

Tank Waste Corporate Board (TWCB) Meeting Minutes, August 1-2, 2012

The first Tank Waste Corporate Board (TWCB) meeting since the Office of Environmental Management (EM) reorganization was held at the Willow Creek Building, Idaho Falls, Idaho on August 1-2, 2012. The meeting agenda (attachment 1) covered a variety of technical and management topics, included tours of specific laboratory and tank waste facilities, and offered optional events for social networking. The TWCB was well attended with forty-one participants including DOE Headquarters, DOE and prime contractor representatives from field sites (Idaho, Office of River Protection, Savannah River, West Valley), national laboratories (Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)), and invited guests from the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) and URS Corporate. Descriptions below summarize the agenda topics of the meeting with outcomes or actions as discussed, supported by a summarized Action Log. Presentations for agenda topics are referenced with the title and presenter, but are provided separately.

Welcome and Introduction: Jim Cooper, Deputy Manager for Environmental Management, Idaho Operations Office, welcomed the TWCB participants to Idaho and the facility. Steve Schneider, Director, Office of Tank Waste Management (EM-21) and TWCB Executive Director, summarized the agenda and led the participants in introductions, culminating with introduction of Jay Rhoderick, Associate Deputy Assistant Manager for Tank Waste and Nuclear Material (EM-20), representing the TWCB Chair.

Keynote: *Tank Waste Program in the Five-Year Budget Horizon*, Jay Rhoderick, EM-20. This introductory presentation established the context for the TWCB meeting, describing current and future challenges for the Tank Waste program, and motivating active participation by the attendees. Discussion followed on several aspects of the EM program, highlighting the policy and budget uncertainty that is expected to persist, and the need for increased collaboration across EM.

Board Charter: *Tank Waste Corporate Board Charter*, Steve Schneider, Director, Office of Tank Waste Management (EM-21). This overview presentation described the features of the charter and key TWCB protocols, ending with several issues for discussion. Steve described how the draft charter had been circulated among Board Members and Advisors in advance of the TWCB for review and comment, with the intention of charter approval at the meeting. Limited discussion followed highlighting the need to include the Carlsbad Operations Office and coordination with the TRU Waste Corporate Board because of the importance of the interface. Some expanded discussion on the role of the TWCB resulted in specific actions captured on the Action Log. The TWCB Charter was amended per the discussion, and circulated for signature approval by the TWCB Members.

Laboratory Role in Tank Waste Programs: *Strengthening National Laboratory Engagement for EM Mission Success*, Jeff Griffin, Associate Laboratory Director, Environmental Stewardship, SRNL, and Paul Bredt, Sector Manager, Environmental Health and Remediation, PNNL. This overview presentation informed TWCB participants regarding the evolving role of the national laboratories in support of the Tank Waste program, and the specific Hanford Tank Waste pilot effort with SRNL and PNNL. Discussion followed the presentation, especially about the Hanford pilot and related issues of prioritization and funding for FY14 and beyond. Alignment with the regulatory strategy and coordination with other technology development work were also emphasized. The discussion was ended within the allotted agenda time with budget and roles of the field, Headquarters, and laboratories identified for discussion during the Executive Session.

Technetium Technology Approach: *Technetium Management Challenges and Recommendations*, Jim Poppiti, Office of WTP/Tank Farm Program (EM-23), *Technetium Management in the Liquid Waste System at SRS*, Karthik Subramanian, Chief Technology Officer, Savannah River Remediation, and *Technetium Management at the Hanford Site*, Chris Burrows, Washington River Protection Solutions. This double-session began with an introduction by Jim Poppiti regarding the issues and key drivers for

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technetium (Tc) technology. Presentations by prime contractor representatives from Savannah River and Hanford described the approach used at their respective sites and the related challenges and issues. Considerable discussion followed, facilitated by Jim Poppiti, which compared and contrasted Tc management at the sites. Much of the discussion centered about the impact of regulatory interaction and the diversity of the regulatory approaches. Work already completed or underway at the Office of River Protection (ORP) was clarified by the ORP participants. Several actions were developed from this session, the most important being to provide better coordination between the established ORP Tc Team and both the Hanford Tank Waste pilot and the Savannah River (SR) site.

Blue Ribbon Committee Response: *Status Update on Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) Response and Update on EM Strategic Considerations*, Christine Gelles, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management (EM-30). This combined overview presentation summarized the DOE response to the BRC recommendations, with the focus to implications for the Tank Waste program. The presentation also introduced strategic issues which may arise from the BRC response. Limited discussion followed the presentation, but was constrained because the draft response is being held by the White House with an uncertain release date.

