

## **SSAB CHAIRS**

### **Bi-Monthly Conference Call**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2004**

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

#### **Participants:**

#### **Chairs/Representatives:**

Fernald James Bierer, Gary Stegner

Hanford Todd Martin

Idaho David Kipping, Shannon Brennan

Nevada Charles Phillips, Carla Sanda

NNM Katherine Guidry

Oak Ridge Norman Mulvenon, Pat Halsey

Paducah Bill Tanner, David Dollins

Rocky Flats Victor Holm, Joe Worthington, Ken Korkia, Dotti Whitt

Savannah River Mel Galin, Gerri Flemming, Alice Doswell, Mike Schoener

#### **DOE representatives:**

EM-30.1 Sandra Waisley (DFO), Jay Vivari, Frederick Dowd

CI Betty Nolan

### **1. OPENING REMARKS**

Ms. Waisley opened the meeting by commenting that the SSAB Chairs conference was a month away. Much work had been accomplished and all of the speakers have been confirmed. She recently had a meeting with Barbara Heffernan, the Acting Deputy Assistant Director of the Office of Business Operations, where they covered issues that may arise during the Chairs Conference. She said that Ms. Heffernan was looking forward to meeting everyone.

### **2. NEW BUSINESS**

The question of having a Federal Coordinators meeting was raised. Ms. Waisley and

Mr. Vivari said they would like to have one but would need to have an accurate count of the attendees to determine if it is possible. Mr. Vivari said that he did not as yet have a complete count of the attendees. Ms. Waisley said that, depending on the departure schedules of the Federal Coordinators, she would like to have a meeting with them on the second day after the end of the conference

Mr. Vivari said that Ms. Heffernan will be at a meeting in Germantown on the morning of April 21st, but will return to the Forrestal Building in time to do the budget presentation. He also said that Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Jessie Roberson will be able to attend the discussion scheduled for 10:00 AM on April 21st. Mr. Vivari commented that some people questioned why the EM reorganization presentation was scheduled for only 15 minutes. Ms. Waisley answered that she thought that 25 minutes would be enough time since the topic of EM reorganization was of more interest to headquarters than to the SSABs. Ms. Waisley will hand out a chart at the presentation that will show the landlords of each site.

Mr. Vivari said that he was still waiting for some of the sites to submit the issues they want to discuss with Ms. Roberson. New templates were sent out with due dates. Although he would accept them as late as April 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Vivari would like to have them submitted to DOE by April 7<sup>th</sup> to allow Ms. Roberson time to respond.

Mr. Vivari requested that everyone send their list of attendees to the Chairs Conference so they can have a final head count. Ms. Waisley said that some of the sites have not provided their long-term options for implementing a direct funding relationship with DOE. The sites that had not sent them in promised to do so soon.

Ms. Whitt (RF) said that there are plans underway for Rocky Flat's transition from Environmental Management (EM) to Legacy Management (LM). The Rocky Flats CAB wrote a transition plan and posted it on their web site, [www.rfc.org](http://www.rfc.org). Mr. Holm mentioned that there are several advisory groups in the Rocky Flats area, and they plan to have a workshop to unify the groups so there will be continued public participation at the site. Ms. Waisley said that LM is looking at the SSABs and other groups as models for its public participation activities, but has not made a decision on structure.

Mr. Vivari suggested that the SSABs may want to link their web sites to the Federal Register Notice web site for the Chairs Conference to advertise the fact that the meeting will be held in Washington, DC.

Ms. Waisley said that Jessie Roberson recently gave an excellent speech in Arizona that will be posted on the EM web site. The speech covered her philosophy and goals for the Risk Based End States (RBES). Mr. Holm mentioned that the RBES was a popular topic all week in his area. Mr. Vivari promised to email the speech to everyone.

### **3. LOCAL SSAB ISSUES/UPDATES**

#### **Oak Ridge, Norman Mulvenon (for David Mosby)**

- Finalizing implementation of 8(a) support; should begin in 3-4 weeks. Plan to rehire one of its support staff.
- The Stewardship Committee is developing an annotated outline for LTS planning and will share it with other Boards.
- Engaging in accelerated closure issues.
- Writing recommendations on in-situ vitrification and historic preservation (the K-25 building is nearing demolition and the CAB would like to save some portion of it for historical purposes).

