



MEETING MINUTES

Environmental Management Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE) Committee

April 17, 2008 – SNJV Conference Room

Members Present: Walter Wegst, Chair; Bob Gatliff,
Vernell McNeal, Stacy Standley

Department of Energy: Kelly Snyder, Deputy Designated
Federal Officer (DDFO)

CAB Facilitator: Rosemary Rehfeldt, Navarro Research
and Engineering, Inc.

After review of the meeting agenda, Stacy Standley asked that an additional item be added – to discuss the possibility of creating a fact sheet for Super Kukla at the Nevada Test Site, and the item was added.

The committee then began its review of the of the *Tonopah Test Range* fact sheet. The following changes have been suggested for recommendation to DOE:

- ◆ The title “History” will be kept in the fact sheet.
- ◆ Within the first paragraph under the “History” section, in the second sentence, place a comma after the word “Range.”
- ◆ In the second paragraph of the “History” section, there are changes to each sentence. The entire paragraph should read as follows:
 - *TTR’s features attracted field testing managers from Sandia National Laboratories in the 1950s for several reasons. The desert valley’s dryness left clear pathways for tracking aircraft and airborne weapons; and prevented growth of dense vegetation that would obscure views of bomb impacts. The sparse vegetation limits the amount of wildlife in the area, thus minimizing adverse damage to the wildlife. In addition, the parallel mountain ranges create a hidden valley, assuring that secret testing could be conducted safely and securely.*
- ◆ Changes to the last sentence in the next paragraph should read: *Contaminants include unexploded ordnance, heavy metals, pesticides, total petroleum hydrocarbons and hazardous material and radioactive constituents.*
- ◆ In the fourth paragraph under the “History” section, the last sentence should be moved to the end of the sixth paragraph in this section. The wording in this sentence should be revised, and the revised wording will be noted in the explanation for changes within the sixth paragraph.
- ◆ The first sentence of the fifth paragraph should be deleted. The second sentence should be added to the fourth paragraph, as the second to the last sentence. With changes, the last two sentences in paragraph five will read as follows:

- *These surveys include locating underground storage tanks and sumps, trace pipes and dabbles, define leachfields and septic tanks, and map landfill boundaries. They also examine the potential risk to the public and the environment.*
- ♦ There are a number of changes in paragraph six. Therefore, the entire revised paragraph should read as follows:
 - *During the Preliminary Assessment (PA) an inventory of the contaminated sites is conducted to assist in developing a work plan. As part of the inventory, scientists collect historical information, interpret aerial and ground photographs, and review engineering drawings. Scientists also conduct aerial surveys from helicopters with radiation detection equipment. These surveys map the general location and concentration of radioactive soil debris from testing activities. Based on these studies, scientists determine the best options to remove or stabilize the contamination. The cleanup work is conducted by either the Environmental Restoration Industrial Sites Sub-Project or the Soils Sub-Project.*
- ♦ On page two, under the “Industrial Sites Project” section, the word “chosen” in the second sentence should be changed to “prioritized.”
- ♦ The first sentence in the second paragraph should be changed, to read:
 - *Remediation activities are grouped as follows:*
 - Within the third bullet in this paragraph, the word “included” should be changed to “containing.”
 - In the third paragraph of the “Industrial Sites Project” section, all of the numbers need to be updated.
- ♦ The next section is entitled “Soils Project.” The first sentence in the first paragraph of this section has two changes. The revised sentence will read:
 - *The contaminated soil on the TTR was generated by a joint exercise called Operation Roller Coaster, conducted in 1963 by the United Kingdom, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Atomic Energy Commission.*
- ♦ In the next paragraph, the second and third sentences will be revised to read:
 - *The sites were characterized and soil was removed and properly disposed of on the Nevada Test Site. Clean Slate II and III have been characterized, but no remediation activities have been conducted.*
- ♦ The next section, “Preparing for the Future” will be removed entirely.
- ♦ A definition box will be included in this fact sheet that defines unfamiliar words.

