



MEETING MINUTES

Transportation/Waste Committee

7710 W. Cheyenne Ave., Ste. 130, Las Vegas, NV

March 5, 2008

CAB Members Present: Ted Oom, Chair; Robert Johnson, Hal Sullivan

CAB New Recruits Present: Lee Geiser; Bill Lindsey; Ron Salzano; Herb Spiegel

Liaisons Present: Bob Gamble, Nye County

Department of Energy (DOE): Kelly Snyder, DDFO; Frank DiSanza, Waste Management Federal Project Director

Staff: Rosemary Rehfeldt, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.; Bruce Crowe, Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture, Helen Neill, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- The meeting's objective was to update the committee on the status of Transuranic (TRU) waste's historic burial at the Nevada Test Site. Mr. Frank DiSanza briefed the committee on the background of DOE's Environmental Management Program (EM) and historical waste disposal. Dr. Bruce Crowe and Mr. Frank DiSanza gave a presentation, entitled "TRU in the Trenches." The following points were outlined in the presentation:
 - ♦ Overview and background information
 - ♦ TRU definitions and disposition
 - ♦ Where it is located at the Nevada Test Site (NTS)
 - ♦ How much TRU is in the trenches
 - ♦ What the issues are
 - ♦ Conceptual model of shallow land burial in Area 5 at the NTS
 - ♦ Remediation options
 - ♦ What steps have been taken
 - ♦ Recommendations and path forward
- During the question and answer period, the following questions were addressed:
 - ♦ **Q: Has there been State of Nevada input?**
A: Yes, the State has been briefed and there has been no comment. There will be another opportunity for State input after the Closure Plan is complete.
 - ♦ **Q: Have any views been expressed by outside parties?**
A: No. Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act, DOE is the decision-maker.
 - ♦ **Q: Has information been shared with Nye County and will it continue in the future?**
 - ♦ **A:** No; however, if someone from Nye County is interested in reviewing the approved Performance Assessment/Composite Analysis, the documents can be made available for review.

- ◆ **Q: Have worker doses been studied?**
- ◆ **A:** Yes. All risks have been taken into consideration. In studying cost and safety analyses, risks rise dramatically from digging up, removing, analyzing, and transporting the waste by increasing worker exposure; therefore no action will be taken to remove the waste. It is not known how much TRU is in the trenches, or what its radioactivity level is.

A cost/benefit analysis, as was originally proposed, will not be needed because of the preceding conclusion. Instead, a closure cap will be used. This will be thick enough to protect people and the environment. A final closure cap has not been defined yet.

- ◆ **Q: What are the chances of people accessing the site?**
A: The site is fenced off and located within the Nevada Test Site, a secured government-controlled area. Just fencing the site will not mitigate safety concerns; however a closure cap will. DOE has put in place an institutional control policy that encompasses 10,000 years into the future.

- Next on the agenda, Mr. DiSanza briefed the committee on the transportation study update. His staff is working with a technical expert from Sandia Laboratory on parameters for a new transportation study model. Continual progress updates will be given to the committee.
- Mr. Oom requested that the model for the transportation study use the parameters suggested in the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Guidelines for Selecting Preferred Highway Routes for Highway Route Controlled Quantity Shipments of Radioactive Materials."
- The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.