



**MEETING SUMMARY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) FOR
NEVADA TEST SITE (NTS) PROGRAMS**

DATE: February 8, 2006
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
PLACE: Bob Ruud Community Center
150 S. Highway 160
Pahrump, NV

ATTENDEES:

CAB MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Peterson, Chair; Marian Lawrence, Vice Chair; Kaye Allisen-Medlin, Bob Gatliff, David Hermann, Steve Hopkins, Genne Nelson, John Pawlak, Jackson Ramsey and Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen..

CAB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Richard Nocilla, Charles Phillips, and Pauline Esteves.

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen A. Mellington, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Nevada Site Office; Tim Murphy, Bureau of Federal Facilities, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP); and Tiffany Lantow, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

LIAISON MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Frank Tussing, Nevada Alliance for Defense, Energy, and Business.

PUBLIC/OTHER: Dr. Helen Neill, UNLV; Savanna Reid, UNLV; Sandy McFadden, Goldstein-Royan Environmental Technologies; Kathleen Rozner, Phillip Gomez, Jenifer Viereck, D. H. Bradley, Bryan Norton, Cary Cerefice, UNLV; Tony Hechanova, UNLV; and Jeanette Daniels, UNLV.

DOE AFFILIATES: Kelly Snyder, DOE/NSO EM; Frank Di Sanza, DOE/NSO; Joanne Norton, DOE/NSO; and Carla Sanda, Consensus By Design.

CAB POINTS OF CONTACT: Kelly Snyder, DOE/NSO Environmental Management, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, NV 89193, telephone (702) 295-2836; and Kay Planamento, CAB Administrative Support, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc., 2721 Losee Road, Suite D, North Las Vegas, NV, telephone (702) 657-9088.

DOCUMENTS AND/OR HANDOUTS AVAILABLE AT THE CAB MONTHLY MEETING:

- July 13, 2005, Draft NTS CAB Agenda
- Copy of January 26, 2006 CAB letter to Stephen A. Mellington
- Copy of presentation, "NTS Transuranic Waste."

- Notification for Closed in Place Corrective Actions, February 8, 2006.
- Copy of Waste Management 2006 Conference presentation, “Well Siting Recommendation to DOE from the Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board: A Case Study on Public Involvement”
- Winter 2006 *EM UPDATE*
- Transuranic Waste . . . at the Nevada Test Site Fact Sheet
- Copy of CAB “Roadshow” presentation

The following is a summary of the NTS CAB monthly meeting held on February 8, 2006. A complete record of the meeting is available on tapes maintained in the NTS CAB official files.

7:05 p.m. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kathleen Peterson welcomed meeting attendees and expressed her pleasure at holding a CAB meeting in Pahrump.

After review, Jack Ramsey moved, seconded by Genne Nelson, to accept the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously

Facilitator, Carla Sanda, reviewed the Ground Rule, which were created to help conduct more efficient, effective CAB meetings.

At this time the CAB members introduced themselves and identified their place of residence within the state.

7:13 p.m. DOE ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Stephen A. Mellington, Assistant Manager, DOE/NSO EM

Mr. Mellington read the CAB Mission Statement, welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with the following announcements:

Fiscal Year 2006 Environmental Management Budget

The fiscal year 2006 Congressional Budget Request was \$87.870 million. The DOE/NSO recently learned that the net operating budget had been reduced to approximately \$80 million due to pro-rate adjustments (increases and decreases) to meet congressionally directed or anticipated initiatives such as support to Katrina victims and the war in Iraq, multi-site requirements, and approximately \$16 million dollars in Congressional earmarks for Nevada. These adjustments will clearly impact project activities for the coming year. Both the CAB and the State of Nevada have registered serious concerns with the funding level. The CAB wrote a letter to DOE/NSO detailing their concerns (a copy of this letter was available on the information table). Throughout the years, the DOE has made firm commitments to the State of Nevada to ensure that adequate funding would be provided to support environmental restoration activities at the NTS. These commitments are not taken lightly and the DOE is trying to rectify the situation. They are continuing to address the issue with DOE Headquarters and hope to have final resolution within the next several weeks.

Waste Management Activities

The Transuranic waste shipping campaign that started in January 2004 was completed in November 2005. Joni Norton, DOE Transuranic Waste Project Manager will provide meeting attendees with the details of the very successful shipping campaign.

