra Waisley, Jay Vivari, Fred Dowd
CI Betty Nolan

Opening Remarks

Ms. Waisley opened the meeting and took attendance. She mentioned that later on, Fred Dowd would discuss the reformatted SSAB Guidance document that had recently been placed on the EM web site, and that Jim Brannon (NNM) wanted to discuss Public Participation policy. Ms. Waisley wanted to discuss the upcoming SSAB Chairs meeting in April, 2004 and asked for volunteers for a Steering Committee to help plan the meeting. Jay Vivari will lead the Steering Committee. Volunteers for the committee were Carla Sanda (NV), Norm Mulvenon (OR), Jean Sulc (SR), David Kipping (ID), and Shannon Brennan (ID). If speakers are to be from DOE, they need to begin planning the meeting soon.

April Chairs Meeting

The meeting will be held in Washington, DC, and there was consensus that an April 19th-24th timeframe would be the preferable, or, possibly the 21st – 23rd. Mr. Brannon wondered if the meeting would be held in the DOE building or at a nearby hotel since the logistics of moving people around DC would be difficult. Betty Nolan and Ms. Waisley mentioned nearby hotels, as well as possibilities on the Metro line that would be convenient for traveling to DOE. Ms. Waisley and Ms. Nolan felt that having the

meetings in the DOE building would be much better than a hotel, allowing the participants to see DOE, and make it easier for speakers from DOE to attend. The Steering Committee will survey nearby hotels for the participants, as well as develop the agenda.

Ms. Waisley asked the Chairs what were the major goals for the meeting. She said the long-term proposals for funding reports are due by April 2, and that Ms. Roberson would like time to review them. Ms. Roberson will be attending some of the meetings and will interact with the Board Chairs.

Jean Sulc (SR) suggested that they consider as a topic of discussion an upcoming workshop and its time and location. Ms. Waisley suggested that if they were going to discuss a future workshop at the Chairs meeting, they should get some ideas and proposals prior to the meeting so it could be voted on at the meeting. Monte Wilson (ID) suggested that each SSAB put the future workshop question down as an item of discussion at their next meeting, so they would have ideas when the Chairs meeting is held. Ms. Waisley agreed that it was a good idea and suggested each site come up one or two ideas for a short list of possible workshops.

Mr. Brannon asked about the Risk Based Environmental End-State Vision documents and its related process. Ms. Waisley said Ms. Roberson would be able to talk about the final drafts by the time the meeting is held. April should be a good time for her to report on the documents and could give everyone a sense of her feelings toward the final draft. She will be asking how much public participation each site received. Todd Martin (HAN) suggested that it might be a good idea to hold a "round-robin" report, with each Board having five minutes to tell Ms. Roberson what input they had given their site.

Mel Galin (SR) wondered if the transuranic waste program and the problems with New Mexico would be a worthwhile subject to discuss at the April meeting. There is a permit modification in process regarding reclassification of HLW to LLW and by April there will have been a hearing and a public meeting. Mr. Brannon felt that the modification would take some time before it was accepted or rejected.

The discussion reminded Ms. Waisley that they might need more technical reports/presentations from DOE personnel at the April meeting. She assumed one item of interest would be the EM budget, which was released on February 3, 2004. She asked Mr. Dowd to check to see what information on the budget will be put on the web site so the SSABs will have it. Ms. Waisley said there would be more details on arrangements for the Chairs meeting in the next week from the Steering Committee.

A question arose regarding the meeting being open to the public and possible difficulties resulting from the meeting being held at DOE. Ms. Waisley said the meeting would be advertised in the Federal Register, and that access to DOE was not as difficult as it had been previously. Visitors do not require escorts once they have been granted access. She also said that Doug Frost (EM 30.1) may invite other intergovernmental agencies that he works with to attend the meetings.

IAPP Process:

Mr. Brannon said that he wanted to bring to everyone's attention an organization that exists to obtain and improve a public participation program and making it function for the stakeholders' benefit. It has a web site (www.iap2.org) that he emailed to everyone. NNM was fortunate enough to have some training funds remaining, so they sent Katherine Guidry and Abad Sandoval to a weeklong training session in Washington, DC last week. He believes it will increase public credibility and improve the quality of public participation.