#### **Paducah, Bill Tanner**

- There are three new members with a fourth coming soon to fill an unexpired term.
- CAB retreat was successful; renovated procedures and reviewed task groups.
- Orientation, site tour, and a membership handbook for new members is planned.
- The CAB sent a letter to Site Manager Bill Murphie backing an 8(a) option for CAB support.
- Bill Murphie has allowed CAB members to serve as Ex-officios in the new contractor selection process.
- In an 8-month process involving the community, the CAB's End State Vision recommendations containing 12 key points was completed. (These recommendations are not risk-based, but will be attached to the RBES document for Paducah.) Additional recommendations were made on other projects.
- Paducah is now under the Lexington office instead of Oak Ridge; issues with e-mail and other communication still exist.
- DOE's process of selecting two new 8(a) environmental restoration and facility management contractors is impeding the CAB's ability to procure its own 8(a) support contractor.

#### **Hanford, Todd Martin**

- The administrative authority for the SSAB has been transferred from Richland to the Office of River Protection and is going smoothly.
- The Board is pursuing option 5, federal management support, for SSAB support.
- The Board has concerns that they are not able to review comments from DOE on the first draft of the RBES.
- Two EISs are being reviewed:- Hanford Solid Wastes and HLW Tanks Closure (not yet released).
- A retreat is planned for May; members will review everything at that time.

#### **Nevada, Charles Phillips**

- On Feb. 11 the CAB conducted a public meeting at Amargosa Valley to inform and update stakeholders that reside in the area on the TRU waste shipments that are taking place from the NTS to WIPP. The route the shipments take travel through the Amargosa Valley and the trucks that transport the TRUPAC containers are highly visible.
- On March 2, two Board members briefed the Beatty Habitat Committee in Beatty, NV, on what the CAB has learned about groundwater and groundwater flow from the Underground Test Area Project (UGTA). Board members also expressed their interest in putting on a "groundwater 101" workshop in Beatty and informed the attendees of their wish to conduct a public meeting there in the fall.
- Dr.Helen Neil (UNLV) presented a paper in March at Waste Management 2004 on the progress of the NTSCAB from its inception to its current accomplishments.
- The Board is preparing presentations on the annual Budget Prioritization of the seven EM projects for the April public meeting.
- The CABs RBES technical working group has composed two letters of questions, comments and recommendations in response to the draft RBES documents that they reviewed for Project Shoal/Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA) and the NTS.
- The CAB has finalized a new member handbook, revising and updating the CABs Charter, By-Laws and SOPs.
- Interviewed 24 applicants for Board membership and found five excellent candidates that will be voted on at the April 14 meeting.

#### **Northern New Mexico, Katherine Guidry (Acting Chair)**

- Jim Brannon resigned March 3, 2004 as Chairman of the NNM CAB but will remain on the Board as a member. Vice-Chair Katherine Guidry will serve as Chair until the September 2004 election.
- Replacements are being sought for two members who resigned.
- Verbal agreement on a Corrective Action Order (CAO) was made on March 19 between DOE and the NM Environment Department. This is to be the "bible" for the cleanup process going forward. A draft of the agreement is due on May 1, 2004. There is to be a 30-60 day public comment period on the draft before finalization of the agreement. The Board hopes to see remedies reviewed with risk factors as well as financial components to the cleanup approach. It is unclear at this point if monies withheld by the DOE will be released before the completion of the CAO to continue the agreed upon work.
- Waste shipments to WIPP will be restarted following completion of a final audit. Shutdown of the facility was due to Q&A error. The EPA has put up a website to inform the public of the ongoing issues being addressed by the EPA on WIPP. It is <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp/>
- CAB members have been invited to participate in discussions on remedial alternatives at a Retrievable TRU Waste Workshop being hosted by LANL and DOE April. 13-15.
- Still working on CAB comments for the RBES.
- DDFO Theodore Taylor will be attending the Chairs meeting in April.

### **Rocky Flats, Victor Holm**

- CAB members are commenting on a Wildlife Refuge EIS.
- The CAB is drafting documents that will be issued soon. They include the 903 lip area, remediation of the old landfill, and groundwater remediation.
- A workshop on residual groundwater is being planned.
- The CAB is searching for a long-term communication public participation vehicle for the future.
- The Board has given up its office space lease and no legal action has been taken to date.