Mr. Mellington also briefly talked about the low-level waste shipments that routinely travel through Pahrump on their way to the NTS. In fiscal year 2005 the DOE received approximately two million cubic feet of low-level waste – a 40% drop from the previous year. During this fiscal year, they expect waste volumes to decrease by an additional 1,000,000 cubic feet – bringing the fiscal year 2006 low-level waste total to approximately 900,000 cubic feet. As sites begin to wind down their cleanup efforts, total volumes will continue to decrease through fiscal year 2011. The DOE receives inquiries along with photos from Pahrump residents about these low-level waste shipments. If anyone has questions about any of the shipments – or a particular truck – call the DOE offices at 702-295-3521. There are also quarterly reports of waste shipments on the internet.

The CAB UGTA Committee was recognized for their years of work and study on the NTS groundwater issue. The DOE/NSO will be reviewing the recommendations for sentinel well locations and will continue to partner with the CAB on groundwater issues.

7:20 p.m. NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NDEP)
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Tim Murphy, NDEP

Mr. Murphy emphasized that the State of Nevada will also correspond with DOE headquarters and representatives of the state to voice their concern of these budget cuts. There have been some commitments made by the DOE/NSO and it is of great concern that that money does stay in the state and that the cleanup project and other projects continue forward.

He also announced that in the past the office of federal facilities was split between the Carson City and the Las Vegas offices. Over the last year, all of those positions that were in Carson City have been moved to the Las Vegas office. Now the entire bureau is housed in Las Vegas providing NDEP with an opportunity to work closer with the community, with the CAB, and with oversight activities at the NTS. Having everyone in Las Vegas is a much proactive way for the NDEP to conduct its work.

Kathleen stated that it is reassuring to be able to partner with the state regulators on these budget cuts and the responses to the budget cuts.

7:22 p.m. NTS TRANSURANIC (TRU) SUCCESS STORY
Joni Norton, DOE/EM Tru Project Manager
[This presentation is located on the CAB website (NTSCAB.com) under presentations located on the left side of the home page]

This project has arrived at a point that it can be declared a success on the legacy TRU waste drums that were in the NTS inventory.

In a brief overview, Ms. Norton explained that TRU waste contains man-made radioactive elements heavier than uranium. Any element 92+ in the periodic table is considered to be a TRU waste. An example of TRU waste at the NTS is contaminated worker clothing, tools, and debris from some of the weapons development days and when the labs were dismantled after the weapons development days closed. TRU is packaged in approved containers such as a 55-gallon drum. Occasionally, the 55-gallon drum is packaged in a larger 85-gallon drum to protect the drum inside. There are also some nonstandard boxes that are built around the waste inside to protect the workers as it is stored over time.

She also explained that most of the TRU waste at the NTS was generated at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in the 1960s, and they began shipping it to the NTS in the 1970s and 1980s for temporary storage until a place for permanent storage was located. A building was erected (TRU

Pad Cover Building) in Area 5 at the NTS to temporarily store the TRU waste (blue building on page 1 of presentation) and protect the drums from the weather. The TRU waste has been in this building since 1994.

TRU waste that was generated by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) activities is disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), a salt mine repository ~2150 feet deep located in Carlsbad, New Mexico. TRU waste that is currently in storage at the NTS cannot be disposed of at the NTS. The NTS can take radioactive waste for disposal, but only low-level waste, not the TRU waste. TRU waste must be disposed of at WIPP. There is an Acceptance Criteria to meet when preparing the drums for shipment. First, the waste must be characterized and determined what is actually in the drum. Once characterized, the drum is certified, and can be shipped to WIPP. These criteria were met by the DOE when preparing the TRU drums for shipment. One criterion is to determine if there are any prohibited items (i.e., liquids, aerosol cans, etc.). If any of these prohibited items are located in a drum, the drum is put in a glove box operation, which protects the worker from being exposed to the contaminated materials inside the drum. The prohibited item/items are removed from the drum, and the drum continues for disposal at WIPP. This operation is conducted in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building at the NTS.

Shipping TRU waste is different than shipping low-level waste. The trucks carrying the TRUPACT-II containers containing TRU waste did not travel through Pahrump. The DOE/NSO made 48 shipments (1860 drums) using these containers. The shipments were started in January 2004 and concluded in November 2005.

The TRU waste activities that remain are associated with the disposal of the prohibitive items. Since the waste is now a low-level waste or a mixed low-level waste, not a TRU waste, it can be taken care of at the NTS. DOE/NSO also wants to decommission the glove box and dispose of it onsite. The 58 oversized boxes and ~200 drums remain stored at the NTS for disposal.

