



Full Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2009

Bob Ruud Community Center
150 North Highway 160, Pahrump, NV 89048

Members Present:	Dave Hermann (Chair), Walt Wegst (Vice-Chair), Kathy Bienenstein, Bob Gatliff, Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Ted Oom, Ted Schweitzer, Hal Sullivan, Jim Weeks
Members Absent:	Vernell McNeal, Jackson Ramsey, Herbert Spiegel
Liaisons Present:	Bob Gamble (Nye County), Tim Murphy (NDEP)
Liaisons Absent:	Janet Appenzeller-Wing (DOE), Genne Nelson (NPS)
Technical Support Staff Present:	Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV), Jennifer Ward (UNLV)
U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE):	Kelly Snyder (DDFO), Frank DiSanza
Facilitator:	Denise Rupp (Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.)
Public Present:	Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Eric Matus (State of Nevada), Irene Navis (Clark County), John Pawlak (Pahrump), Lee Stevens, (Navarro Research and Engineering), Bonnie Swadling (Pahrump), Dr. Ruth Weiner (Sandia National Laboratory)

Approval of Agenda

Walt Wegst moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Community Advisory Board (CAB) Roadshow

Hal Sullivan, Outreach Committee Chair, presented the CAB Roadshow outlining the CAB's background, current focus and opportunities for public participation, followed by member introductions.

Presentation: Transportation Study, Dr. Ruth Weiner, Sandia National Laboratory

- Definitions for study terms
- Data for context
- Comparison of linear and linear-quadratic extrapolations
- Package and other parameters for incident-free dose
- Traffic counts
- Population densities
- Specific scenarios
- Dose calculations
- Conditional probabilities
- Parameters for accident dose and risk
- Graphs depicting doses/risks for specific routes and scenarios

- Average individual dose, routine transportation
- Comparison of traffic accidents and fatalities with latent cancer fatality risk
- Illustrations and maps
- Summary including
 - Doses of ionizing radiation from shipments considered exceedingly small
 - Collective doses to residents along routes and to occupants of vehicles sharing route are of the order of one person-millirem(mrem) or less – usually less
 - Average individual dose to a resident along the route varies from about five billionths of a mrem to about 5/100,000 of a mrem
 - Largest dose to a member of the public along the route from routine transportation is a little less than one millionth of a mrem
 - Maximum individual dose from an accident is about 4 mrem

In response to questions from the Board, Dr. Weiner addressed the following items:

- The smallest dose at which effect in humans is documented was a 600 mrem accidental fetal exposure mentioned only because it is the smallest dose at which any effect has been observed
- Children are more radiation sensitive. The younger the organism, down to the fetal stage, they are more susceptible. Over the age of 30 are less susceptible.
- Walt Wegst clarified rapidly dividing cells are more radiation sensitive than cells that are not rapidly dividing. In a fetus you have all rapidly dividing cells while in an adult you have few rapidly dividing cells and those cells and those organs that are more rapidly developing in adult are more radio sensitive than the organs that don't have rapidly dividing cells. In a fetus, everything is rapidly dividing so a fetus is more radio sensitive.
- The Transportation Study uses 13 different shipments assuming one of each type

Public Comment

John Pawlak, Chairman of the Nuclear Waste and Environmental Advisory Board in Pahrump:

Mr. Pawlak brought the 2003 transportation risk assessment conducted by Dr. Dave Shafer at the Desert Research Institute to the attention of the Board. *(This assessment was received by the Board at the time of its completion)* The assessment was conducted at the Nevada Test Site Mercury Gate and measured actual radiation levels of low-level radioactive waste shipments. Details of the assessment included the fact radiation readings from trucks participating in the study could not be distinguished from background levels and no truck exceeded the Department of Transportation trucking limits.

Another factor contributing to the lesser risk is low-level waste shipments in 2008 were approximately half of the number in 2003, reducing risk by half.

An accident scenario in Pahrump would be where vehicles are on a Nevada State route and there is proper protocol with the State Police, county emergency management, the local fire department and the federal government so there would be a rapid response on Highway 160. There would be a longer response time on the route between Baker and Amargosa because it is less traveled although personnel from Southern Inyo Fire Protection service the area. Another problem of the Baker/Amargosa route is the weather which could cause washouts. It would be better to transport waste on Highway 160 where there is a four-lane highway rather than two lanes with no shoulders. There have not been any accidents.

