



FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2008

Location: Beatty Community Center, Beatty, Nevada

CAB Members Present: David Hermann, Chair; Walter Wegst, Vice Chair; Bob Gatliff, Robert Johnson, Ted Oom, Jackson Ramsey; Hal Sullivan

CAB Members Not Present: Paul Adras, Vernell McNeal; Stacy Standley; James Weeks

Public Present: Kathleen Bienenstein, Pahrump, NV; Lee Geiser, Las Vegas, NV; Bob Hoving, Henderson, NV; Darrell Lacy, Pahrump, NV; Bill Lindsey, Las Vegas, NV; Bill Mangan, Idaho Fall, ID; John McGrail, Las Vegas, NV; Ted Schweitzer, Las Vegas, NV; Herb Spiegel, Las Vegas, NV; Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen, Las Vegas, NV; Ken Wall, Ontario, CA; Ray Williams, Beatty, NV

Liaisons Present: Bob Gamble, Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Office, Genne Nelson, U.S. National Park Service (NPS); Tim Murphy, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Technical Support Staff: Helen Neill, Ph.D., University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), Department of Environmental Studies

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): Kelly Snyder, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)

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

Agenda

- Chair's Opening Remarks Dave Hermann
 - Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment
- Briefing: *UGTA Committee Reports* Genne Nelson
 - ♦ *Nevada Test Site Well Recommendations*
- Committee Updates
 - ♦ Budget Bob Gatliff
 - *Approval of Budget Prioritization Letter*
 - ♦ EMPIRE Walt Wegst
 - *Approval of Groundwater Fact Sheet Recommendation Letter*
 - *Approval of UGTA Questions & Answers Brochure Recommendation Letter*
 - ♦ Membership Jack Ramsey
 - *Update on proposal for new recruits*
 - ♦ Outreach Hal Sullivan
 - ♦ Transportation/Waste Ted Oom
 - ♦ UGTA Bob Gatliff
 - *Update on 2/7/07 and 3/5/08 UGTA Pahute Mesa Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) Meetings*

- Other CAB Business
 - ♦ Approval of January 10, 2008 Minutes Dave Hermann
 - ♦ Paul Adras membership status Dave Hermann
 - ♦ May 2008 Board meeting location, and committee meetings Dave Hermann
 - ♦ Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting – Hanford Dave Hermann
 - Vote on two members to attend
 - ♦ CAB Overview meeting information – April 9, 2008 Rosemary Rehfeldt
 - ♦ Nevada Test Site – all-day tour information – May 7, 2008 Rosemary Rehfeldt
 - ♦ DOE Update Kelly Snyder
 - *DOE’s response to CAB’s Recommendation Letter Regarding the FFACO Public Involvement Plan*
 - *DOE’s response to CAB’s request for comment Resolution on recommendation letters (EMPIRE Cmte)*
- February and March State of Nevada Notification Rosemary Rehfeldt
 - ♦ Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 145
- Meeting Wrap-Up / Assessment Rosemary Rehfeldt

Approval of Agenda

Dave Hermann asked for a motion for approval of the meeting agenda. Jack Ramsey moved for approval, seconded by Walt Wegst. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No comment.

Briefing: “UGTA Committee Reports – NTS Well Recommendations”

Ms. Genne Nelson, NPS Liaison, gave a presentation on the CAB UGTA Committee’s Well Recommendations to the DOE. The presentation included:

- ♦ Brief history of nuclear testing from 1951 to 1992
- ♦ Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) requirements
- ♦ Explanation of the Underground Test Area Corrective Action Units (CAUs)
- ♦ Response to the independent Peer Review
- ♦ Well location strategy
- ♦ Narrowing the focus – to Pahute Mesa
- ♦ Explanation for CAB’s well recommendations, complete with topographic, geographic, geophysical, geologic, and groundwater maps
- ♦ UGTA Committee’s Path Forward
 - ♦ August 2007 CAB UGTA Committee presentation to the UGTA project’s Technical Working Group (TWG)
 - ♦ UGTA project is funded to drill additional wells during 2009-2010; two seats on the TWG are available for CAB members during planning
 - ♦ CAB UGTA Committee will consider additional well site recommendations
 - ♦ Continued review and input to the stages of the UGTA program as it proceeds toward ultimate installation of long-term monitoring wells

Ms. Nelson thanked the residents of Amargosa, Beatty and Pahrump, Nevada, who provided comments and suggestions to the CAB.

