

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

January 13, 2011

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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: Recommendation on Closure of Corrective Action
Unit (CAU) 372

Dear Mr. Boehlecke,

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) has reviewed several potential closure scenarios for CAU 372. This CAU consists of the Cabriole and Palanquin tests in Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Area 20, and the Little Feller I and Little Feller II tests in Area 18.

The NSSAB considered three Corrective Action Alternatives as identified in the Federal Facility and Consent Order. These alternatives include:

- Clean closure
- Closure in place with use restrictions
- No further action

For CAU 372 the NSSAB recommends closure in place with use restrictions.

The cost of clean closure is significantly greater than closure in place. While closure in place is estimated to cost about \$40,000, the cost estimate for clean closure is \$110 million. Although the total dose to workers under both scenarios is expected to be very low, the dose from clean-closure operations is likely to be greater than that from closure in place, and the large cost for clean closure would likely adversely affect other cleanup programs at the NNSS. We concluded that clean closure does not appear to be a prudent use of the limited available funds; and that the cost of closure in place is not so excessive that no further action would be justified.

The NSSAB also considered various use standards for the closure in place scenario. The standards we considered included the same two previously evaluated in our recommendation for CAU 371, as well as a new third standard, which was negotiated with the State of Nevada for use with CAU 371. These standards are:

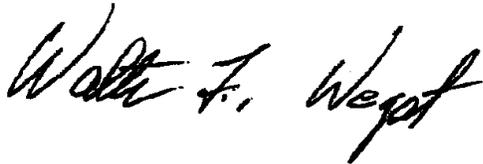
- Industrial Use exposure of 2250 hours per year
- Remote Area Worker exposure of 400 hours per year
- Occasional Use exposure of 80 hours per year

The NSSAB recommends the Remote Area Worker exposure standard for CAU 372.

The Cabriole, Palanquin, and Little Feller I & II sites are in remote locations and there is no reasonable likelihood of their being developed into some type of project that would suggest the Industrial Use standard to be the prudent choice. The likelihood of an NNSS worker or visitor experiencing even 80 hours per year exposure (Occasional Use) at these sites is very low. As there does not appear to be a significant cost difference between the Remote Area Worker standard and the Occasional Use standard, the NSSAB would recommend the Remote Area Worker standard.

We are also confident there are sufficient administrative controls in place at the NNSS to ensure that if a permanent project was ever proposed for these locations that an appropriate hazard or risk analysis would be performed to protect any worker permanently stationed at these locations.

Sincerely,



Walter F. Wegst, Chair

cc: M. Nielson, DOE/HQ (EM-13) FORS
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