



## MEETING MINUTES

### Full Board Meeting

July 8, 2009

Atomic Testing Museum, Frank Rogers Auditorium  
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Members Present:	Dave Hermann, Chair; Walt Wegst, Vice-Chair; Kathy Bienenstein; Robert Gatliff; Robert Johnson; John McGrail; Vernell McNeal; Ted Oom; Jackson Ramsey; Ted Schweitzer (via phone); Herb Spiegel; Hal Sullivan; James Weeks
Liaisons Present:	Chris Andres (NDEP), Rob Boehlecke (DOE), Bob Gamble (Nye County), Genne Nelson (NPS)
Technical Support Staff Present:	Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)
U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE):	Kelly Snyder (DDFO), Bill Wilborn
Facilitator:	Denise Rupp (Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.)
Public Present:	Ken Donnelson (North Las Vegas), Mark Klein (Las Vegas), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Richard Nelson (Las Vegas), Jack Parrott (US Nuclear Regulatory Commission), Robert Regan (Amargosa), Bonnie Spencer (Las Vegas), Reginald Stewart (State of Nevada)

### Agenda Review

The agenda was amended moving "Public Comment" to after the "Presentations" and including Pahrump Public Meeting Attendance and RadWaste Summit under "Other CAB Business."

Kathy Bienenstein moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### Soils Update

Rob Boehlecke updated the CAB on the Soils Sub-Project.

- NTS contamination resulted from nuclear weapons tests, safety experiments, and storage-transportation tests, as well as evaluation test for peaceful uses of nuclear explosives
- Soils Sub-Project is responsible for characterizing and/or remediating surface soil contamination, ensuring appropriate controls are in place and conducting long-term monitoring with State of Nevada oversight provided under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO)
- FY 2009 Current Status
  - Completed closure of Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 107, low impact soil sites, and CAU 370, the T-4 Atmospheric Test Site
  - Initiate investigation plans for CAU 371, Johnnie Boy Unit Crater, and CAU 372, Palanquin/Cabriolet Unit Craters
- Future Activities
  - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allows for the acceleration of site investigations and closure of contaminated soil sites covering approximately 7,800 acres
  - Completion of CAUs 371 and 372

- Initiate investigations at Plutonium Valley and GMX sites
- Conduct long-term monitoring

Mr. Boehlecke made the following clarifications at the request of the CAB:

- EM is working with the Air Force to determine the extent of plutonium contamination clean up that is needed on the Tonopah Test Range; currently no investigative work is taking place
- Closed soil sites will be annually inspected for adequate signs and fencing, as well as disturbance activities; information regarding the term of monitoring will be provided to the CAB

Release of Closure Documents for comment is anticipated in FY 2010 with the completion of the Soils Sub-Project in FY 2023.

### **Pahute Mesa Groundwater Update**

Bill Wilborn gave an update on drilling activities on Pahute Mesa, including:

- The *Phase II Corrective Action Investigation Plan for Correction Action Units 101 and 102 Central and Western Pahute Mesa* document provides a frame of reference for all drilling activities during the FY 2009-2011 drilling campaign (copies will be provided as requested)
- CAB Well (ER-20-7) drilling depth and hole completion
- Geology and tritium results found during drilling of ER-20-7
- Expectations of well ER-20-8

Mr. Wilborn made the following clarifications at the request of the CAB:

- Samples were taken for testing, however, there is no expectation of finding plutonium contamination
- While ground radar was used as a tool to identify subsurface geology in the Yucca Flat area, most of the Pahute Mesa sites were based on data interpretation
- ER-20-8 is located between ER-EC-11 and closer to ER-EC-6 in Area 20
- ER-EC-11 will be the first off-site well drilled in this campaign
- Conceptual models predict contamination at ER-20-8 and ER-EC-11
- Pump testing information will be provided to the CAB

### **FY 2010 Work Plan Update**

Kelly Snyder updated the CAB on new guidance regarding Work Plan development. Work Plans will be a function of the Full Board rather than being developed at the committee level. This change will encourage Full Board participation and discussion of CAB issues.

In the past, Work Plans were verbally approved by DOE. DOE is now requesting Work Plans be formally submitted in writing by the CAB. DOE must comment on and approve the work plan by the end of the fiscal year. To meet this deadline, development of the Work Plan will require additional time from the Full Board at the September 9, 2009 meeting.