Committee Updates:

Budget Committee:

Due to Jack Ramsey's, Committee Chair, absence at the Budget Prioritization meeting on February 20, 2008, Bob Gatliff served as spokesperson for the Committee in this regard. Mr. Gatliff informed the Board that the DOE's Nevada Site Office Environmental Management (EM) federal sub-project directors presented budget information for fiscal year (FY)FY 2010. The committee followed with a discussion of how to prioritize the FY 2010 EM sub-projects, which are as follows:

- 1) Underground Test Area (UGTA)
- 2) Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste
- 3) Industrial Sites
- 4) Soils

As noted in the agenda, a draft recommendation letter for the above-mentioned budget prioritization was included in the meeting packets for a member vote of approval. Robert Johnson moved, seconded by Hal Sullivan, to approve the CAB's FY 2010 Budget Prioritization recommendation letter. Motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Management Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE) Committee:

Walt Wegst, Committee Chair, told the Board that the EMPIRE Committee met on February 6, 2008 to continue its review and revisions of the following EM fact sheets:

- ♦ *Groundwater at the Nevada Test Site*
- ♦ *UGTA Questions and Answers Brochure*

The committee's draft recommendation letter pertaining to fact sheet: *Groundwater at the Nevada Test Site* was put before the Board for approval. Hal Sullivan moved, seconded by Jack Ramsey, to approve the recommendation letter outlining changes to the above-mentioned fact sheet. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee's draft recommendation letter pertaining to the brochure: *Underground Test Area (UGTA) Questions and Answers* was put before the Board for approval. Hal Sullivan moved, seconded by Robert Johnson, to approve the recommendation letter outlining changes to the above-mentioned brochure. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee:

Mr. Jack Ramsey, Committee Chair, informed the Board that the membership recruitment drive has been completed. A total of eleven applicants were approved by the Committee for recommendation to DOE. The recruitment packet, recommending approval of all new members, has been sent by EM staff to DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Formal responses from DOE Headquarters regarding membership are expected in June, 2008.

A letter from DOE to the CAB regarding the 2008 membership recruitment drive was included in the meeting packets. The proposed new candidates are encouraged to immediately become involved in CAB meetings and activities; even though they will not have voting authority until final membership approval is received.

Outreach Committee:

Mr. Hal Sullivan, Committee Chair, informed the Board that the Committee held its first meeting in Pahrump on January 10, 2008. Discussion centered on education outreach options: 1) to have members of the CAB's Outreach Committee go out into the community to give lessons; or 2) the Committee's basic purpose, to create science-based lesson plans and the means for teachers to access these for use in their classrooms, keeping its focus with 5th and 6th grade students. One of the ideas is to put lesson plans, which meet Nevada Education Standards, on the CAB website that teachers can download. Mr. Sullivan talked about the possibility of working with UNLV, to have lesson plans and resources available for teachers. Mr. Sullivan explained that the Committee is new and additional meetings are necessary to create a Work Plan and begin forming ideas to propose to the DOE.

Dr. Wegst informed the Board that at the January 10, 2008 Board meeting the Outreach Committee was curious to know what some of the other Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) had done for community outreach. Dr. Wegst brought the subject up at the SSAB conference call on January 31, 2008, requesting members from other DOE CABs to call the NTS CAB Office, if they would like to share ideas about outreach strategies. To date, there has been no response from other DOE CABs.

Transportation/Waste Committee:

Ted Oom, Committee Chair, informed the Board that a Transportation/Waste Committee meeting was held on March 5, 2008. The meeting's objective was to update the committee on the status of the Transuranic (TRU) waste in the trenches of Area 5 at the Nevada Test Site. During the committee meeting Mr. Frank DiSanza, DOE Federal Project Director briefed the committee on the background of DOE's Environmental Management Program (EM) and historical waste disposal. Dr. Bruce Crowe and Mr. Frank DiSanza gave a presentation, entitled "TRU in the Trenches." In studying cost and safety analyses, risks rise dramatically from digging up, removing, analyzing, and transporting the waste by increasing worker exposure; therefore no action will be taken to remove the waste. A closure cap design will be used to reduce disposal risk. This will be thick enough to protect people and the environment. Ms. Kelly Snyder, DDFO, informed the CAB that, although it is not required, they can make a recommendation or comment regarding this issue.

The Committee also discussed the transportation of low-level waste to the Nevada Test Site along State Highway 160 and updating a transportation route study, which the CAB recommended in a letter to DOE, dated January 16, 2008. Mr. Oom said that he believes this is a serious issue and an updated study needs to be completed.

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee:

Because there were members of the public present, Mr. Bob Gatliff, Committee Chair, began by explaining how the CAB was given the opportunity by the DOE to recommend one well siting at the Nevada Test Site. The CAB submitted its well recommendation reports and letter to the DOE in September, 2007.

Consequently, two members of the CAB's UGTA Committee have been invited to participate with the UGTA Technical Working Group (TWG) in the Pahute Mesa Corrective Action Investigation Plan

(CAIP) meetings. Both Bob Gatliff and Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen (CAB Alumni member) have been attending these meetings. The first meeting took place on December 5, 2007 and the working group meets monthly. Mr. Gatliff was updating the Board on the February 7, 2008 and March 5, 2008 meetings.

The February 7th meeting was devoted to assigning a simple relative ranking to tasks that were identified at the January meeting. Meeting discussions centered on:

- ◆ Understanding flow and transport in pathways away from Pahute Mesa
- ◆ Understanding inflow to Pahute Mesa
- ◆ Reducing uncertainty in source term applied in Corrective Action Unit (CAU) model
- ◆ Other general issues

The March 5th meeting discussion focused on well drilling, the complex geology of Pahute Mesa, cost of drilling, and groundwater flow.