### **Fernald, Jim Bierer**

- The Vice-Chair and DDFO will attend the April Chairs meeting.
- Fernald had a visit from LM. They toured the site, met with the CAB, community and regulators, and provided a sketch of the transition process. Mr. Bierer recommended that LM participate in the CAB meetings since there is a lot of interest in the community regarding the transition. The CAB wants input on the transition from EM to LM and is concerned that public participation under LM will be different than under EM.
- They do not expect the CAB, as it exists today, to continue after closure.
- There was an April 6, 2004 tour of Silos Project. Shipments to NTS will occur soon. By September 2005, the project will be finished and all major activities will be completed, except for D&D.
- The Steering Committee will start planning CAB activities from now until closure. Public participation should continue after closure. At this time, members are foreseeing an on-site scaled-down multi-use educational facility to house records, artifacts, etc.
- Groundwater issues have been resolved.
- On stewardship, the CAB is looking for local stewards (i.e., a library to handle information, using the public works department to handle monitoring, etc.) after site closure.

### **Idaho, David Kipping (new Interim Chair)**

- Six members are leaving the Board, and six new members will start in May.
- There is concern about the "holdback" of \$97 million in FY05 budget; will push to get funds reinstated.
- The Board met this week; a major topic was milestones for cleanup by 2012.
- Two new contracts will be in effect by February 1, 2005; DOE-Idaho has put together an impressive plan for short-term actions in the interim that will be implemented by the current contractor, Bechtel, Inc.
- The Board is interested in participating in the transition from EM to NE.
- The Board has not seen the final draft of the site's RBES document.
- Input was provided by the Board to NM on proposed permit changes regarding what can be shipped to WIPP, even though the Board is not authorized to do so.

## **Savannah River, Mel Galin (for Jean Sulc)**

- 2004 Work Plan has been adopted with a focus on D&D, plutonium disposition, EM vision for plutonium consolidation, and HLW. The SR site does not want all the Pu without a clear plan for final disposition.
- The Board is concerned that \$188M has been withheld relating to HLW tasks.
- The Board is moving from Westinghouse support to 8(a) support; complements to Alice Doswell and DOE folks who have helped in the transition.
- Historic preservation agreements have not been signed. It's a difficult decision determining which building(s) to save.
- The State of Georgia believes that DOE has taken away funds for monitoring the Savannah River, but the funding limit has expired. Legislators are appealing to Congress.
- Five new members will soon be on the Board.

## **4. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

Ms. Waisley pushed for consensus on specific future workshops in 2004-2005.

Ms Sanda (NTS) suggested a key topic might be ongoing community involvement and proposed a brainstorming workshop on public/community participation as sites transition from EM.

Mr. Kipping, (ID) suggested a workshop on "orphan waste," waste for which there are no treatment/disposal options. Idaho has a lot of orphan waste, as do some of the other sites.

Mr. Mulvenon (OR) suggested tabling the discussion until the Chairs meeting in April. At that time specific workshop topics would be discussed.

Victor Holm (RF) proposed that people prepare ½ page write-ups on possible workshop topics. Mr. Vivari said to send them to him and he will distribute them prior to the Chairs meeting.

Respondents agreed to this suggestion.

## **3. GENERAL UPDATE**

After remarking on how productive the conference call had been, Betty Nolan provided a summary of Congressional activities.

- Congress is currently at the height of the hearing season, 3 or 4 per week.
- Jessie Roberson appeared before the House Appropriations committee. Her testimony is on the DOE web site.
- This is a tight budget year, but Congress is pleased with the progress EM is making and seems to generally accept the EM budget.
- By Easter, the budget testimony should be complete.

- The budget testimony should be available on the Web.

Mr. Galin (SR) asked about legislation involving the recent lawsuit.

Ms. Nolan responded that Ms. Roberson addressed this issue in her testimony. Negotiations with the states of Washington, Idaho and South Carolina are making progress and she is optimistic. Ms. Roberson believes there is a need for legislation that would provide "clarifying language" with respect to DOE authorities.

## **6. CLOSING REMARKS**

Ms. Waisley thanked everyone for a productive meeting and said she hoped to see them next month.