



**Department of Energy**  
 National Nuclear Security Administration  
 Nevada Site Office  
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APR 18 2007

David Hermann, Chairperson  
 Community Advisory Board  
 for Nevada Test Site Programs  
 2771 Cheyenne Rd  
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**RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) FOR NEVADA TEST SITE (NTS) PROGRAMS FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2009 BUDGET PRIORITIZATION**

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Budget Committee for discussing and evaluating the Environmental Management (EM) projects for the FY 2009 budget prioritization. The CAB's budget prioritization is very important to the Nevada Site Office (NSO) as well as the entire EM program. We realize your effort took many hours, and it is a key component in developing our budget recommendation to Headquarters.

After receiving the CAB's letter, dated March 14, 2007, I met with EM staff and conducted a similar ranking system.

<b>Sub-Projects</b>	<b>CAB Ranking</b>	<b>NSO Ranking</b>
Underground Test Area	1	2
Industrial Sites	2	3
Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste	3	1
Soils	4	4

As you can see by the illustration, the CAB's top ranking sub-project differs from NSO's top ranking sub-project. Waste disposal activities at the NTS are an essential operation in reducing the potential risk from radioactive contamination not only in regards to local cleanup activities but for Department of Energy (DOE) Complex-wide activities. As a result, it is in DOE's overall best interest to prioritize low-level and mixed low-level waste as the top priority. However, that does not imply that the other EM sub-projects at the NTS are not given the attention and budget they require.

Groundwater contamination and developing a monitoring network are essential. The EM Program plans to drill 10 wells from fiscal year 2009 – 2012 in order to support the Underground Test Area sub-project. We anticipate there will be appropriate funding for these activities. If for some reason this were to change, the NSO would actively pursue securing increased funding options.

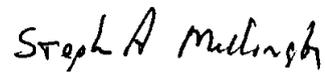
David Hermann, Chairperson

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Again, thank you for the time and effort the CAB devoted to the FY 2009 budget prioritization process. I value the CAB's input and look forward to continuing this annual task.

If you have questions regarding EM's ranking please contact Kelly Snyder, of my staff, at (702) 295-2836.



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