- Meeting will begin at 4 p.m.
- Committee Chairs will report on current fiscal year activity (a report outlining current Work Plan tasks, recommendations, and remaining tasks will be provided to each chair)
- FY 2009 survey results will be presented (distributed in early August)
- Ms. Snyder will present upcoming DOE activities and possible related recommendations
- The Full Board will discuss and vote on Work Plan tasks
- Work Plan tasks will be assigned to existing and/or new committees

- A Work Plan recommendation letter will be developed and voted on by the Full Board
- Committee sign-ups will follow Work Plan task assignments
- Committees will elect a chair and determine meeting times
- Denise Rupp will provide the CAB with an outline of the new process in early August

## **Committee Updates**

### Executive Committee (Dave Hermann)

- Committee received an update on the FY 2010 Work Plan as discussed by Ms. Snyder
- Hal Sullivan and Bob Gatliff will participate in the July 8, 2009 EM SSAB Chairs Conference Call in place of Mr. Hermann and Walt Wegst
- Mr. Hermann signed a letter of appreciation to Jennifer Ward for her service to the CAB

### Membership Committee (Jackson Ramsey)

- CAB membership has dropped to 13 (from 15-20 goal) and a membership recruitment drive is being planned
- The previous recruitment process did not work effectively; despite publicity in a number of Las Vegas and rural Nevada venues, response has been poor
- In an effort to increase applicant numbers the Committee developed changes to the recruitment plan:
  - In addition to the required advertising, each CAB member was asked to refer an applicant for membership in an effort to increase applicant numbers
  - Applicants will be provided a CAB member "job description" upon receipt of their application
  - Applications will be accepted through October 14, 2009
  - Interviews will be conducted and a slate of candidates presented to the Board for recommendation to the DOE at the January 2010 meeting

### Outreach Committee (Hal Sullivan)

- A brief update on all current and closed Outreach suggestions was made. In addition, the Committee would like to pursue the suggestion of a CAB-sponsored science fair at the school in Beatty. Such an activity would promote CAB awareness and provide an educational opportunity. Mr. Hermann moved the Outreach Committee study the issue and prepare a detailed plan to be presented at the Board's September meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Helen Neil and her team at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas recently released the results of a rural Nevada questionnaire regarding awareness of EM activities. The Committee believes these results would be beneficial to the CAB in understanding stakeholder concerns. Mr. Sullivan moved to have Dr. Neil present the questionnaire results at the November 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Herb Spiegel presented a recommendation letter for the CAB's approval regarding EM community outreach programs and initiatives. The recommendation addresses publicizing the EM web page more specifically to the educational community and ensuring a timely response to all inquiries. Mr. Wegst moved to approve the letter. The motion passed unanimously.
- The suggestion of developing a CAB display was presented. After discussion, it was agreed this project would be more fully addressed at the September CAB meeting as part of the Work Plan development.

### Transportation/Waste Committee (Ted Oom)

- After the Transportation Study presentation by Dr. Ruth Weiner at the May 2009 CAB meeting, the Committee agreed determining the transportation route of least risk was a non-issue as the risk on all routes was extremely low.

#### Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee (Bob Gatliff)

- A majority of the CAB visited the site of the CAB well (ER-20-7) on June 23. Mr. Wilborn and members of the drilling team provided an overview of the project. The attendees were pleased to see their recommendation come to fruition.
- Mr. Gatliff deferred additional comment to Mr. Wilborn's presentation.

#### **DOE Update**

Ms. Snyder reviewed the EM monthly reports for June and July. The Transuranic (TRU) Waste sub-project is coming to an end with the final shipment scheduled for July 9. The Corrective Actions Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan for closing the first 92-acres of the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site is being prepared.

#### **Other CAB Business**

- The CAB received letters of appreciation from both Assistant Secretary Triay and former Assistant Secretary Rispoli.
- Mr. Hermann and Mr. Wegst will represent the CAB at the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting in Idaho Falls in September. Three CAB members have volunteered to attend as alternates in the event Mr. Hermann or Mr. Wegst cannot.
- FY 2010 Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the September 2009 Full Board meeting. Three members of the Board will be completing their six-year term in August 2009. In order to maintain continuity of leadership, it was agreed one position could be filled by a departing member, but not both.
- Ms. Snyder advised the RadWaste Summit is scheduled for September 8-11 at the J W Marriott in Las Vegas. There is funding for two CAB members to attend. Details will be sent to all CAB members for consideration.
- Attendance at the May CAB meeting in Pahrump was addressed as part of the continuing discussion regarding holding CAB meetings in rural locations.

#### **State of Nevada Notifications**

Ms. Snyder reviewed the June and July State of Nevada Environmental Management Closed in Place notifications.

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for **4 p.m. Wednesday, September 9, 2009** at the Atomic Testing Museum, Frank Rogers Auditorium, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119.

Mr. Hermann adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.