Ms. Guidry explained that the IAPP process is a clarifier to which everyone could agree. "Is the public being informed? Are you just asking for a "buy in", or are you really seeking input?" The process starts with asking for information and in the end, extracts from the public educated decisions that can be incorporated in a variety of processes. Some processes may be designing a workshop or determining what decisions to make regarding site clean up. The basis of success is whether you have your internal house in order. DOE, LANL, and the Idaho CAB agreed to use the process last summer.

Ms. Guidry visited with Ms. Waisley while in Washington, DC, and Ms. Waisley called John Lehr (EM/Germantown) for additional information. As a result, the CAB had gotten a very rapid response and help for which Ms. Guidry thanked Ms. Waisley.

Ms. Guidry requested that Mr. Lehr call Ralph Erickson at the Los Alamos site and further stated that Fernald had used the process with a lot of success and she suggested that the CABs might want to adopt it in the future.

Monte Wilson (ID) said their CAB's facilitator had been a certified trainer in the IAPP and her training had been very beneficial to the CAB and to the INEEL.

Mr. Brannon said he wanted to bring the topic up and inform everyone, because they had found the process to be an extremely valuable tool. Ms. Waisley agreed that it was a good process and she was glad that Northern New Mexico found it useful. Ms. Waisley said if any of the sites had a problem with the process, they could call John Lehr (EM-34, Germantown) at 301-903-3850.

SSAB Web Site:

Mr. Brannon asked who was in charge of the SSAB web site, and Mr. Dowd said that he was. Ms. Waisley said if there were any problems with the site, to let her or Mr. Dowd know. She knows the EM web site well, and knows that it needs updating. That process is underway. Since the reorganization, Ms. Waisley has responsibility over the entire IT organization and plans to make improvements this year.

Site Reports:

Oak Ridge, Dave Mosby

- The Board is now down to one staff person because of layoffs within Bechtel Jacobs. DOE-Oak Ridge and the SSAB are attempting to transfer the contract for board support to an 8(a) contractor by February 2004. They hope to rehire the laid off staff member.
- Mr. Mosby said he heard the budget for Oak Ridge had a shortfall of \$29 million, primarily in the environmental cleanup department, but had not seen the details yet.
- Bechtel Jacobs was awarded the new closure contract in October, and since then the company President has resigned. There is a new President whom the Board has not met, but plan to meet soon.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Board on Radioactive Waste Management visited Oak Ridge last week under a DOE contract. The purpose of the contract is to assess opportunities and issues associated with waste management aspects of accelerated cleanup. NAS heard from several groups who gave presentations, including the SSAB.

Paducah, Bill Tanner

- Mr. Tanner said the Board had developed six recommendations to DOE in the last three meetings, and he was pleased to say that one of them had been accepted. He feels they may be learning the correct process in getting things done.
- They have one new member on their Board to make a total of 13, but are asking DOE to appoint at least three more to fill up their empty slots.
- The CAB has developed a new, comprehensive member handbook which is out for review by Board members
- The Board will be having their annual retreat in March and will complete work plans and do some reorganizing to improve efficiency. They have changed the format of their meetings, placing more responsibility on Board members, and less on the staff. It has gotten Board members more involved.
- As requested by DOE, the Board is working on an end-state vision document. They are requesting input from many other local organizations and governments and asking for their endorsement.
- Staffing issues are being worked on, but since DOE has two RFPs out for the prime contract, it has made things difficult. It may be May or June before the situation is resolved.

Hanford, Todd Martin

- The Board is undergoing an administrative change from the Richland Office to the Office of River Protection, which will be taking over all of the CAB's facilitation, contracts, travel, etc. The switch is going smoothly.
- In February the Board will be doing a check in on the Hanford Performance Management Plan to see how they're doing.

- The WA State Department of Ecology and DOE have come to a tentative agreement on some buried waste, and the Board will review it and comment on it in February.
- The Board will be making a recommendation on public involvement in the budget process.
- The Board is planning a party in February for the HAB's 10th anniversary.

Nevada, Charles Phillips

- The Budget Committee is beginning its annual prioritization, getting feedback from project managers, and preparing to review projects and calculate the ranking of each project.
- They have begun a recruitment program for new CAB members.
- CAB members have been attending town meetings to inform the public of TRU shipments, announce CAB openings, and advertise upcoming public meetings.

