



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

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

## **EM Site-Specific Advisory Board Chairs' Meeting**

April 23, 2014

# Hanford Advisory Board (HAB)

## Issues:

- Tank waste characterization, retrieval, treatment, and disposition drives much of the HAB's advice, discussions, workshops, and public meetings which, when framed by Waste Treatment Plant technical delays and the continuing degradation and loss of containment within both the single-shelled and double-shelled tank systems, further focuses the need for new double-shelled containment to be funded and built.
- Tank waste also fuels HAB discussions on issues ranging from groundwater contamination, to the need for an Interim Pretreatment System for the direct feed of low-activity waste, to finding sufficient funding for these projects, to the Board's Value Statements and questions about "how clean is clean?"
- Tank waste also provokes questions about the status of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), as well as an increased interest in the disposition of transuranic (TRU) waste, the disposition of strontium and cesium capsules in the aged Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, and the continued fitness of facilities like the 242-A Evaporator.

# INL Site EM Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)

## Issues:

- Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU): The IWTU Project is on schedule to begin heating the plant in May to support TI-103 (plant heat up to process Sodium Bearing Waste).
- WIPP: The recent events at WIPP clearly demonstrate how events at one DOE site can have significant impact on other sites in the DOE system. As the only disposal location in the DOE complex for TRU waste, sites dependent upon WIPP disposal have few options when problems occur at WIPP. The TRU waste at Idaho already certified and packaged for shipment is currently being held at INL awaiting resumption of WIPP operations. Meanwhile, Idaho waste managers are actively working on options to improve our storage capabilities, including identifying additional storage space in existing storage facilities.

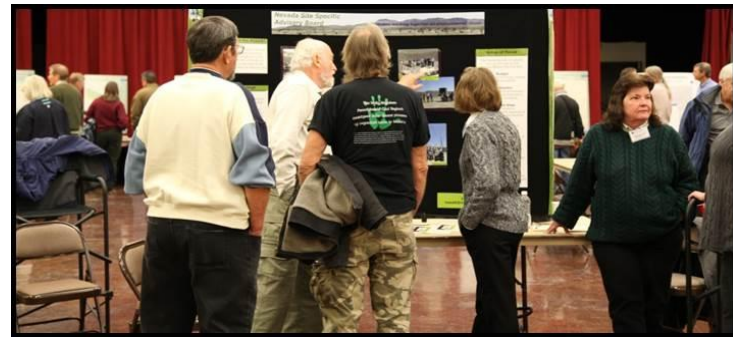
## Accomplishments:

- e-Newsletter: The INL CAB members formed a public involvement subcommittee, interviewed community members on their interests in INL cleanup and how they would like to receive information, and recently issued the INL CAB's first e-Newsletter to enhance the its role as an information 'bridge' between communities and the INL on cleanup activities and issues.
- CAB Membership: The INL CAB recently completed a recruitment effort. With the addition of 5 new members, the Idaho CAB will be operating with a full, diverse membership total of 12 citizens from communities throughout southern Idaho.



## Achievements:

- NSSAB provides recommendations to DOE that are valued and utilized in making decisions regarding Public Involvement/NSSAB/EM clean-up activities
- Groundwater Open House
- FY 2014 Membership Drive
- Student Liaison Project/Other Liaisons



# Northern New Mexico CAB (NNMCAB)

## Achievements:

- NNMCAB was asked to facilitate and obtain stakeholder input on prioritization of DOE/Los Alamos National Laboratory EM cleanup campaigns
  - Work was divided into campaigns for focus, measurable goals and results.
  - NNMCAB supported DOE with the roll-out of the Framework Agreement and the success of the “3706 Campaign”





# Oak Ridge SSAB (ORSSAB)

## Issue:

- On-site and possible off-site migration of contaminated groundwater; protection and restoration of contaminated groundwater.
  - DOE Oak Ridge EM and regulators completed a series of groundwater workshops to study the issues.
  - The agencies completed a strategy document of possible solutions for contaminated groundwater.
  - ORSSAB has made one recommendation on the document and may make others based on suggestions by independent observers/liaisons to the workshops.



## Issue:

- Transition and decontamination and decommissioning (D&D): Get contractor in place to complete transition of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant from the United States Enrichment Corporation to DOE. Initiate D&D immediately after transition.
  - Congressional delegation has secured appropriate funding for FY2014
  - Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office has stated it has a plan moving forward with transition and D&D of the site, communicate plans to the community
  - Community has a future use vision for adaptive reuse of the site
  - Take advantage of existing skilled and trained workforce with a stellar safety record ready to commence transition and D&D activities



## Issues:

- PORTS' expectation is that if an on-site disposal cell (OSDC) is built that the site shall be properly funded to accomplish DOE Cleanup to completion
  - If on-site disposal is chosen as the way to handle D&D waste, the community does not want to sacrifice cleanup to build an OSDC. Therefore, making sure D&D progress continues while a potential OSDC is built is important to the community.
  - The community's ultimate goal is to reindustrialize the PORTS site. Recommendation 11-01 and 13-02, made it clear the SSAB's stance to accelerate D&D, to consolidate existing landfills into a state of the art OSDC, with the end goals being the maximization of future land use and reindustrialization.





# Savannah River

## Issue:

- Concerned with continued receipts of spent nuclear fuel and accumulation of treated nuclear waste: Citizens are concerned that Savannah River Site is destined to become a long-term repository.
  - Currently no final disposition path for vitrified nuclear waste
  - Future of WIPP in question

## Accomplishments:

- Environmental Monitoring in Georgia: Successfully addressed citizen concerns regarding impact of the site on the public and environment in Georgia.
  - Six presentations on the issue (Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GA Women's Action for New Directions, & DOE)
  - Recommendation submitted to DOE asking for reinstatement of an independent monitoring program in Georgia
  - DOE responded by asking the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory to study the issue & to make a recommendation regarding the issue

