



MEETING MINUTES

Environmental Management (EM) Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE) Committee

**August 6, 2008 – 7710 W. Cheyenne Ave., Suite 130
Las Vegas, NV**

Members Present: Walter Wegst, Chair; Kathy Bienenstein, Stacy Standley, Jennifer Ward (UNLV)

Members Not Present: Vernell McNeal, Joe Boylan, Bob Gatliff, Lee Geiser

Department of Energy: Kelly Snyder, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)

CAB Facilitator: Rosemary Rehfeldt, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.

After Rosemary Rehfeldt opened the meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda, Walt Wegst, Committee Chair, gave his opening remarks. He told the committee that after review of the six EM videos, the committee's mission will be accomplished and will disband. However, members can continue to serve on a community focused committee by simply becoming members of the Outreach Committee. He asked the committee if they would like to hold one or two more meetings before the end of the fiscal year to complete the video review and recommendations. Kelly Snyder pointed out that one of the tasks from the committee's FY 2008 Work Plan included review of the Environmental Management Nevada Site Office (EM NSO) Website. As a result, the committee decided to develop a FY 2009 Work Plan.

The committee began the task of discussing its FY 2009 Work Plan, and major points of the Work Plan will be as follows:

- 1) Review and make recommendations to update the DOE NSO EM Website
- 2) Review and make recommendations to update the CAB Website
- 3) Complete review of EM videos and create a recommendation letter that includes critique and recommendations from all the videos
- 4) Hold a joint meeting with the Outreach Committee to determine:
 - a. Potential audiences to receive information
 - b. Determine where to put the information – i.e.: fact sheets and videos
 - c. Evaluate language options for fact sheets

At this point, the committee began to watch the second of six EM videos that they will be reviewing. The video, entitled: *"Groundwater Studies and the Underground Test Area Project,"* runs approximately 10 minutes. After viewing the video, the committee made the following comments:

- ♦ The music is distracting and irritating

- ◆ The size of the Nevada Test Site should be made clearer and use an outline or map
- ◆ Past tense should be used when referring to the Nevada Test Site as the largest nuclear testing facility
- ◆ Credits need to be updated
- ◆ With respect to the siting of wells, take out the word “efficient” and use another, more correct term
- ◆ Take out shots that show a flickering computer screen and replace with charts or data that show computer modeling
- ◆ Narration from field worker unclear – use main narrator’s voice when showing field work
- ◆ The narrator’s voice is nice; strong, clear, and distinct
- ◆ Add that the NTS gets snow in addition to rain
- ◆ Videos should make reference how to get further information on DOE NSO EM projects
- ◆ Give more explanation of why the subsurface geology is important to groundwater studies
 - How the geology impacts the flow of groundwater
- ◆ Explain that the “main entrance” of the NTS is approximately 65 miles from Las Vegas
- ◆ Mention that the NTS is in Nye County, Nevada

The next video reviewed entitled, “*UGTA Well Drilling Steps*,” runs approximately 7 minutes. After viewing the video, the committee made the following comments:

- ◆ The music is distracting and irritating
- ◆ Video quality is bad and looks amateuristic
- ◆ Remove the road building segment – or possibly eliminate most of that video footage
- ◆ Show shots of where the wells are sited
- ◆ In the panned shot of the subsidence craters, the craters looked raised. Use a still shot instead
- ◆ Words scrolling on the screen can be eliminated; have narrator say the words while showing pictures or video on the screen
- ◆ Use captions or subtitles for certain processes, such as: “sampling,” “conductor hole,” “well drilling,” “cost,” etc.
- ◆ Videos are not standardized; make them standardized
- ◆ Qualify well pricing
- ◆ Show the date of the video at the end

- ◆ State the number of wells that have been drilled since 1989 through August 2008
- ◆ Closing information is still accurate and should be kept
- ◆ Possibly standardize the opening scene – perhaps a map or outline of the NTS – then state that it is approximately 65 miles from Las Vegas
 - Keep the opening and closing consistent throughout all the videos
 - Include contact information in all videos
- ◆ Before a final recommendation is made, prioritize the videos
- ◆ Recommend how DOE should use the videos

The next meeting date and time was set for Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting location is to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.