

EMSSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
Thursday, August 11, 2005
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Participants

Chairs/Representatives:

Fernald	Sue Walpole
Hanford	Todd Martin, Shelly Cimon, Erik Olds
Idaho	David Kipping, Peggy Hinman
Nevada	Carla Sanda, Kelly Snyder
NNM	Ted Taylor
Oak Ridge	Kerry Trammell, Norm Mulvenon, Pat Halsey, Spencer Gross
Paducah	Rhonda McCorry, Jeannie Brandstetter, Kim Crenshaw
Rocky Flats	Ken Korkia
Savannah River	Jean Sulc, Bill Lawless, Dawn Haygood

DOE representatives:

EM-30.1	Melissa Nielson, Jay Vivari, Doug Frost
CI	Betty Nolan, Eric Ciliberti

OPENING REMARKS

Melissa Nielson welcomed everyone and announced that she was officially in her job as Director of Internal/External Coordination.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairs Meeting Update

Jay Vivari noted a change in the schedule for the site tour scheduled on Wednesday, September 20. The correct time for departure is 8:15AM.

David Kipping provided an overview of the goals, objectives, and the tentative agenda for the meeting. The theme of the meeting is waste disposition. There will be a round robin where each site will discuss its waste disposition issues. (Slides are due to Mr. Vivari on August 29). Frank Marcinowski and Christine Gelles from the EM Office of Logistics and Waste Disposition will provide briefings on LLW and HLW disposition. There will be significant time for discussion. Mr. Kipping expects recommendations to come out of the meeting.

On Friday discussion of waste disposition will conclude. There will also be the standard opportunity to discuss the top three issues at each site. There will also be a presentation on long-term stewardship at INL.

Update on Waste Disposition Strategies

Ms. Nielson introduced Frank Marcinowski, who is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Waste Disposition Enhancements. Mr. Marcinowski is responsible for the development and implementation of the National Waste Disposition Strategy.

Mr. Marcinowski noted that the Department has already distributed draft strategy documents for comment and has received comments from the SSABs and other stakeholders. His office is in the process of reviewing and incorporating comments as appropriate. Also, his office is preparing a data call for all the DOE sites on their current volumes of LLW and MLLW. He expects to have all this information by October, which will enable his office to assemble the draft final disposition maps and the strategy document.

Mr. Marcinowski also provided an update on Yucca Mountain and spent fuel. EPA issued its proposed standard earlier this week. This is a positive step. DOE is working toward submitting its license application by Spring 2006. The license support network must be certified for six months prior to NRC accepting the license application.

On transuranic (TRU) waste, Mr. Marcinowski reported that DOE is finishing up shipments from the Mound site; the last shipment will leave August 19. All the TRU waste will be removed from the Columbus, Ohio, site by the end of the year. At Hanford, there are issues with the Solid Waste EIS and the lawsuits. DOE voluntarily decided not to send waste to Hanford and is looking for alternatives.

Mr. Marcinowski reported that Idaho is ramping up its TRU shipments. DOE is trying to meet the 6,000 cubic meter milestone by the end of the calendar year. DOE has had positive progress; it all depends on how much waste can be processed through the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility. For the first time, Idaho is above target production levels. Mr. Marcinowski is hopeful that these levels can be sustained, so that the 6,000 cubic meter milestone will be met. DOE has reduced the number of shipments coming out of Hanford and Savannah River in order to support Idaho with the trucks and TRUPAC casks, but after the December milestone is met, DOE will redistribute these assets among the sites.

There is also positive progress at Los Alamos. The site is now shipping three trucks per week, and are planning four or five 5 shipments in October.

Bill Lawless noted that the Savannah River Board passed a motion to accept the TRU waste. As part of the deal to accept the waste, the Board requested that SRS ramp up the shipments to four for every Mound shipment received.

Mr. Marcinowski noted that Savannah River is ahead of schedule. Since May, DOE de-inventoried as much of the backlog of drums as possible. All of the backlog drums are out of Savannah River. During the next few months, while DOE is devoting resources to

Idaho, Savannah River is going to again build up a backlog of characterized drums so that as soon as shipping resources are available, the waste will be shipped.

Mr. Lawless asked about the next steps for the MLLW plan.

Mr. Marcinowski replied that there will be the data call, then a draft final plan that will be available for public comment in the November timeframe.

Mr. Lawless asked about the comment period for Yucca Mountain and the EPA standard.

Mr. Marcinowski stated that there would be a 60-day comment period.

Kerry Trammel asked about the status of the permit modification for remote-handled TRU waste.

