



MEETING MINUTES

Full Board Meeting

November 18, 2009

Atomic Testing Museum, Frank Rogers Auditorium
755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Members Present: Walt Wegst (Chair), Hal Sullivan (Vice-Chair), Kathy Bienenstein, Robert Gatliff, Robert Johnson, John McGrail, Jack Ramsey, Ted Schweitzer, Herb Spiegel, Hal Sullivan, James Weeks

Members Absent: Dave Hermann, Vernell McNeal, Ted Oom

Liaisons Present: Bob Gamble (Nye County), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Tim Murphy, (NDEP), Genne Nelson (NPS), Scott Wade (DOE)

Technical Support Staff Present: Dr. Helen Neill (UNLV)

U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE): Kelly Snyder (DDFO), Rob Boehlecke, Frank DiSanza, Kevin Cabble

Facilitator: Denise Rupp (Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.)

Public Present: Lynn Kidman (NNES), Michael Long (Las Vegas), Gregory Minden (Las Vegas), Patrick Matthews (NNES), Michael Moore (Las Vegas)

Agenda Review

After review, Kathy Bienenstein moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Opening Remarks (Walt Wegst)

Mr. Wegst thanked the Board for their cooperation and efforts at the September meeting, particularly with regard to the development of the FY 2010 Work Plan. The Full Board, not individual committees, is responsible for the new Work Plan.

Staff/Liaison Update (Kelly Snyder)

Scott Wade, the new Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Manager for Environmental Management (EM), and Phil Klevorick, newly appointed Clark County liaison, were introduced. Both Mr. Wade and Mr. Klevorick provided the CAB with background information and shared their specific interests in future CAB involvement.

Presentation: Rural Residents Perceptions of Environmental Activities at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) (Dr. Helen Neill)

Dr. Neill presented the results of a 2008-2009 mail questionnaire regarding rural residents' awareness of EM activities at the NTS and the importance of environmental issues to the residents. Presentation highlights:

- Survey reviewed by both the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and the DOE
- Sent to 14,083 residents living near the NTS

- 1,732 responses received (12.2%)
- While 89% of respondents were aware of the NTS, less than 65% were aware of EM projects
- 30% of respondents had direct experience with the NTS (tour, meeting, work experience)
- The major source of information regarding the NTS came from television and newspaper
- The majority of respondents had lived in the area more than six years
- Groundwater was identified as the predominant environmental issue among respondents

Dr. Neill provided the following clarification in response to questions from the CAB:

- Respondents ranked the CAB as the lowest source of EM information
- Awareness cannot be linked to concern regarding environmental issues

Committee Reports

Industrial Sites Committee (Kathy Bienenstein)

Work Plan Item #FY10-1 (Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 114 Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility (Corrective Action Unit 114)

- Closure scenarios are being reviewed and a presentation will be given at the December meeting

Membership Committee (Kathy Bienenstein)

Work Plan Item #FY10-7 (Membership Recruitment)

- The Committee is in the process of interviewing 11 applicants for CAB membership
- Interviews will be completed after tonight's Full Board meeting
- A draft letter to the DOE outlining a suggested slate of candidates will be prepared and sent to the Full Board for review
- A vote on the recommendation letter will be taken at the December meeting
- The Board was reminded the final decision regarding membership appointments lies with DOE EM Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Outreach Committee (Hal Sullivan)

Work Plan Item #FY10-12 (Operation Clean Desert Enhancement)

- A lesson plan outline and accompanying experiment are being developed along with a suggested recommendation the DOE incorporate these in the Operation Clean Desert program

Work Plan Item #FY10-15 (possible CAB-sponsored science fair)

- Mr. Wegst inquired who would be willing to give of their time to participate in the proposed Beatty Schools science fair; Bienenstein, Johnson, Nelson and Weeks responded affirmatively
- Mr. Sullivan advised research done by Herb Spiegel shows schools are abandoning science fairs due to lack of funds; additional resources were suggested including Clark County Block Grants and National Science Foundation
- Committee is currently awaiting EM SSAB HQ response regarding grant/fundraising permissibility for proposed Beatty Schools science fair

Work Plan Item #FY10-13 (CAB outreach display)

- Ms. Bienenstein reported the CAB display board has been received and materials/photos are being reviewed

DOE provided formal guidance regarding CAB outreach activities in an October 29 letter to the Board.

