



Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs

December 17, 2009

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Mr. Rob Boehlecke,
Environmental Restoration Project Director
U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Site Office
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

SUBJECT: Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 114, Engine Maintenance
Assembly and Disassembly Facility (EMAD) Closure

Dear Mr. Boehlecke,

The Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB) has completed an in-depth review of CAU 114 and the closure options for the EMAD facility.

The CAB acknowledges the unique and integral role the EMAD facility played in the development of a nuclear propulsion engine for use in space exploration. The facility was designed and constructed specifically for the safe assembly and disassembly of a nuclear powered engine and non-nuclear engine subsystems during testing, making it truly one of a kind. Although the mission was cancelled in 1973, the work accomplished at EMAD helped to demonstrate the potential technical feasibility for far-reaching space exploration. Upon initial review, the Board wholeheartedly agreed every effort should be made to preserve the EMAD facility, ideally turning it into a museum.

At the CAB's request, your office contacted the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation regarding their interest in the possibility of converting EMAD to a museum. While they have no interest in EMAD as a museum, the Foundation did express an interest in obtaining artifacts from the facility for use at the Atomic Testing Museum. The CAB would like to encourage DOE to make available as many historical artifacts as possible to the Foundation.

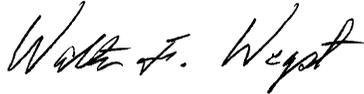
The lack of interest, logistical challenges of accessibility and continuing maintenance costs do not support a museum conversion. The Board also reviewed the possibility of other entities re-using the facility. Unfortunately, the costs for retrofitting the facility have discounted this option despite numerous discussions DOE has had with interested parties over the last several years.

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Finding no feasible alternatives, it is the CAB's recommendation the EMAD facility be demolished to slab. Given the historic value of the facility, the Board would request Environmental Management continue to explore any possible re-use inquiries/options between now and demolition.

The CAB appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on Industrial Sites at the Nevada Test Site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter F. Wegst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Wegst" clearly legible.

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

cc: C. Lockwood, PSG, NNSA/NSO, Las Vegas, NV
K. Snyder, PSG, NNSA/NSO, Las Vegas, NV
D. Rupp, NREI, Las Vegas, NV
M. Nielson, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
C. Brennan, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
A. Clark, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
CAB Members and Liaisons
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