Mr. Marcinowski noted there was one item to be clarified, then the permit mod would be issued for public comment. He is hopeful of receiving the final permit in early Spring of 2006.

Jean Sulc asked about the next round of documents after LLW and MLLW.

Mr. Marcinowski noted that the TRU strategy is moving along, as is the plutonium disposition strategy. There is a senior agency group that is working on a DOE-wide plutonium disposition strategy, which includes all plutonium, not just EM's. This group would like to see a document out before the end of the calendar year.

Ms. Nielson stated that as documents become available she would ensure that the Chairs receive copies.

Mr. Lawless asked about the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on high-level waste cleanup at Savannah River.

Mr. Marcinowski stated that he had not seen the report.

LOCAL SSAB ISSUES/UPDATES

Fernald – Sue Walpole

- The site has been declared 80% clean by EPA. There is not much left. The biggest issue remaining is silos. It is a slow process.
- The Board's annual retreat is September 10.
- This is the last year of the Fernald CAB. Resources for the CAB are diminished.
- LM is holding a meeting on August 31 on the formation of a Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). No decision has been made on whether to have an LSO.

Hanford – Todd Martin

- The Board is having an end-of-year review where the Board meets with the agencies to review everyone's performance.
- The Solid Waste EIS, which is being used to make a number of Hanford's waste disposition decisions, has calculations on groundwater contamination may be incorrect.
- Workers are coming forward with health and safety issues, and feel they are not being treated fairly by the compensation system which has triggered independent reviews.
- The tank waste vitrification plant has issues with the estimate at completion: the facility will take longer to build and cost more.
- In the tank waste program, there has been some pulling back of authority to DOE Headquarters in the past few weeks.
- There is uncertainty about disposition of the site's extra plutonium and about plans to build a facility to store it.
- The Cleanup Priority Act (Initiative 297), which was passed by the voters of the state of Washington, was challenged by DOE as unconstitutional. There has been a ruling that states that if parts of the act are ruled unconstitutional, the whole act will not necessarily be found unconstitutional.

Idaho – David Kipping

- The CAB has a new name: the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Environmental Management Citizens Advisory Board, or the Idaho CAB.
- A big issue at INL is the EIS for Consolidation of Plutonium at Idaho. There have been six public meetings, with over 800 people attending. Most input has been negative, that is, opposed to consolidation.
- The Board's primary concern is the new cleanup contractor, who started May 1. By November the contractor will have drafted a seven-year plan. This will end a lot of uncertainty.
- There has been little activity on the tank farm due to litigation. Congress stepped in with a solution. The reclassification of the empty tanks will proceed.
- DOE has selected steam reforming as the technology to convert liquid waste to solid waste.
- Buried waste continues to be excavated.
- The Board is monitoring the EIS for Decommissioning and Demolition of the Fast Flux Test Reactor at Hanford because the waste is scheduled to come to Idaho.

Nevada – Carla Sanda

- The Board had an administrative meeting on August 10.
- The Board's semi-annual work plan retreat is scheduled for October 22. Work plans will be reviewed and assessed for the prior year; and new initiatives will be approved and scheduled for the coming fiscal year. Both DOE and the regulator plan to participate. Officer elections will also be scheduled at this time.

- The Transuranic Waste Committee is providing comments to an independent study on options for disposition of classified TRU drums. The Board's Diversification Committee will reactivate in the fall to prepare for a Winter 2006 recruitment effort. Consideration is being given to the potential for recruitment announcements on local rural community television stations. The Board will try using TV to generate interest.
- The National Atomic Testing and History Institute has opened in Las Vegas. This is a Smithsonian-partnered facility; which provides an historical look at our nation's approach to nuclear testing, as well as subsequent environmental management activities. The Board conducted its summer semi-annual retreat at the facility and wrapped up the day with a tour of the facility. Ms. Sanda encouraged folks to consider a visit to the museum on their next trip to Las Vegas.

Northern New Mexico – Ted Taylor

- The Board commented on the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) health assessment on Los Alamos. ATSDR has concluded that there are no present and projected future health effects.
- The forum on Area G and Technical Area 54, which was held in May, was a big success. The forum included agencies, a Tribe, and an anti-nuclear group. Proceedings from the forum are available through the CAB office. One of the public television stations televised the forum; videos are available.
- A Consent Order was issued by the New Mexico Environment Department in March. DOE and the Laboratory have submitted deliverables under the order. The Board is concerned that the Consent Order provides for public involvement too late in the process.
- At the Board's July meeting, the Board developed a recommendation calling for DOE to provide financial support to the New Mexico Environment Department to do work in support of the Consent Order. This may be an issue for other sites.
- Tim DeLong, the Board's chair, is moving back to Houston and has resigned from the Board. He will be missed.