An assay is conducted to determine the isotopic concentration in the container. The container does not need to be opened. To help determine how the container will be disposed of, an in-Situ Object Counting System (ISOCs) is used to look at the container from the outside and determine if it contains low-level or TRU waste. The boxes and drums that have not been characterized will go through a non-destructive examination through Real-Time Radiography (RTR). This operation sees into the drum - like an x-ray - to find any prohibitive items. This eliminates the necessity to open the drums and expose the workers to any kind of radiation.

The oversized boxes are a challenge because they are non-standard and do not fit into the TRUPACT II transportation container. These cannot be shipped anywhere else and must be handled on site. Commercial disposal is being considered to size reduce and repack the boxes to meet shipping requirements. Any TRU waste will be disposed of at WIPP and any low-level and/or mixed low-level waste will be disposed of at the NTS.

The timeline for the rest of the project for the 58 boxes is the end of fiscal year 2007. Once these activities are completed, some of the buildings and structures will still remain standing (the TRUPACT cover building, the Visual Examination and Repackaging). The low-level waste project will take these buildings and demolish them if needed or continue to store them if needed.

7:50 p.m.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Ms. Norton thanked the CAB for its support and expressed how much she has enjoyed working with them.

Q. Dave Hermann (CAB) - (Referring to the slide discussing the non-destructive assay to determine isotopic concentration) Can you tell us what kind of technology is used to determine what type of isotopes are contained inside a closed container?

Carla – this is what she said, but it isn't very good. Can you help with this?

A. Ms. Norton. When the drums were here, we had one piece of equipment that could do the same thing. It could tell you if it was TRU or not. It would take the drum in segments and then average the isotopes along the drum and tell you what the drum was - if it was low-level or TRU. The current piece of equipment is a little different. It comes with a software program. Its like a laser. It goes across the entire drum. You can shield it to go as big or small as you need. This one also averages the isotopes over the entire container. The software will identify hot spots of where the TRU waste is concentrated. You are able to see if there has been any decontamination inside.

Kathleen Peterson added that they are looking at the signature and the activity levels and where it occurs in the drum.

Q. Phil Gomez (*Pahrump Valley Times*). I was wondering about the transportation of this waste to the NTS. I understand that there is a HAZMET or decontamination center in Henderson that responds to any accidental spills. Could you address their area of response and whether that would also extend up into the Pahrump area and central Nevada.

A. Ms. Norton. For the TRU waste shipments, the Carlsbad field office which is located where the repository is located, is responsible for establishing the route and they also train the emergency responders. I do not know whether or not Henderson HAZMET would respond if there was an emergency in a shipment that was related to our shipments in this area. The DOE/NSO has conducted some emergency response exercises here at the NTS related to the TRU waste. They had emergency responders come to the NTS and conduct a practice run as if there was some kind of accident. However, I can't tell you if Henderson attended this exercise or not.

C. Mr. Mellington (DOE/NSO) clarified that this waste is shipped from the NTS, not to the site. Also, there is a Nevada State Highway Patrol escort in the state of Nevada as the waste leaves the NTS to the California line. If there was an emergency, they would be the officials in charge and it would be up to them which emergency responder to use.

Mr. Gomez stated that this issue was recently discussed at a couple of Nye County Board of Commissioners' meetings. One of the commissioners has proposed developing a facility in Tonopah similar to the Henderson responder facility to handle central Nevada emergencies of any kind involving hazardous materials.

Tim Murphy of the NDEP offered to find contacts and additional information for Mr. Gomez.

C. John Pawlak (CAB) added that Nye County's emergency response group has been trained at the WIPP facility. Steve Mason from Pahrump took a course at WIPP entitled, "Train the trainer," and became certified to train others. He trained not only the first responders in Pahrump, but he also traveled to the fire departments in Shoshone and Tecopa for training sessions. The Nye County first responders have also been trained for WIPP shipment emergencies.

Q. Tony Hechanova (UNLV) (Pahrump Nuclear Waste and Environmental Advisory Board). There was an issue in the past on classified TRU, and an issue, possibly anecdotal, of TRU waste that was emplaced in trenches. Can you clarify these issues?

A. Ms. Norton. There were 248 classified drums that were transuranic out of the 1860 drums shipped to WIPP. The DOE/NSO was able to characterize them and certify them as any other waste drum to be shipped to WIPP. Some of the drums were not TRU, they were low-level waste. That waste stream has been dispositioned and was completed with this campaign.