Northern New Mexico, James Brannon

- Nevada's Board has been watching the effects of the shifting approaches of the NM Department of Environment and DOE on the yearlong negotiations regarding the compliance order that was issued in November 2002. The NM Dept. of Environment has withdrawn from the negotiations and, as a result, millions of dollars slated for cleanup have been removed.
- Four members attended the Los Alamos County Council meeting to inform the Council of the recommendation the Board had passed which stated they would like to see the agencies get back in agreement.
- A newsletter has been published and they plan to continue to publish on a regular schedule.
- A recommendation was passed to reinstate the high performance core teams that were successful but fell by the wayside. They are working on a public involvement forum for the Area G cleanup.

Rocky Flats, Victor Holm

- In January, the 903 pad was finished, and in April two major buildings will be taken down. Two more buildings will be razed in October leaving only two left to be demolished in 2005.
- The CAB has not paid the January rent yet, but has heard nothing from the landlord.
- The CAB managed to get within their \$175,000/ year budget from DOE without losing much effectiveness.

Fernald, James Bierer

- The Board has been diverted from their work plan because they had to quickly address issues with the RBES, especially dealing with groundwater. The public participation process was minimal, and during the November meeting the public was upset. DOE said they would correct it, and they did. The Ohio Field Office Manager attended the January meeting and renewed support for public participation. The contractor came with a toolbox to allow them to look at the groundwater issue. There are a number of alternatives DOE would like the Board to look at, and they will review them at their next meeting.
- The Board has some concerns over the transition from Environmental Management to Legacy Management. They are concerned that if their aquifer restoration project does not conclude at site closure, who will be taking over that project?
- They are monitoring the Silos Project and hopefully the Board will tour the facility in April before it goes "hot."
- Fernald seems to be on track for the 2006 site closure.

Idaho, Monte Wilson

- Rick Provencher is the new Deputy Designated Federal Official and Deputy Manager for Environmental Management
- The INEEL CAB selected six new members at the January meeting to fill vacancies that will occur in March. The hope is that DOE-Headquarters will approve the new members in time that they can be seated at the May meeting - or perhaps even observe part of the March meeting.
- The INEEL CAB is particularly pleased with the response that Jessie Roberson had to the CAB's recommendation regarding ongoing operation of the CAB. The CAB plans to continue to operate with support services provided by a small business contractor.
- The National Academy of Sciences visited INEEL in December to learn more about the risk-based approach DOE has for cleanup at the INEEL, including closure of the high-level waste tanks. Three CAB members participated in the meeting and it was a good meeting.
- The CAB reached consensus at the January meeting on two recommendations related to the Risk-Based End States Vision for the INEEL. One recommendation provided comments to DOE Idaho on the Vision document for the INEEL. The other provided advice to DOE regarding public involvement and schedules for developing the vision documents.
- While the Risk-Based End State vision process was included in the CAB's annual work plan as the top priority for the CAB, DOE had not identified the topic initially. In addition, changing timelines has forced the CAB to include the topic on the agenda for several meetings.
- The January meeting focused on cleanup and closure of the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center. The CAB participated in a half-day tour of the site that included the high level waste program (both liquid waste and calcine),

and deactivation of the CPP-603 pools now that the spent nuclear fuel has been transferred to dry storage.

- The March meeting will focus on the Environmental Management budget.
- DOE is currently preparing to release the Request for Proposals for the Idaho Completion Project and the Idaho National Laboratory. The CAB will be very interested in that procurement process.

Savannah River, Jean Sulc

- Ms. Sulc mentioned that there had been elections on the Board, and new members had joined.
- In January, the CAB held a workshop in conjunction with DOE and the site contractor regarding the F Canyon.
- The work plan is about 75% completed. Board members are ranking issues for 2004 with D&D and plutonium disposition as the top issues.
- Regarding the process to change the permit for the TRU waste, the Board has provided comments and a public hearing.
- The CAB has been meeting with the SC Historical Preservation Society. The SRS is 50 years old and the Preservation Society is trying to determine which facilities and artifacts they want to preserve. The CAB will be asked to sign the agreement on the preservation as a public entity, not as a regulator.
- A working group has been formed to come up with a plan to meet headquarters deadline of April 2.

Mr. Dowd asked if the SSABs would email or fax their reports to him as soon as possible.

A time and date was set for a Steering Committee conference call.

Ms. Waisley adjourned the meeting.