Mr. Pawlak wanted to make these points because he lives and works in Pahrump and wanted the CAB to be properly informed. He thanked the CAB for listening.

In addition, Mr. Pawlak offered to promote the CAB Membership Drive on his local television program.

Committee Updates:

Budget Committee, James Weeks, Committee Member

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Jackson Ramsey, Mr. Weeks reported the CAB's recommendation letter prioritizing funding for Fiscal Year 2011 for Underground Test Area (UGTA), Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste, Industrial Sites and Soils sub-projects was submitted to the DOE April 12. The DOE's April 29 response to the CAB indicated the CAB rankings matched those of the DOE and expressed appreciation for the CAB's input.

Environmental Management Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE) Committee, Walt Wegst, Chair

- A recommendation letter was presented for Full Board approval regarding suggested additions/changes to the Environmental Management (EM) website. Kathy Bienenstein moved to approve the letter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- The CAB received a letter from the DOE dated April 27 regarding the recommendations for revising the CAB website. The DOE has incorporated all the CAB recommendations and expressed appreciation for the CAB's suggestions.

Outreach Committee, Hal Sullivan, Chair

The Committee is continuing work on experiments/models for use in conjunction with *Operation Clean Desert*. In addition, the Committee will work toward clarifying goals and suggestions at the next meeting.

Transportation/Waste Committee, Robert Johnson, Member

The Committee spent considerable time over the last year outlining the desired study results and appreciate Dr. Weiner's presentation. The next Committee meeting date is being determined.

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee, Bob Gatliff, Chair

The CAB well is scheduled to begin drilling the end of May. A site visit will be scheduled sometime in mid June and all CAB members will be advised once a date is determined.

DOE Update, Kelly Snyder

- Under "Low Level Waste" on the May EM Monthly Report, the third bullet references the Nevada Attorney General's April 14 letter to Acting EM-1 at DOE EM Headquarters recommending EM work with State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) announcing EM will resume its Mixed Low Level Waste disposal operations within the next few weeks. DOE EM is working closely with NDEP to resume disposal.
- Transuranic Waste shipments were supposed to be completed the end of April. It is now at 99.7% completion. Two containers that were not shipped off site and attempts are being made for acceptable shipment. A new milestone will be negotiated with NDEP within the next 30 days.
- Under Soils, Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 370 is the T4 Atmospheric Test Site. A Final Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) and Closure Report) will be submitted to NDEP. In the Public Notices there is a description of the site. This activity may be of interest to the CAB since it has not come through for some time. Ms. Snyder suggested a soils presentation may be of benefit to the CAB since the sub-project is ramping up
- The Emergency Preparedness Working Group Grant portion of the report includes updated numbers for FY2009. These are the latest dollar amounts going to the counties for emergency response preparedness and are updated annually.
- DOE EM Nevada Site Office is still waiting for Recovery Act funding. Some sites have already received funding. Everything has been provided to Headquarters and EM is in the final steps of receiving those dollars.
- The President's budget for FY2010 should be out in the coming week and the CAB will receive an update as soon as the information is received.

Other CAB Business

- The EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting Recap to be presented by Walt Wegst was postponed to the July meeting. The next EM SSAB Chairs meeting is scheduled for September 21 – 24, 2009 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- The EM SSAB recommendation letter regarding metal recycling was discussed. Robert Johnson moved to approve CAB endorsement of the letter. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- The next Full Board meeting will take place at 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2009 at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Mr. Hermann announced the resignations of William Lindsey and Stacy Standley. The Membership Committee, with Jackson Ramsey as chair, will reconvene to begin a new membership campaign as the Board has fallen below the 15-member minimum. Board Members were invited to participate in the Membership Committee if interested. The first meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, June 8, 2009 with the location to be determined.

April and May State of Nevada Notifications, Kelly Snyder

Ms. Snyder reviewed the April and May notifications (copies contained in agenda packet). CAU 370 that was previously mentioned is outlined in these notifications. Copies of the documents can be requested from Ms. Rupp.

Meeting Wrap-up / Assessment

- The CAB office will be closed May 19 through 25 and the week of June 15 as both Ms. Snyder and Ms. Rupp will be out of the office
- Ms. Rupp thanked the CAB members for their cooperation in responding to meeting notices and minute approvals with 100% response since the last meeting

With all CAB business concluded, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.