A. Frank DiSanza (currently Deputy for the DOE/EM office)(formerly Federal Project Director for Waste Management). There are two populations of waste at the NTS that are TRU. One is disposed and the other is basically under study.

The first population that is disposed is in the Greater Confinement Disposal facility. The appropriate regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency to demonstrate that it is safe to stay in the ground have been met. This has been worked through the DOE committee that is responsible for making those determinations, and they have given us the go ahead to close that facility.

The second population is a little more uncertain as to what the status will be in the future. We refer to it as "TRU in the trenches." We have found out that at some time in the late 1970s or early 1980s, there was a shipment of 102 drums that came in and were supposed to be placed in the Greater Confinement Disposal facility. However, they were inadvertently placed into one of the shallow land burial trenches. Looking at the paperwork, the drums were TRU waste. The DOE/NSO is pursuing a process to evaluate whether or not that waste should stay there or should it be dug up, characterized, and sent to WIPP. Jhon Carilli is the project manager and he is working on that issue this fiscal year. We hope to go back to the DOE committee that is responsible for making those determinations and present the technical data. The appropriate action will be taken after the committee evaluates the data presented to them.

Carla Sanda added that the CAB did recently receive a briefing on the "TRU in the trenches," so they are aware of it and on top of that issue. This was one of the areas that the CAB had a great deal of interest in and it has provided some comments on the disposition of the classified TRU waste.

Genne Nelson (CAB) My understanding is that the TRUPACT IIs were shipped across the NTS to gate 510, which is the back gate close to Lathrop Wells. From that point it was transported down Highway 373. The only Nye County community that was potentially affected would have been Amargosa Valley. There were no shipments through Pahrump.

Carla also welcomed Kathleen Rosner, the regional representative from Senator Harry Reid's Las Vegas office.

Kathleen Peterson presented CAB member John Pawlak with a plaque as a symbol of the CAB's appreciation for his 6 years of service on the CAB, his leadership, and for being a friend to his community.

He thanked the CAB members and its support staff for their help during his six years on the CAB.

8:08 p.m. CAB COMMITTEE UPDATES

Underground Test Area Committee - Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen introduced a letter for approval. He thanked Savanna Reid (UNLV graduate student), Genne Nelson, and Steve Hopkins for all of their support and help in producing the letter. The letter has been prepared with the recommendation for two well locations on the NTS. Also attached is a short synopsis report of why these particular sites were chosen. Unfortunately, all the work is not done. There is still one additional well site that the committee would like to recommend to the DOE/NSO. The original 3rd choice for a well was eliminated because its location was not accessible. The committee has also been given the opportunity to select

some other well sites, and will work hard to select several more well sites. The focus on these sites will be somewhat different than the focus for the ones currently selected. The committee is going to look more at sentinel wells that can be used to determine if anything related to radionuclide contamination is moving off of the NTS into areas that are inhabited by citizens of Nevada. These wells will have one thing in their favor; they will be much less expensive to drill and they will act as a “first line of defense,” in case the modeling of the groundwater flow and transport is incorrect. Models are just that - they are models, they are not a representative of the system. They are an attempt to project what might happen. The area that is being modeled is extremely difficult from a hydrologic and a geologic standpoint.

The letter and report was included in CAB members information folders for review. It had previously been e-mailed to members for review.

Kathleen asked if there were any questions regarding the letter and report. Marian Lawrence moved, seconded by John Pawlak, that the letter and report be approved as written and transmitted to the DOE/NSO. Motion passed unanimously.

The letter and report will be available on the CAB website for the public to review.

Mr. von Tiesenhausen thanked Carla Sanda for reviewing and preparing the letter in its final form. There had been many edits by many people and she brought all of these ideas together in the final product.

Steve Mellington thanked the CAB for the years of work that has gone into this letter and report. The DOE/NSO looks forward to receiving the letter and they always to forward to partnering with the CAB.

Budget Committee - Dave Hermann reviewed the Budget Committee’s purpose. It is going to look at the proposed budget for FY 2008. Within the next month, the committee members will meet with the project manager of each of the DOE projects. The members will then evaluate and prioritize the projects following its set of criteria. After approval by the full CAB, the prioritization will then submitted to the DOE/NSO.

