

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

February 17, 2011

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Mr. Frank DiSanza
Waste Management Federal Project Director
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office
232 Energy Way, M/S 505
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

RE: Letter of Support for Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) Treatment
Permit Application

Dear Mr. DiSanza:

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) has reviewed the information contained in your November 10, 2010 presentation to the NSSAB and the *Conceptual Evaluation for the Installation of Treatment Capability for Mixed Low-Level Waste at the Nevada National Security Site DOE/NV25946—1109* report regarding the feasibility of MLLW treatment at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Four waste treatment technologies are under consideration.

- Macroencapsulation
- Microencapsulation
- Sort and segregate
- Small scale amalgamation of mercury-containing waste

Most MLLW is currently treated at commercial facilities located outside the state of Nevada. Since these facilities are not in Nevada, the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) must travel out-of-state to inspect the waste processors, or rely on out-of-state regulators to monitor the facilities' compliance with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations and Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR), prior to disposal at the NNSS. In addition, classified MLLW cannot be treated at commercial facilities.

Hence, the establishment of a MLLW treatment capability at the NNSS would provide the following benefits.

- Provide for treatment of classified MLLW
- Eliminate the need for NDEP staff to travel out-of-state
- NDEP would oversee treatment versus relying on out-of-state regulators

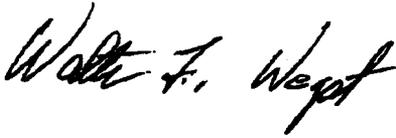
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- Waste treatment would continue to be verified in accordance with the NNSS Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program
- Nevada Site Office (NSO) would have greater control of the waste treatment processes for those wastes destined for ultimate disposal at the NNSS

Finally, there appears to be sufficient capacity within the existing permitted RCRA disposal facility at the NNSS to allow disposal of the projected MLLW volumes from around the DOE complex for at least the next five years.

Therefore, in view of these benefits, the NSSAB unanimously supports the NSO application to NDEP for a MLLW treatment permit at the NNSS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter F. Wegst". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Walter F. Wegst, Chair

cc: M. Nielson, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
C. Alexander Brennan, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
A. Clark, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
K. Snyder, PSG, NNSA/NSO, Las Vegas, NV
C. Lockwood, PSG, NNSA/NSO, Las Vegas, NV
D. Rupp, NREI, Las Vegas, NV
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NNSA/NSO Read File