



## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

### **Environmental Management Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE) Ad Hoc Committee**

**September 12, 2007**

**Members Present:** Walter Wegst, Vice-Chair; Bob Gatliff;  
Vernell McNeal; Stacy Standley

**Members not Present:** Jan Spinato, Chair

**Department of Energy:** Kelly Snyder, DDFO

**Support Staff:** Rosemary Rehfeldt, Navarro Research  
and Engineering, Inc.

The *Mixed Low-Level Waste...at the Nevada Test Site* Fact Sheet was reviewed with suggested changes to include:

- Under Mixed Low-Level Waste Composition:
  - Take the first sentence of the second paragraph and move up to become the second sentence of the first paragraph, which reads, *“Hazardous wastes are materials that are toxic, corrosive, reactive, ignitable, or are specifically identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as “hazardous.”*”
  - Change the last sentence in the first paragraph to read, *“Because of its hazardous non-radioactive component, mixed low-level waste is managed separately from low-level waste.”*
- Under Disposal at the Nevada Test Site:
  - On the second page, first paragraph: take *“and”* out of the last sentence and add *“and x-ray”*, to read, *“Compliance is ensured through extensive document review and x-ray verification of a minimum of five percent of all mixed low-level waste disposed.”*
- The Committee asked if the two Fact Sheets – *Mixed Low-Level Waste...at the Nevada Test Site* and *Mixed Low-Level Waste...Acceptance Guidelines at the Nevada Test Site* can be combined into one Fact Sheet. Kelly Snyder agreed that one Fact Sheet would be better.
- Under Summary:
  - Write the first sentence in present tense and add the word *“remediation,”* to read, *“Mixed low-level waste is managed at the Nevada Test Site in support of environmental management remediation and other activities.”*

The *Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program...at the Nevada Test Site* Fact Sheet was reviewed next, with the following changes:

- Under Overview:
  - Make two sentences out of the first paragraph and add the word *“nationwide,”* to read, *“The Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program ensures safe waste disposal operations at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The NTS is one of the nation’s*

*approved sites for the disposal of low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste resulting from cleanup of the nationwide nuclear weapons complex.*

- Move the last sentence from the fourth paragraph to become the last sentence of the second paragraph, which reads, *“In addition, waste containers must be labeled and shipped according to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations.”*
- Cross reference the *Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program* brochure within this Fact Sheet.
- Under Waste Acceptance Process:
  - The first sentence should read, *“The Nevada Test Site waste acceptance process begins when a generator submits its waste acceptance documentation, which consists of the following essential information:”*
  - In the second bullet, the acronym “DOE” is to be added to the second sentence, so it would begin as: *“A DOE Waste Certification Official...”*
  - Also within the second bullet, explain what *“an independent quality assurance organization”* means.
  - In the third bullet, the first sentence reads, *“A list of qualified personnel that certify low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste is also provided to Nevada Test Site personnel.”* The Committee recommends adding who the “qualified personnel” are and how they are qualified, as well as how this information is provided to NTS personnel.
  - In the next paragraph, the Committee recommends that the term “waste stream” is defined.
  - In the last sentence of the next paragraph, change the word “can” to “will.”
  - In the next paragraph, specify the types of trailers used.
- In the final paragraph, under What this Means for the Complex...
  - Change the paragraph to read, *“The Nevada Site Office’s commitment to safe disposal operations ensures that sites across the U.S. Department of Energy complex ship low-level and mixed low-level waste following the stringent waste management guidelines that have been established. The Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program provides the necessary framework for safe, successful waste shipments and disposal activities necessary to realize cleanup goals.”*

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2007, from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. at the Amargosa Valley Community Center. Walt Wegst will contact Jan Spinato to make a decision on what Fact Sheets to review at the next Committee meeting, and inform the CAB office.