Multi-Site System Approach - Commissioning: *Multi-Site System Approach: Commissioning*, Frazer Lockhart, HQ Project Sponsor for Sodium Bearing Waste, EM-21. This overview presentation described the programmatic approach across multiple sites to address tank waste issues, using the example of start-up/commissioning to illustrate how the approach will be implemented. The presentation emphasized the reality that most newly-constructed EM facilities are the first-of-a-kind at full process and full scale, making the start-up and commissioning a critical activity. Limited discussion followed the presentation resulting in the addition of several recommendations to further the multi-site commissioning effort.

Tank Closure Process and Criteria: *Operational Closure of Savannah River Site Tanks 18 and 19, A Long and Winding Road*, Sherri Ross, Program Manager Waste Removal and Tank Closure, Savannah River Operations Office, and Steven Thomas, Deputy Manager, Closure and Waste Disposal Authority, Savannah River Remediation. This in-depth presentation described the process, criteria, status, and lessons learned for the recent closure of Tanks 18 and 19 at the Savannah River (SR) site. Discussion followed on the similarities and contrasts with other tank closures, especially regarding the approach of the regulators. The TWCB decided to charter a Tank Closure Working Group to provide further analysis and coordination on tank closures, with specific actions listed on the TWCB Action Log.

Executive Session: Steve Schneider, TWCB Executive Director, facilitated this discussion limited to the voting members of the TWCB. The Executive Session addressed the earlier topic of headquarters, field, and laboratory roles in the Tank Waste program, as well as other topics of interest to the TWCB members. Several specific actions resulting from the Executive Session are included on the Action Log.

CAVE Facility Demonstration: Simultaneous with the Executive Session, most of the TWCB participants traveled to the nearby Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) building for a demonstration of the Computer-Assisted Virtual Environment (CAVE) facility. The CAVE provides a virtual 3-D visualization capability that simulates a short 'walk-thru' of the sodium-bearing waste facility as it would exist in the future when modified with hot isostatic press equipment for calcine treatment. An overview of the CAVE system and other uses and capabilities was provided to the TWCB participants, as well as the opportunity to experience several CAVE simulations.

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TWCB Dinner: Most of the TWCB attendees participated in a dinner (optional) held at the Sandpiper Restaurant adjacent to the Snake River. This was a purely social event to provide for networking and relationship building in support of the TWCB.

Tank Waste Performance Measures and Metrics: Frazer Lockhart, EM-21, introduced this discussion forum with the purpose of refining Tank Waste measure and metrics for the future. A senior DOE representative from each of the Tank Waste sites (Terry Spears for SR, Joel Case for Idaho, Tom Fletcher for ORP, and Bryan Bower for West Valley Demonstration Project) described their site's perspective on performance measures and metrics. The session continued with considerable discussion on similarities and contrasts, especially focusing on mass, curie, or backlog amounts, instead of current "gallons retrieved" or "gallons treated" reporting. One possible new measure (Tanks Emptied) was identified as a possible additional program metric. It was clear that significant improvement was possible and could be helpful in support of the 2013 fiscal year work plan process, so TWCB Members were charged to identify points of contact to continue the performance measure work.

WVDP Non-Conforming HLW: *West Valley Demonstration Project High-Level Waste Canister Relocation Issues and Challenges*, Bryan Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project. This brief presentation described the challenges of high-level waste container movement and packaging with the loss of Yucca Mountain and related DOE organizational changes. Some discussion followed with observation of potential parallels to Hanford K-Basin fuel debris and Three Mile Island debris.

Next Generation Vitrification: *Next Generation Vitrification Technology Overview*, John Vienna, PNNL, and Connie Herman, SRNL. This detailed presentation described the status of vitrification activities at Savannah River and Hanford, as well as HQ technology development activities. The material on glass formulation and qualification for the Waste Treatment Plant was particularly informative. Questions and dialogue were continuous throughout the presentation on this important topic. The TWCB decided the presentation should be provided via videoconference to EM-20 and EM-23, who had to miss the session due to schedule conflicts.

