



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Site Office
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JAN - 4 2010

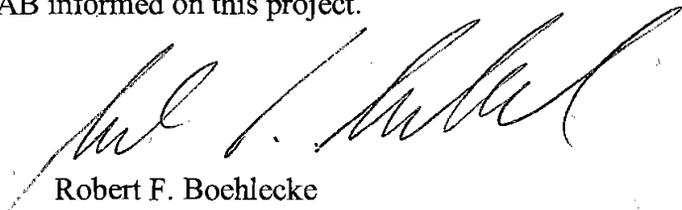
Walt Wegst, Chair
Community Advisory Board
for Nevada Test Site Programs
232 Energy Way
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) FOR NEVADA TEST SITE PROGRAMS' 12-17-09 RECOMMENDATION LETTER REGARDING CORRECTIVE ACTION UNIT (CAU) 114 ENGINE MAINTENANCE ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY (EMAD) FACILITY CLOSURE

We sincerely appreciate the CAB's efforts in reviewing the closure options for CAU 114, the EMAD facility. The EMAD facility played a unique and significant role in the development of a nuclear propulsion engine for use in space exploration. The CAB's interest in exploring the option of preserving the building as a museum is understandable and appreciated given its historical significance. We agree the economic and logistical factors do not, unfortunately, support a museum option. Every reasonable effort will be made to make historical artifacts from the building available to the Atomic Testing Museum. Please keep in mind, some potentially desirable artifacts may not be available due to possible risks associated with radiological, chemical or biological contamination.

Current planning will proceed for the ultimate demolition of the facility to grade and clean closure of CAU 114 by the end of FY 2013. Depending upon conditions encountered, a land use restriction may be implemented to close below grade contamination in place. Activities planned for FY 2010 include stabilization of potentially hazardous conditions in the building, characterization and removal of asbestos-containing materials, draining and stabilization of all systems that may contain liquids, and the planning and preparation for future field activities. The Nevada Site Office (NSO) Environmental Restoration Project (ERP) will continue to explore re-use inquiries and options if identified prior to the start of demolition, currently planned for early 2012.

NSO ERP appreciates the CAB's interest in EMAD and the efforts made to review the closure options. We will continue to keep the CAB informed on this project.



Robert F. Boehlecke
Federal Project Director
Environmental Restoration Project

PSG:5974.RB

Walt Wegst, Chair

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