



MEETING MINUTES

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee

October 20, 2009

DOE Nevada Support Facility, Sedan Conference Room
232 Energy Way, N. Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Members Present: Bob Gatliff (Chair), Bob Gamble (Nye County), Genne Nelson (National Park Service), Hal Sullivan, Jim Weeks

Members Absent: Helen Neill (UNLV)

Public Present: Phil Klevatorick (Clark County)

U.S. Dept. of Energy: Bill Wilborn

Facilitator: Denise Rupp (Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.)

With the announcement of tritium contamination detected in well ER-EC-11, Bob Gatliff suggested the Committee look at the significance of this detection and the direction the Committee should take going forward.

Bill Wilborn updated the Committee on the contamination and the status of the current drilling program.

- The majority of contamination was expected to be in the Benham aquifer given its water volume and force
- It's important to remember these are "discreet" samples, not "composite" samples, due to differences between what is found in discharge and directly from a fracture area
- There will be no other drilling until spring 2010
- Well development will begin shortly on ER-20-8, providing additional data
- The tritium contamination at ER-EC-11 is the first instance of contamination being detected off the Nevada Test Site (the contamination is located on federal land)
- Analysis of recent findings may affect FY 2011 well placement, whether down gradient or closer and in other directions
- While complex geology makes a truly accurate model impossible, Environmental Management is confident a good model of transport can be created
- Well development data will be used to develop more accurate transport, fracture, and fault information
- Stratigraphic model updates are currently working documents and will be incorporated into the transport document

In addition to the current drilling campaign, Mr. Wilborn advised the Committee the Frenchman Flat peer review would begin in February or March 2010 with actual presentations at the end of FY 2010. The peer review will focus on objectives from a regulatory standpoint. The Corrective Action Decision Document and Corrective Action Plan will include a monitoring plan.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Wilborn provided additional information.

- Approximately 12,500 picocuries per liter were detected in ER-EC-11, below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act standard of 20,000 picocuries per liter

- State of Nevada regulates more than 400,000 picocuries per liter must be disposed in a lined sump; less than 400,000 but more than 200,000 can be disposed into an infiltration basin; and, below 200,000 can be free released
- Toward the end of FY 2010, the Committee will be briefed regarding any changes to the drilling plan
- An updated Correlation Diagram of the UGTA wells ER-EC-1, ER-EC-6, ER-EC-11, ER-20-8, ER-20-7, and well cluster ER-20-5 to include faults and other detail will be provided to the Committee

The Committee agreed the public needs to receive accurate and timely information. This should be done proactively rather than waiting for public inquiry, whether through a CAB meeting or groundwater open house. Mr. Wilborn stated EM is receptive to conducting a public meeting after the completion of the transport model and second phase, sooner if necessary.

Meeting dates and times were discussed. The Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of each odd month. The next meeting has been scheduled for December 8 at a location to be determined. At that time, the Committee will be briefed on the specifics of the UGTA tasks that are part of the CAB FY 2010 Work Plan.