Sodium-Bearing Waste Treatment Project Lessons Learned: *Sodium Bearing Waste (SBW) Treatment Project – Project Overview and Lessons Learned*, Ric Craun, SBW Federal Project Director, Idaho Operations Office, Shawn Hill, SBW Operations Activity Manager, Idaho Operations Office, and Jim Gregory, Management Systems Assessment Lead, CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI). This overview lessons learned presentation described the background, design, construction, and Operational Readiness Review related activities of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) within the SBW facility. The presentation proceeded in panel fashion with questions covering a variety of the lessons learned topics. The session concluded with brief description of logistics for the afternoon tour.

Sodium-Bearing Waste facility tour: About half the TWCB attendees loaded the bus to the Idaho site for an afternoon tour of the SBW facility. The tour started in the control room with a description of the IWTU process and facility layout, aided by the control room visual display screens. The group then proceeded to tour the facility, visiting all areas over about 90 minutes including the container storage annex. Questions and dialogue on the IWTU were continuous throughout the tour.

The TWCB meeting was judged to be a productive interchange that should continue to enhance communication and coordination. The meeting was well arranged and supported by the Idaho Operations Office, CWI, and the Idaho National Laboratory. The next TWCB meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2013 hosted by the Savannah River site. Conference calls or video conferences may be scheduled in the interim to advance progress on working group activities or address emerging issues.

Tank Waste Corporate Board Meeting Agenda

“Tank Waste Management in a Budget-Challenged Environment”

Willow Creek Building (WCB), Conference Room 1
1955 Fremont Ave.

https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt/community/driving_directions/481/driving_directions

**Idaho Falls, ID
August 1-2, 2012**

8/1//2012	Topic	Speaker
8:15 AM	Welcome and Introduction	Steve Schneider, EM-21
8:30 AM	KEYNOTE: Tank Waste Program in the Five-Year Budget Horizon	Jay Rhoderick, EM-20
9:00 AM	Board Charter: Discuss and Approve	Steve Schneider
9:45 AM	Laboratory Role in Tank Waste Programs: Status Update	Jeff Griffin, SRNL
10:15 AM	Technetium Technology Approach: Background and Discussion	Scott VanCamp, EM-23 Karthik Subramanian, SRR Chris Burrows, WRPS
11:15 AM	Technetium Technology Approach: Plan Path Forward	continued session
12:15 PM	Lunch (on-site cafeteria or local establishments)	All
1:30 PM	Blue Ribbon Committee Response: Status Update	Christine Gelles, EM-30
2:00 PM	Multi-Site System Approach: Commissioning Status Update	Frazer Lockhart, EM-21
2:30 PM	Tank Closure Process and Criteria: Lessons Learned and Discussion	Sherri Ross, SR
3:15 PM	Action Item Review and Next Day Look Ahead	Steve Schneider
3:30 PM	CAVE Facility: Demonstration / Virtual SBW Tour https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1269&mode=2&featurestory=DA_562000	Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES)
5:00 PM	Adjourn	
6:30 PM	Tank Waste Corporate Board Dinner (Sandpiper Restaurant – 750 Lindsay Blvd.)	Jay Rhoderick

**Tank Waste Corporate Board
Meeting Agenda
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8/2//2012	Topic	Speaker
8:00 AM	Second Day Agenda Review	Steve Schneider
8:15 AM	Tank Waste Performance Measures and Metrics: Discuss and contrast	Frazer Lockhart, EM-21 Terry Spears, SR Ken Whitham, ID Tom Fletcher, ORP
9:00 AM	WVDP Non-Conforming HLW: Status Update	Bryan Bower, WVDP
9:15 AM	Next Generation Vitrification: Status Update	John Vienna, PNNL Connie Herman, SRNL
10:30 AM	Sodium Bearing Waste (SBW) Treatment Project: Lessons Learned and Tour logistics	Ric Craun, SBW FPD Shawn Hill, SBW OAM Jim Gregory, CWI
11:15 AM	Action Item Review and Meeting Wrap-up	Steve Schneider
11:30 AM	Lunch (if touring SBW) or Depart	
11:30 PM	Executive Board Closed Session and working lunch	Jay Rhoderick
1:00 PM	Assemble at Willow Creek Building for travel to SBW facility	Joel Case, ID
2:00 PM	Arrive SBW Facility	Shawn Hill, Operations Activity Manager (OAM)
2:15 PM	Overview and Safety Brief	Shawn Hill
2:30 PM	Tour SBW Facility	Shawn Hill
4:00 PM	Return to Idaho Falls	Joel Case
5:00 PM	Arrive Willow Creek Building	
6:00 PM	Social Time (optional) (Idaho Brewing Company – 775 S. Capital Ave.)	No Host – Cash only