The next CAIP meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2008, at the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas, NV.

Public Comment:

Meeting attendees were asked if they had any additional comments or questions. Mr. Ray Williams, Beatty, NV, said that he liked the idea of an educational outreach program for children in the rural communities surrounding the Nevada Test Site, and hopes that the CAB continues this effort.

Other CAB Business

- **Approval of January 10, 2008 Minutes**

Two minor revisions were pointed out to the Board. These revisions will be made before the minutes are finalized. Robert Johnson moved, seconded by Ted Oom, to approve the minutes as written, with the revisions included, as stated at this meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Membership Status – Paul Adras:**

A letter addressed to Paul Adras was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Hermann, CAB Chair, informed the Board that Mr. Adras missed the November 12, 2007 and January 10, 2008 meetings, without notification to the CAB Office. As a result of this, according to the Board's approved Standard Operating procedures, a member must forfeit their Full Board membership.

Although Mr. Adras will no longer have voting privileges, he is welcome to attend CAB meetings and continue support of community involvement initiatives.

- **March Board Meeting Location:**

Meeting attendees were informed that the next CAB Full Board meeting will be held on May 14, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting will take place at the Atomic Testing Museum, Frank Rogers Auditorium at 755 E. Flamingo, and will begin at 5:00 p.m.

- **SSAB Chairs Meeting – Hanford Site:**

Meeting attendees were informed that the next SSAB Chairs Meeting will take place at DOE's Hanford Site, near Richland, Washington. The meetings will take place April 22 – 24, 2008. Hal Sullivan moved, seconded by Robert Johnson, for the CAB's Chair and Vice-Chair to attend the Hanford meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

- **CAB Overview Meeting**

Rosemary Rehfeldt informed the Board that the CAB Overview meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2008 at 7710 W. Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 130, Las Vegas, Nevada. Informational presentations will be given by DOE Federal Project and Sub-Project Directors, Kelly Snyder, DOE DDFO, and Rosemary Rehfeldt, CAB Facilitator.

- **DOE Update:**

Kelly Snyder referenced the EM Monthly Report to the CAB for March 2008 and asked the Board if they had any questions on the report. Dr. Wegst asked when Nevada was planning to close the low-level waste disposal site. Ms. Snyder responded that the mixed low-level waste pit will close by the end of calendar year 2010, and the low-level waste sub-project is scheduled to close in 2027. Dr. Wegst suggested highlighting this issue at the Site-Specific Advisory Board meeting in April.

Ms. Snyder told the Board that their meeting packet included a letter and comment responses from DOE regarding the CAB's comments on the revised and updated Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and noted that she received comments from Dr. Helen Neill and one CAB member.

In response to this, Dr. Wegst commented that, as Vice-Chair of the Board, he would like to remind all CAB members and new recruits that, in addition to meeting attendance, part of CAB membership responsibility includes homework, such as reading documents and being prepared to discuss materials at the CAB meetings. Ms. Snyder received one comment from a member of the CAB on this report with no other input from anyone whether or not they had a comment. It was just ignored. That's not part of the responsibility of being a CAB member. If a CAB member does not have any applicable comments, please send an e-mail to the CAB Office that says, "I have no comments." CAB members are expected to read the documents that are handed out in the meeting packets and make comments.

Also Included in the meeting packets was a letter from DOE to the CAB regarding the EMPIRE Committee's request for comment resolutions on the products that the Committee made recommendations on. The enclosures to the letter were not included in the meeting packet; however, the letter with full enclosures will be forwarded to the EMPIRE Committee members. The enclosure is available online at www.ntscab.com.

Ms. Snyder also gave an update on recent EM personnel changes.

- **October and November State of Nevada Notification:**

A Notification for Corrective Actions, dated March 10, 2008, was included in the Board meeting packets. The DOE will submit a Closure Report (CR) to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for the following Corrective Action Units (CAUs):

<u>CAU Number</u>	<u>CAU Description</u>	<u>Approximate Submittal Date</u>
o CAU 545	Dumps, Waste Disposal Sites, and Buried Radioactive Material	April 10, 2008

Comments regarding these decision documents are to be submitted to Tim Murphy (NDEP) within 30 days of the document's release. If needed, Rosemary Rehfeldt will provide the Board with additional information on the Closure Report.

Additionally, a list of all documents submitted to the Public Reading Room within the last 30 days was included in this Notification. These included:

<u>CAU Number</u>	<u>CAU Description</u>	<u>Approximate Submittal Date</u>
o CAU 565	Stored Samples	February 14, 2008
o CAU 124	Storage Tanks	February 14, 2008
o CAU 543	Liquid Disposal Units	February 28, 2008

Requests for documents can be made to Rosemary Rehfeldt at the CAB Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.