



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

# **EM Site-Specific Advisory Board Topics and Accomplishments**

**EM Site-Specific Advisory Board  
Chairs' Meeting**  
November 5, 2013



## Issues:

- Tank space and integrity
  - Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) has issued advice recommending new tank construction- not currently in the plan
  - Tank leaks remain a board concern due to potential damage to groundwater
- Lack of budget information from the Office of River Protection (ORP) inhibited HAB and the public from providing meaningful input
  - HAB is expecting more detail to the framework plan recently made public for the ORP Waste Treatment Plant
- Potential exists for groundwater/other cleanup on the Hanford central plateau to slow down due to budget issues
  - HAB is very concerned that groundwater cleanup should continue/be expanded



## Issue:

- **Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU)-**

IWTU is the biggest technical challenge that DOE-Idaho faces in the near term.

- High-level liquid waste cannot be processed until the facility is running
- Startup process halted in 2012; additional technical problems may be encountered when startup resumes

## Accomplishments:

- Public involvement subcommittee formed and interviewed community members on interests in INL cleanup and communication preferences. E-newsletter being designed to enhance the INL CAB's role as an information 'bridge' between communities and the INL on cleanup.
- At the INL CAB's request, DOE including a dashboard with a high-level summary of the activities in presentations. The INL CAB developed 5 questions for use by DOE-Idaho in the summary.
- In FY 2012, retrieval of buried waste was severely limited due to budget restrictions. As of October 1, funding was obtained and contractor resumed retrieval of buried waste at Radioactive Waste Management Complex, supporting accomplishment of key milestones for DOE-Idaho's agreements.

Key Questions	Dashboard Indicator	Comments
Impact on budget for activity/cleanup		The project initially cost more than planned, but efficiencies are being realized as our operating experience grows
Impact on employment/economic development		We have retained our crew with the potential to expand to treat other sites' RH-TRU waste
Affect on agreements		Project is a key part of meeting Agreement milestones for RH-TRU waste.
Impact on safety and environment		Safe final disposition of RH-TRU waste is being accomplished
Impact on clean up DOE -wide		RH-TRU capability can be used by other sites



## Achievement:

- Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) provides recommendations to DOE that are valued and utilized in making decisions regarding EM clean-up activities
  - During FY 2013, the NSSAB provided the Nevada Field Office 39 recommendations related to six topics - groundwater sampling, remediation at historic atmospheric test locations, community monitoring, budget prioritization, use restrictions, and county drilling proposal
    - The Nevada Field Office has implemented 33 of these recommendations, declined two, and forwarded four to EM HQ for consideration



## Issues:

- Framework Agreement and probable re-negotiation of the Consent Order with the State of New Mexico (NNMCAB Recommendation was the catalyst)
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) – concern that it is the proposed answer to all waste streams
- Chromium Plume – greatest threat to the public and environment



## Issue:

- On-site and possible off-site groundwater contamination; protection and restoration of contaminated groundwater
  - DOE Oak Ridge EM and regulators have completed a series of groundwater workshops
  - The agencies have completed a strategy document of possible solutions for contaminated groundwater
  - ORSSAB will comment on the document

## Issue:

- CAB discussions with local DOE led community to develop future use strategy that all parties—at least tentatively—agree on. Future use strategy allows DOE to accomplish its cleanup goals in cost-efficient and timely manner, while staging the cleanup to best suit community’s desire to reindustrialize site and maximize site assets. In order for this very attainable strategy to come into fruition, we need:
  - (1) Committed, level funding from DOE
  - (2) Action on the RFO
  - (3) Regulators to support restructuring of milestones to enable prioritized work to be completed

## Issues:

- **Barter**

PORTS SSAB is concerned about site's reliance on uranium barter because inventory will be exhausted in coming years. This program has resulted in PORTS' appropriations being reduced. Board believes EM should increase appropriations to an appropriate level for a vibrant D&D program.

- **Landfill Consolidation**

PORTS SSAB reiterates its and community's support for on-site waste disposition with consolidation of existing landfills within Perimeter Road. Whole point of supporting on-site disposal is to create an optimal environment for reindustrialization and that cannot happen if landfills remain.

- **Regulatory Process**

PORTS SSAB asks EM to work with Ohio EPA to expedite completion of process building D&D and waste disposition Records of Decision. Further delays potentially hampers D&D progress.

- **Property Transfer**

PORTS SSAB concerned about length of time required to transfer property to SODI or other entities interested in redevelopment. Requests that EM review this process and find ways to expedite transfers, which are critical to economic growth.



# Savannah River



## Issues:

- General FY 2014 Budget Situation and Impact on the SRS Cleanup Program
  - Major concern on High-Level Waste Program and failure to meet Federal Facility Agreement commitments
  - Other aspects of SRS cleanup suffering significant cuts
- General Funding and Emphasis on Major SRS Programs to Meet Commitments and Schedules for Site Closure
  - Start-up of the Salt Waste Processing Facility in a timely manner
  - Decision on processing spent nuclear fuel in H-Canyon
  - Continue processing plutonium (Pu) through H-Canyon (Pu to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)/Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX))
- **Accomplishments:**
  - Input to the FY 2015 Integrated Priority List, part of EM's Budget Submission to DOE-HQ
  - Letter that questioned why SRS funding reductions are counter to SRS CAB recommendation that the SRS Liquid Waste Program be given top priority
  - CAB outreach presentation created; community groups invited to give presentations to board; increased public participation at meetings; Chair presentation to international visitor; continued online meetings