



# Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs

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May 12, 2010

Mr. Scott Wade  
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office  
P. O. Box 98510  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs  
(CAB) Recommendations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget  
Prioritizations

Dear Mr. Wade:

The CAB Budget Committee has completed its annual review and prioritization of the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office (DOE NSO) Environmental Management (EM) projects for the FY 2012 budget submittal. The committee presented its recommendations to the Full Board at its May 12, 2010 meeting, where they were approved.

Last year the Board reviewed and prioritized four EM technical sub-projects. The Board continues to place the highest priority on the Underground Test Area sub-project. This ranking reflects our commitment to working with EM to ensure budget dollars are available for continued drilling and monitoring efforts in support of groundwater issues at the Nevada Test Site.

Following is the CAB's recommended FY 2012 budget ranking with the reasons for its ranking. A variety of factors were considered including: health and safety risks, regulatory requirements and completion schedules. We also considered any significant changes in sub-project areas from last year and applied that information to arrive at our current recommendations.

1. Underground Test Area (UGTA)
  - Continued drilling to calibrate and validate flow models
  - Refine existing models utilizing ongoing data
  - Highest potential impact on the public, particularly offset rural communities

2. Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste
  - Provides a vital resource for the entire DOE Complex
  - Costs to re-start operations after temporary closure would exceed normal operating costs
  - Important to close the original 92 acres
3. Soils
  - Continue momentum of FY 2009, 2010 and 2011 progress
  - Funds are necessary to work toward agreement with the Air Force
  - Additional funds would allow for accelerated clean up
4. Industrial Sites
  - Current plan and approach does not require additional funds
  - Approaching completion of remaining Corrective Action Units
  - Allows for additional time to identify an alternate use for the EMAD facility as opposed to demolition (see December 17, 2009 CAB recommendation)

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the annual budget prioritization and for the assistance provided by the EM staff. Each federal project and sub-project director took the time to meet with the CAB Budget Committee and provided detailed information. We sincerely appreciate this support and look forward to your response regarding this year's budget submittal.

Sincerely,

Walter F. Wegst, Chair  
Community Advisory Board  
for Nevada Test Site Programs

cc: C. Lockwood, PSG, NNSA/NSO, Las Vegas, NV  
D. Rupp, NREI, Las Vegas, NV  
M. Nielson, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS  
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