



**Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee
Well-Recommendation Presentation to the
UGTA Technical Work Group**

Date: August 23, 2007

Attendees:

Chris Andres, Naomi Becker, Bruce Crowe, Jeff Daniels, Dave Finnegan, Bob Gatliff, Ward Hawkins, Britt Jacobson, Randy Laczniak, Chris Miller, John McCord, Tim Murphy, Genne Nelson, Ken Ortigo, Gayle Pawloski, Rosemary Rehfeldt, Chuck Russell, Kelly Snyder, Bobby Thomas, Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen, Rick Waddell, Bill Wilborn, Andy Wolfsberg, Jeff Wurtz

- Genne Nelson, CAB UGTA Committee Vice-Chair, gave a presentation to the UGTA Technical Working Group (TWG) on the CAB's well site recommendations and objectives.
- The presentation reviewed the CAB's response to the UGTA Peer Review, which supported the Peer Review findings and emphasized the committee's remaining key concerns, namely:
 - The site must demonstrate an early commitment to monitoring
 - More data is needed to reduce uncertainties in northwest Pahute Mesa
 - It is imperative to understand groundwater flow paths
 - DOE should consider positioning sentinel wells in transition zone flow paths
 - Predictions must be validated by field data
- The CAB's primary question is: Will the UGTA strategy reveal the location of contaminants before they show up in someone's well? To answer this question, the Committee has narrowed its focus and needs to gather information regarding the:
 - Size of underground tests on and around Pahute Mesa
 - Highest groundwater gradient at the NTS
 - Closest private property
 - Potential fast paths for contaminant migration
 - Need for additional data
- CAB UGTA Committee's well site recommendations:
 - Well Site 1:
 - Install a well down-gradient of ER-20-5#1
 - Close enough to intersect contaminants
 - Well Site 2:
 - Install a well down-gradient of Well Site 1
 - Approaching the "bench" structure and ahead of the plume
 - Well Site 3:
 - Install a well at the junction of the Thirsty Canyon structure and the "bench" structure preserved between the two calderas
- Questions/Comments from the TWG:

- 1) Are you checking what water table geology would be like?
 - 2) Slide #19, "Geology at Groundwater Surface," DOE/NV/11718-706, is the crux of the presentation.
 - 3) What if there is no contamination detected in your well...the first well. What do you propose?
 - 4) Would your sole purpose for drilling a well be to confirm the existence of a [the] plume?
 - 5) What information would you like to gain?
 - 6) How do you define contamination?
 - 7) It seems that the TWG and the CAB are on the same page; the objectives are the same. Does the CAB want one well that the TWG sites or do you want to work as part of the working process, with the idea that the CAB's concepts and concerns are integrated?
- Suggestions from the TWG:
 - 1) You want to have a risk-based approach.
 - 2) Don't count on a single, particular objective.
 - 3) You need to harmonize on some level of risk standard.
 - 4) It's important to look at the shallow hydrologic activity.
 - Walter Wegst, CAB Vice-Chair, said that there is a "perception" issue with the public. It is just as important to know the geology as it is to know the groundwater. There is a need for more data about subsurface geology, even if contamination is not found, particularly the Thirsty Canyon Lineament and the "Bench."
 - Bill Wilborn, DOE EM UGTA Sub-Project Director, has invited the CAB into the well siting process. He stated that the CAB is on the same path as the TWG as to where to put wells and why. Additionally, UGTA has a process to follow and must address issues with the public and the State of Nevada, each with their own objectives.
 - Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen, CAB UGTA Committee Chair, said that the CAB UGTA Committee takes no "pride of ownership" as to whether or not there should be one or two wells, where they should be, and why. However, the CAB believes that DOE should help to "put a face" to the information, and conduct meetings to inform and update the communities.
 - Bill Wilborn said that the CAB will be invited to future TWG siting location meetings, and they can also participate in CAIP meetings.
 - Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.