Soils Committee (John McGrail)

Work Plan Item #FY10-14 (closure scenarios for CAU 371, Johnnie Boy Crater and Pin Stripe)

Mr. McGrail outlined the results of the Committee's evaluation:

- Johnnie Boy and Pin Stripe were underground tests conducted in the 1960s
- Corrective Action Alternatives included closure in place with use restrictions, clean closure, or no further action
- Costs for closure in place are less than \$200,000
- Costs for clean closure are ~\$31,600,000
- Industrial Use exposure standards are 2,250 hours per year over 25 years
- Occasional Use standards are 80 hours per year over 5 years
- Johnnie Boy will require additional surveys to the northeast to identify contaminant boundary
- Pin Stripe will require expansion of the existing fence line to incorporate areas of surveyed contamination
- Given contamination levels, costs, location, and current/potential use, it was the Committee's recommendation to close in place using occasional use standards, with approval of State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- After discussion, the Board agreed with the Committee's evaluation and requested a recommendation letter be prepared for the December 16 meeting

Work Plan Item #FY10-10 (CAU 372 Cabriolet/Palanquin Unit Craters)

- Due to changes in the DOE work schedule, Mr. McGrail requested the Work Plan due date for this item be changed to July 2010

Transportation/Waste Committee (Robert Johnson)

Work Plan Item #FY10-3 (new mixed low-level waste disposal cell)

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Committee's evaluation of the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for construction and utilization of a new mixed low-level waste disposal cell and provided a draft recommendation letter to the DOE

- The proposed cell's location is north of the current cell in Area 5
- Proposed capacity of the new cell is approximately 33,000 cubic yards
- Construction plans include safety features such as automated leak detection and a channel to control major precipitation events
- Proposed cell volume projections for FYs 2010-11 are significantly greater than those for FYs 2012-15 as a result of increased activity made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding
- The Committee believes the RCRA application was well prepared and the new cell provides a safe, long-term solution to the disposal of DOE mixed low-level waste
- After discussion, the Board agreed with the Committee's evaluation to support the new mixed low-level waste disposal cell
- Robert Johnson moved to send the draft recommendation letter to the DOE with the modification that the letter be changed to reflect the CAB supports the application; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously

Work Plan Item #FY10-18 (DOE Land Withdrawal)

- Scott Wade announced the approximately 740-acre land withdrawal has been completed and the DOE now holds title to the land
- With the issue resolved, Mr. Johnson requested this item be removed from the CAB Work Plan

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee (Bob Gatliff)

Pahute Mesa drilling campaign well construction is complete for calendar year 2009; data collection is being conducted with results available the first quarter of 2010

EM SSAB Update (Walt Wegst)

September 2009 Idaho Falls EM SSAB Chairs Meeting

- Members toured the site's waste disposal facilities; according to an agreement with the State of Idaho, all waste will be removed from the Idaho site.
- Experimental Breeder Reactor I (EBR I) at the Idaho National Laboratory was the world's first nuclear reactor capable of breeding usable amounts of electricity; it is a historic site now serving as a visitors' center with self-guided tours.
- FY 2010 budget information provided by Headquarters showed the NTS was one of the lowest of the eight complexes at \$65.5 million; this decrease from \$75.5 million in FY 2009 is the result of the Transuranic Waste Project completion.
- The EM SSAB produced a letter to Assistant Secretary Triay recommending the inclusion of option periods in DOE requests for proposal for Board approval.
 - Discussion of the letter raised concerns with telling the DOE what kind of contracts to write, the flexibility of having an option or not having an option is important, and the reference to all DOE requests for proposals, not specifically EM.
 - Mr. Johnson moved the CAB not approve the EM SSAB letter; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- An EM SSAB conference call is scheduled for November 19 at which time Mr. Wegst will report on review of the EMAD closure, the low-level waste cell application and the land withdrawal.

DOE Update (Kelly Snyder)

The EM monthly reports for October and November were reviewed

Other CAB Business (Walt Wegst)

In response to Board discussion at the September meeting regarding history and current activity at the NTS, Mr. Wegst suggested the Board request a presentation as part of ongoing Board education. Ms. Snyder suggested this be broken into two presentations due to the large amount of information. The Board agreed to request a historical overview at the January 2010 meeting with an overview of current non-EM activity at the March meeting. This briefing will be given as information only since non-EM activities are outside of the board's purview.

State of Nevada Notifications (Kelly Snyder)

The State of Nevada Notifications for October and November were reviewed

Meeting Wrap-up/Assessment (Denise Rupp)

It was suggested an effort be made to improve timing of work plan items in conjunction with the annual work plan development meeting to reduce short turnaround as much as possible. This will be noted for FY2011 planning.

As discussed, the CAB will request DOE approve changes to the CAB Work Plan to include a July 2010 due date for Item # FY10-10 and the removal of Item #FY10-18.

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Centennial Hills Library.

Ms. Bienenstein moved the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.