Diversification Committee - Jack Ramsey reported that the job of the Diversification Committee is to attract new members to serve on the CAB. Even though the salary is zero, there is a feeling of satisfaction in understanding the work that is being done and understanding the progress that is being made in Environmental Management at the NTS. The CAB is currently conducting a recruitment campaign. Anyone can apply. You need not be a technical specialist or have knowledge of any aspects of the nuclear field. (Applications were available on the information table at the back of the meeting room). Mr. Ramsey encouraged everyone to either take an application for themselves, or take one for someone else who might be interested in CAB activities.

Genne Nelson added that, as a Nye County resident who has been involved in the CAB for four years, that even though there is no pay, the DOE/NSO does reimburse travel expenses. The CAB also has at least half of the public meetings held in the rural communities. She encouraged Nye County residents to consider applying for CAB membership.

Transportation/Waste Committee - John Pawlak recognized that CAB member Bill King recently passed away and will be missed.

He also announced that as of February 10, 2006, Dave Hermann will become the Chair of the Transportation/Waste Committee.

Mr. Pawlak reported that the Committee's six-month work plan includes continuing to follow the final shipments of the TRU waste as it leaves the NTS going to the WIPP.

He stated that he had been an observer at one of the WIPPTREX exercises, and that he has also traveled to the WIPP site on two occasions. CAB members have also traveled to Amargosa Valley to give briefings to residents because they live along the route taken by the trucks going to WIPP.

The committee will also be reviewing the National Low-Level Waste Disposition Strategy revision that will become available in March. The committee has already furnished one comment on the present strategy. They stated that when complete, this document will be an invaluable reference providing a clear picture of the current status of radioactive waste disposition throughout the DOE complex as well as provide a framework for future issues to be addressed.

The shipment of low-level waste will continue to travel through Nye County. This operation works hand and hand with emergency preparedness because there are monies derived from the waste shipments that go through the collar counties for emergency management equipment and training.

At one of the future public meetings, the CAB will invite Dr. David Shaffer to give a presentation on his study which was the largest test ever conducted of potential exposure from trucks during transit to the NTS.

8:25 p.m. PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

Carla let everyone know that in addition to the public meetings, that all of the CAB meetings, including committee meetings, are open to anyone who is interested. The information will be posted on the website.

C. Jennifer Viereck (CA) - I want to express my gratitude for all of the work that has gone into the UGTA recommendation report and letter. I have attended several meetings over the last year and have just an inkling of the amount of work and pure heart that went into providing these recommendations. I want to thank you as a downstream person and an observer for all the effort that have been put into this.

8:30 p.m. OTHER CAB BUSINESS

- Carla informed CAB members that there is going to be a Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) national meeting being held in April in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. There will be a tour of the facility and meetings for one and a half days. Presently, there is no published agenda, but the CAB will make an effort to link the appropriate CAB member with the activities presented at the SSAB meeting.

The fall meeting will be sponsored by the Northern New Mexico CAB and the Nevada CAB will host the national SSAB meeting in the Spring of 2007.

- Helen Neill (UNLV) and Savanna Reid co-authored a paper that they are presenting at the Waste Management Conference in Tucson, Arizona. The paper is titled, "Well Siting Recommendation to DOE from the Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board: A Case Study on Public Involvement." Copies of the paper were available at the information table.
- Carla added that another membership element of the CAB is that of a liaison member. They are non-voting members and typically represent governmental agencies or other entities that have some interest or stake on what is going on at the NTS.

- Meeting Evaluation
 - Dave Hermann - appreciate the opportunity to present what the CAB is doing to the public
 - Kaye Allisen-Medlin - wonderful meeting, presentations were very informative
 - Helen Neill- meeting was great, appreciated all the questions from the audience, learning experience
 - Genne Nelson - appreciate how Joni puts her information in a nutshell that everyone can understand
 - Tim Murphy - good meeting, participation of the public is what it is all about
 - Steve Mellington - again thanked the CAB for their hard work. Thanked John Pawlak for his six years' of CAB participation.
 - Marian Lawrence - The letter and report were extremely well written and understandable. Thanked those who worked on those documents.
 - Jack Ramsey - good meeting, thanked Joni Norton for her excellent presentation
 - Bob Gatliff - good meeting, appreciated all the hard work and presentations
 - Tiffany Lantow - good meeting as usual and very interesting
 - John Pawlak - expressed his feeling that he is leaving the CAB on a high note and it has been a pleasure to be on the CAB.
 - Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen - likes coming to the rural communities and getting to know the people who are actually more affected than those in Las Vegas. Appreciates the updates from the DOE and NDEP.

8:40 p.m. John Pawlak moved, seconded by Genne Nelson, to adjourn meeting.