



# Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs

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March 13, 2008

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SUBJECT: Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB) -  
Recommendations for Revisions to fact sheet: Groundwater...at the Nevada Test Site

Following are recommendations for revisions to the fact sheet mentioned in the subject of this letter. The CAB suggests the same general revisions and additions for all of the fact sheets:

1. Define unfamiliar terms and acronyms before they are used in a sentence.
2. Bold the definitions so that they are easily referenced.
3. When doing several definitions together, bullet the definitions, rather than listing them in the sentence.
4. Include a key and/or glossary on each fact sheet for unfamiliar terms and acronyms.
5. Reference on each fact sheet that other fact sheets are available.
6. In general, increase font point size for easier reading.
7. Try to keep fact sheets at an eighth grade reading level.
8. Update all references to off-site locations to comply with current transition status.
9. Distribute fact sheets to libraries, city halls, Nuclear Testing Archive, Legislator offices, environmental groups, UNLV, and senior centers.

Specific suggestions for the above-mentioned fact sheet are:

### Groundwater...at the Nevada Test Site

The committee agreed to create a "definition box" to define terms used throughout the fact sheet

- On page 1, in the "Background" section, the second sentence should be changed, to read: "About one-third of these tests occurred near, below, or in the water table, which resulted in some radioactive contamination of the area's groundwater." The words "water table" within this sentence, should be placed in the definition box.
- In the third sentence of the first paragraph, the word "with" should be replaced with "by." The sentence will then read: "The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began preliminary hydrologic research in the 1970s; but a more intensive groundwater studies program was launched in 1989 by the formation of the Underground Test Area Project (UGTA) at the DOE Nevada Site Office (NSO)."

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- The first sentence of the second paragraph within the “Background” section should be changed to read: *“Faced with the reality that no proven, cost-effective method existed then, or now, for remediating deep, extensive groundwater contamination, the UGTA project team set out to develop an effective, long-term monitoring system.”* The third sentence in this paragraph should be changed, to read: *“Scientists are developing and refining computer models to effectively position future monitoring wells within the monitoring network.”*
- The next section in the fact sheet is entitled “The UGTA Strategy.” An addition should be placed within the first sentence of the first paragraph in this section. The sentence will then read: *“The complex geology and hydrology of the Nevada Test Site presents unusual challenges in understanding speed, volume and direction of groundwater flow and the movement of contaminants.”* The second sentence in this paragraph should also be changed, to read: *“To meet these challenges, the UGTA project team embarked on an investigative process that incorporates various research components including drilling and sampling of wells, contaminant characterization, and computer model development.”*
- It is suggested that the next paragraph be completely omitted and replaced with the following verbiage: *“With these components in mind, the team designed a phased approach – the objective of which is to establish a comprehensive monitoring network using both new and existing wells. The first phase of the strategy (already complete) consisted of a regional evaluation, which explored the groundwater pathways over the entire NTS. The second phase (currently in progress) will help scientists determine contaminant movement and the boundaries that are unique to each of the underground test areas. Both of these phases incorporate various components, such as sampling, contaminant characterization, computer modeling, and process validation.”*
- In the first sentence of the third paragraph within “The UGTA Strategy” section, the year should be changed from 2022 to 2027. In the next sentence, the term “proof of concept” should be placed in the definition box. There is also a blue box that defines “contaminant boundary.” This definition should be placed with the other terms in the definition box.
- On page 2, in the picture box entitled “What is a Computer Model?,” the first sentence should be changed, to read: *“Over the past 15 years, scientists have used modeling technology to explain how groundwater systems behave.”*
- Continuing on page 2, within the fact sheet verbiage, there is a term in the first sentence of paragraph 1 that should be defined. That term is “close these areas.” There are several additional changes to this sentence, therefore, when changed it will read: *“If the results are acceptable to both NSO and the State of Nevada, NSO will officially close these areas and establish a long-term monitoring program using existing wells and, if necessary, drilling new wells.”*
- Place the term “modeling” in the definition box.
- The very last sentence underneath the “Public Involvement” section that begins with: “For more information...,” should be removed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on changes, revisions, and updates of the fact sheets, and will continue working to help improve Environmental Management’s efforts to communicate with the public.

Sincerely,



David Hermann, Chair  
Community Advisory Board  
for Nevada Test Site Programs

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