



Department of Energy
 National Nuclear Security Administration
 Nevada Site Office
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MAR 31 2008

David Hermann, Chairperson
 Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs
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RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) FOR NEVADA TEST SITE PROGRAMS FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2010 BUDGET PRIORITIZATION

I would like to extend my gratitude to the CAB Budget Committee for taking the time to meet with each of the Federal Sub-Project Directors and evaluating the Environmental Management (EM) sub-projects for FY 2010. The CAB's budget prioritization recommendation is a vital factor for EM when determining where funding should be focused.

After receiving the CAB's letter, dated March 13, 2008, I met with EM staff and conducted a similar ranking system. The chart below illustrates both the CAB's ranking and EM's ranking.

FY 2010		
Sub-Projects	CAB Ranking	NSO EM Ranking
Underground Test Area	1	2
Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste	2	1
Industrial Sites	3	3
Soils	4	4

The EM Program at the Nevada Site Office has ranked the FY 2010 sub-projects in the same order as they were ranked in FY 2009. Even though EM's ranking is slightly different from the CAB's ranking, our reasoning is very similar to the CAB's reasoning.

As the CAB is well aware and historically supportive of, the waste disposal activities at the NTS are an essential operation in reducing the potential risk from radioactive contamination not only in regard to local cleanup activities but for DOE Complex-wide activities. Due to this, it is in DOE's overall best interest to prioritize low-level and mixed low-level waste as the top priority. However, this number one ranking does not diminish the need for continuous and appropriate funding for the other EM sub-projects.

EM agrees with the CAB that it is essential that the Nevada Site Office collect more data regarding groundwater contamination and develop a comprehensive monitoring network. Currently, the Underground Test Area sub-project is beginning the process to plan and drill 10 wells in FY 2009 – 2012. The potential well locations being discussed include the CAB's recommended well locations. The information collected from these wells will provide valuable data to the sub-project.

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The CAB's time spent reviewing the sub-projects and developing a recommendation for the DOE is greatly appreciated. We value your 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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