Next, the committee reviewed the two Industrial Sites fact sheets. The committee recommends combining the two fact sheets into one, and the title will be: *Industrial Sites...an approach to cleanup*. The revisions are taken from the fold-over fact sheet, entitled: *Industrial Sites...a Success Story*. Changes to the fact sheet will be as follows:

- ♦ In the first section, the title will read: “*Background.*” The words “History and” will be removed, to be consistent with all fact sheets.

- ◆ In the third sentence of the first paragraph in the *Background* section, the acronym (NTS) should appear in parentheses after the words *Nevada Test Site*; the word “also” should be changed to “previously;” and the words, “eight off-site locations around the country” will be removed.
- ◆ In the first sentence of paragraph two, the words “Nevada Test Site” will be replaced with the acronym “NTS.”
- ◆ The third paragraph includes the number of sites that have been identified and the number of sites that have been closed. These numbers will be updated to reflect: *1,867 sites have been identified; and 1,701 sites have been formally closed.*
- ◆ In the next section, “Approach to Cleanup,” each sub-section should be bulleted and bold, to read as:
 - Housekeeping
 - Complex Closure
 - Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER)
- ◆ Also, in the last sentence of the last paragraph in this section, the words “deactivation” and “decommissioning” should begin with a lower-case “d.”
- ◆ Additionally, on page two in the blue box entitled “FFACO,” a sentence should be added after the first sentence, to read:
 - *This agreement governs the remediation activities on the NTS.*
- ◆ In the section entitled “What is Deactivation and Decommissioning?” – this title can be removed, and the entire paragraph underneath the title can be moved up to be the first paragraph under the section entitled “Deactivation and Decommissioning.”
- ◆ In what will now be the third paragraph in this section, beginning with the words: “While contaminated soil...,” – the word “Jr.” in the third sentence should be changed to read: “Junior.”
- ◆ The fourth sentence in this paragraph should be changed, to read:
 - *To date, three facilities, R-MAD, Junior Hot Cell, and EPA Farm have been deactivated and decommissioned.*
- ◆ In the second paragraph under the next section entitled “Better, Cheaper, Faster,” in the second sentence of the second paragraph, take out the words “at the Nevada Test Site.”
- ◆ The last two sentences in the second paragraph should be combined and revised, which will read:
 - *Using this innovative approach, the mixed low-level waste disposal site is now closed, with a resultant multimillion dollar savings to taxpayers.*
- ◆ On the last page, the entire section that begins with the sentence, “Technology is not the only way...,” and ends with four bullets (no to include “Path Forward), should be bordered and used as an example of ways Industrial Sites technology saves money. Also, within this section, in the first sentence of the first paragraph, the word “and” should be changed to “to.”

- ◆ Also in the last page in the section entitled “Path Forward,” the date “2008” needs to be updated to “2012.”
- ◆ A definition box should be added to this fact sheet.

The committee agreed to create a recommendation letter to DOE requesting these changes be made to the “Tonopah Test Range” and “Industrial Sites” fact sheets.

The topic that was added to the meeting agenda – Super Kukla fact sheet – was discussed next. Stacy Standley passed around copies of a Las Vegas Review-Journal newspaper article featuring the history and demolition of the Nevada Test Site’s Super Kukla facility. Mr. Standley suggested that, given its historical importance, a fact sheet be produced specifically for Super Kukla. Upon further committee discussion, it was decided not to feature a specific site within any of the EM Sub-Projects.

The next items up for committee review are the Environmental Management videos. Rosemary Rehfeldt will put a request in to the EM Public Involvement team for Digital Video Disc (DVD) copies of the videos. These copies will be distributed to the EMPIRE Committee members for their review. The decision of which video(s) to review first will be determined through e-mail correspondence, before the next meeting takes place.

Because there will be new member recruits that would like to join the EMPIRE Committee that were not in attendance at this meeting, the next meeting date, time and location will be determined through e-mail correspondence. Tentative dates chosen are June 12 or June 19, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.