EM Site-Specific Advisory Board

Topics and Accomplishments

EM Site-Specific Advisory Board Chairs' Meeting
October 2-3, 2012

Savannah River

- Issue: Salt Waste Processing Facility
  - CAB understands some schedule and funding issues may be brewing.
  - DOE has internal assessment underway.
  - Delays could have dramatic impact on overall Site Closure schedule and Process.
  - While this is early in process we do have concerns.

Savannah River

- Issue (April 2012): Receipt of Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel and Long Term Storage of Existing Inventories with no known, approved disposition path
  - Processing of SNF In H-Canyon was once considered viable.
  - SNF processing in H-Canyon seems to no longer be the preferred disposition path.
  - Disposition path needs to be established.
  - SRS CAB strongly supports processing of SNF.
    - H-Canyon (or some other disposition concept) for remaining SNF.
  - Present actions not consistent with EM stated goal of Site Footprint reduction and expedited cleanup of the Site.

Savannah River

- Issue: Movement of Nuclear Waste from SRS
  - SRS Canisters all set and no place to go.
  - Topic draws much attention and focus.
    - Many Options Discussed:
      - Use of WIPP for SRS Canisters
      - Development of Ship Containers/Facility
      - Trial Program DOD waste to WIPP
  - Some movement on some aspect would be well received.

Savannah River

- Accomplishments:
  - Site Support
    - Provided input for Pu SEIS at Hearing in North Augusta.
  - CAB Outreach
    - CAB Outreach Presentation has been developed.
    - Environmental Justice meetings/conference attended.
  - Other CAB Actions
    - Continuing effective On-Line tie-in for Committee meetings.

Oak Ridge

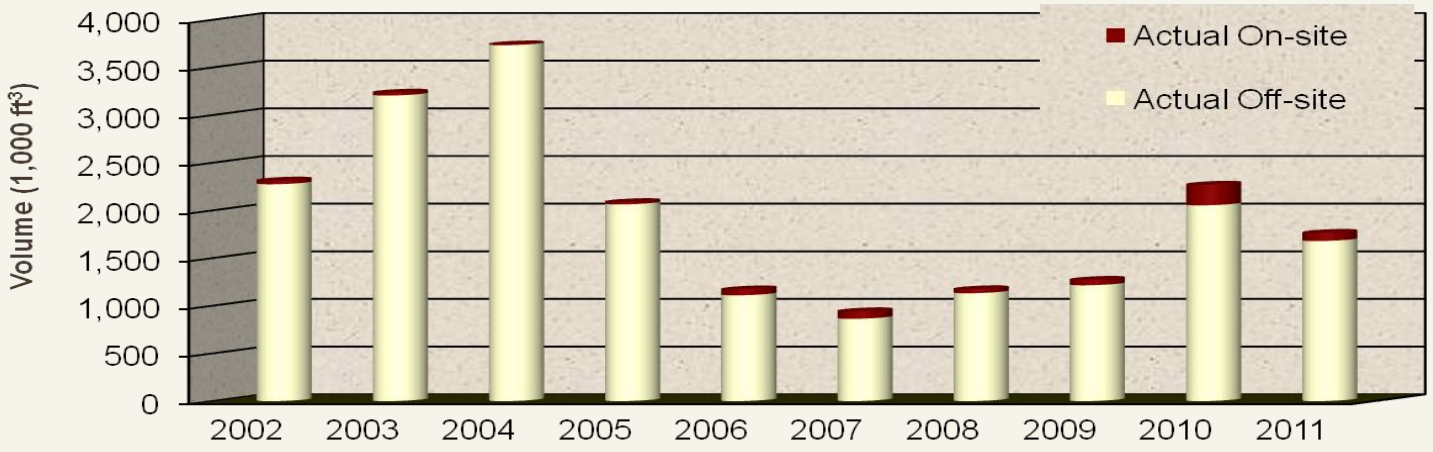
- Issue: Understanding how groundwater flows through fractured rock on the Oak Ridge Reservation that may carry contamination beyond the boundaries of the reservation.

Oak Ridge

- Activity: Working to understand how groundwater flows through fractured rock on the Oak Ridge Reservation.
  - ORSSAB will be working with an independent researcher to help the board and DOE better understand the characteristics of groundwater flow and its potential for carrying contamination beyond the boundaries of the reservation.