Oak Ridge – Kerry Trammell

- Decontamination and Decommissioning at K-25 is under way. The haul road is approaching completion.
- There is discussion about having EM complete cleanup at the Laboratory and Y-12. This makes sense. There is a need to find funds to do this.
- One of the Board's July recommendations was to standardize language in land records in two counties regarding notice of contamination in documents related to land transfer from DOE. Several members of the Stewardship Committee made a presentation regarding land transfer issues at the Denver meeting of the American Nuclear Society.
- The Board's annual retreat is on August 13. Eight new members are attending.
- September 12 marks the 10th anniversary of the Oak Ridge Board. Events are scheduled at the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge.

- Three Stewardship Committee members are involved in the CERCLA five-year review.

Paducah – Rhonda McCorry

- The Board is short-handed, with only 11 of 18 members in place. A membership drive is ongoing.
- Northwind, the new remediation contractor, has had its award challenged. A final award decision is expected by November 1. In the meantime, Bechtel-Jacob's contract has been extended through January 29, 2006.
- The record of decision was signed for cleanup at the C-400 building, a \$40 million project.
- Secretary Bodman and Senator Bunning visited Paducah but were not available to the Board. The new Assistant Secretary will visit Paducah.
- Two Board members resigned last month.
- The CAB's newsletter is going out this month.

Rocky Flats – Ken Korkia

- The Board will conduct its final planning retreat on August 27. Agenda items include developing the Board's work plan, developing recommendations for future public participation, and planning a Board legacy project for the community.
- The last building on the site should be coming down soon.
- Work is progressing quickly; most paved roads are gone. The site is beginning to look like a wildlife refuge.
- There is an ongoing issue regarding mineral rights held by private interests. The Federal government may purchase these rights under CERCLA.

Savannah River – Jean Sulc

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing draft salt waste documents. NAS and NRC recognize that shrinking tank space will affect HLW vitrification. Review has been expedited. Hopefully, construction of the salt waste processing facility will begin by Spring 2006.
- The site is ahead of schedule in shipping TRU waste. In order to meet its 2009 and 2010 goals for shipping all legacy TRU waste, the Board is keeping track of the status of NRC certification of the TRUPAC-III containers for the non-drum waste.
- The Board has commented on the LLW and MLLW disposition strategy
- The Board is beginning a membership drive. It will be losing much of its leadership at the end of January.
- The annual retreat is planned for October.
- It is interesting to note that a consortium of industry companies is investigating interest in building a new nuclear reactor on or near SRS.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE – BETTY NOLAN

- Ms. Nolan introduced Eric Ciliberti, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, who provided his professional background and expressed his interest in working with the Boards.
- Ms. Nolan summarized the new energy bill which was signed this week. The bill is positive for DOE. DOE management is reviewing the bill in depth to identify and understand DOE's new responsibilities and new assignments. Under Secretary Garman is setting up a senior policy group to direct programs to implement provisions of the bill. The bill is available on the Internet.
- Both the House and Senate passed appropriations bills. There are significant differences in the bills. The House and Senate will conference in September and DOE is hopeful to get a bill passed.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Lawless asked if there was any interest in standardizing the gold metrics at headquarters.

Ms. Nielson replied that she would look into the issue.

Mr. Lawless asked about the GAO report on accelerated cleanup across the complex.

Ms. Nielson replied that the report is under review and that she would provide information about DOE's response at a later date.

Norm Mulvenon asked about any additional thoughts on the issues raised in the Chairs' letter to Charlie Anderson on future public involvement.

Ms. Nielson clarified that Mr. Anderson's letter stated that it was outside the scope of the Environmental Management SSAB to provide advice to Legacy Management or NNSA. Mr. Anderson was reiterating that the EMSSAB's should stay focused on EM's problems and/ or issues.

Mr. Mulvenon suggested that this issue could be discussed further at the Chairs' meeting next month. Ms. Nielson agreed.

Mr. Trammell volunteered to have the Oak Ridge Board host the next Chairs' meeting in the Spring of 2006.

Mr. Vivari thanked the steering committee that developed the agenda for the Idaho Falls Chairs' meeting.

Ms. Nielson noted that EM now has a full complement of managers at Headquarters.

CONCLUSION

Ms. Nielson thanked everyone for participating.