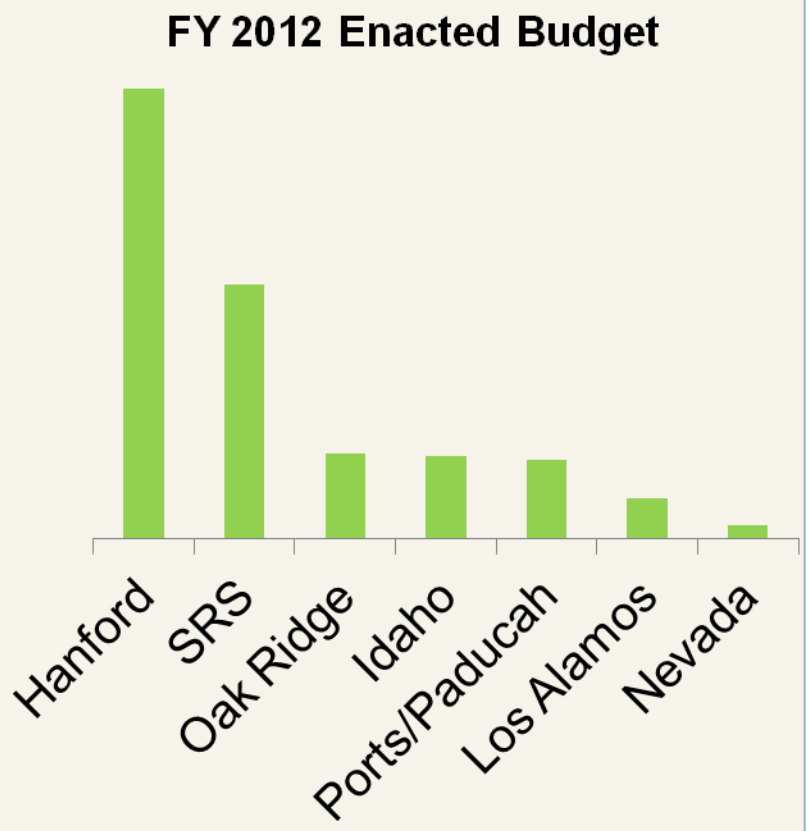
Nevada

- Topic: NNSS plays a vital role in DOE Complex clean-up as a national disposal facility
  - Other sites are able to dispose of difficult waste streams because of the NNSS
  - NNSS is the only DOE site that disposes other sites' low-level waste
  - On average, 95% of the total waste disposed at the NNSS comes from off-site generators



Nevada

- NNSS vs. Other DOE Sites
  - Largest site
    - Largest physical volume of contamination
      - 828 underground nuclear tests conducted in and near the groundwater, which deposited 132 million curies into the sub-surface
      - 100 atmospheric nuclear tests contaminated the surface
    - Smaller Environmental Cleanup budget than most sites
      - Based on level of risk



NSSAB recommends HQ consider *equity* when determining remediation budgets

Northern New Mexico

- Topic/Accomplishment/Activity:

  "3706 TRU Waste Campaign"— 3706 cubic meters of Transuranic waste to be shipped from LANL to WIPP by Dec. 2014
- Three NNMCAB Recommendations preceded this emphasis by the State and DOE
  - Focus on monitoring chromium plume.
  - Support sufficient funding to meet Consent Order milestones.

Portsmouth

- **Accomplishment:** Portsmouth SSAB Recommendation 12-03 on a preferred waste disposition pathway for the Portsmouth D&D Project.
  - Recommends on-site waste disposal with certain conditions that are conducive to redevelopment.
  - Waste Acceptance Criteria still undetermined.

Portsmouth

PORTS SSAB

- Issue: Recycling and development integration within parameters of EM Mission.
  - Community needs DOE's assistance/guidance in bringing redevelopment initiatives to life.
  - Community does not want to sacrifice or disproportionately compromise its interests in order for DOE to meet project milestones.

Paducah

- Top Goal: Develop and implement an Adaptive Reuse Plan for the PGDP site that will provide:
  - Safest path forward for the site and community
  - Most cost efficient path towards creation of an industrial site
    - Retain the skilled and highly trained work force
    - Assume that enrichment operations will cease in the near future
- The Paducah CAB is working closely with DOE and the local community to secure the necessary resources, including funding for D and D, to move this effort into reality.

Paducah

- Activity: CAB "Working Session" – refocus projects and priorities
- Sub-committees
  - Emphasis on common areas that support site goals
  - How do projects impact adaptive reuse?
- Work Plan development
  - Priorities established
  - Focus on when CAB recommendations needed

Hanford

- Accomplishment: The HAB issued many pieces of advice in FY 2012
  - Advice subjects included: WTP Safety Culture, Hanford Public Involvement Plan, FY 2013/14 Budget Requests, Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS, Public Involvement Plan, Hanford Lifecycle Cost and Schedule Report, Employee Concerns Program, Integrated Safety Management, Term Limits, State of the Site Public Meetings, RCRA Sitewide Permit, Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study and Proposed Plans
  - Open communications: the HAB and its sub committees worked collaboratively with DOE and regulators to identify priorities for the HAB work plan. The HAB helped agencies identify the breadth and depth of information for public meetings on Hanford cleanup.

Hanford

- Issue: Reliability of double-shell underground waste storage tanks
  - Possible delays to WTP startup may require waste to stay in tanks that are long past their design life
  - Recent discovery of material in annulus of Tank AY-102
    - New underground tanks were considered in the past and rejected. With the discovery of radioactive material in AY-102 annulus-will a new tanks project be resurrected? At what cost?

Idaho

- Issue: A path forward is needed for the Idaho National Laboratory's (INL's) Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and High-Level Waste (HLW) Disposition.
  - The Blue Ribbon Commission recognizes a repository is needed for DOE's HLW even if reliable ways to avoid disposal of SNF were developed.
    - The 1995 Settlement Agreement between DOE and the State of Idaho requires SNF and HLW at INL to be 'road ready' for shipment out of the State.
    - There is an urgency to resolve the issues of final waste form, packaging, and repository characteristics to support timely SNF and HLW disposition.

Idaho

- Issue: The CAB is concerned that the EM budget for Idaho will not support the cleanup schedule required to meet the 1995 Settlement Agreement.
  - Funds available to the cleanup contractor may be reduced due to DOE-Idaho's need to meet its own small business goals.

Idaho

- Issue: The INL CAB considers the start up of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) to be the biggest technical challenge that DOE-Idaho faces in the near term.
  - The CAB is concerned that high-level liquid waste cannot be processed until the facility is running.
  - We understand that DOE-Idaho and the contractor have evaluated the startup event; the CAB is still concerned that additional technical problems may be encountered during startup of IWTU.

Idaho

- Accomplishment: The CAB is now operating with a full, diverse membership.