

EM SSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
June 18, 2013

Participants

<i>Board</i>	<i>Chairs/Representatives</i>	<i>Site Staff</i>
Hanford	Steve Hudson, Susan Leckband	Shelley Cimon, Kim Ballinger, Sharon Braswell, Michael Turner
Idaho	Herb Bohrer, Harry Griffith,	Peggy Hinman
Nevada	Kathleen Bienenstein	Barbara Ulmer
Northern New Mexico	Carlos Valdez	Lee Bishop, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	David Martin, David Hemelright	Melyssa Noe, Spencer Gross, Pete Osborne, Dave Adler
Paducah		Buz Smith, Eric Roberts
Portsmouth	Will Henderson	Greg Simonton, Julie Galloway, Rick Greene, Martha Crosby
Savannah River	Donald Bridges, Harold Simon	Gerri Flemming, Ashley Whitaker

DOE-HQ Representatives

EM-3.2	Cate Alexander, Michelle Hudson, Kristen Ellis, Elizabeth Schmitt, Sayoh Mansaray
EM-30	Frank Marcinowski
EM-60	Terry Tyborowski

Opening Remarks

Ms. Cate Alexander, Designated Federal Officer for the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), called the meeting to order.

Waste Disposition Update

Mr. Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Waste Management (EM-30), provided an update on the current priorities of the program.

Mr. Marcinowski explained that earlier this year there had been concerns about budget constraints affecting the framework agreement for the movement of above-ground transuranic waste (TRU) from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). However, EM was able to reprogram additional funding to keep the shipments on track. EM now expects to meet the June 2014 milestone for removing the agreed-to 3706 cubic meters of TRU waste from LANL.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, TRU is being moved from Idaho and the Savannah River Site (SRS). At SRS, EM is hoping to complete the legacy TRU program by the end of the calendar year. There were financial concerns, but EM was able to find additional funding to continue shipping the legacy TRU waste.

Idaho is the backbone of the TRU program, in terms of preparing the majority of TRU waste for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Issues with the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) have been addressed and the operations are improving.

EM had to discontinue work on the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) at the Idaho site due to sequestration reductions. Mr. Jim Cooper, Deputy Manager for the Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office, reported that this work will resume in the fall of 2013, and that ARP retrievals will resume operations by the end of 2013.

The Uranium-233 (U-233) at Building 3019 at Oak Ridge is almost ready to be shipped off site. EM is in discussion with the state of Nevada about starting the shipments to the NNSA.

Carlsbad characterization resources are planned to be sent to OR at the beginning of FY 2014; OR will begin shipping TRU waste during the year. There are some funding challenges with preparation of the waste for shipment, but EM is working to address these.

When the transport of legacy TRU waste from SRS is completed, the dispositioning of excess plutonium (Pu) from the site is planned to continue, and shipments of downblended Pu will resume.

Mr. Don Bridges, Chair of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), asked if shipping TRU waste from SRS in FY 2014 is part of a milestone or a firm commitment.

Mr. Marcinowski responded that it is not an enforceable milestone. The TRU waste is ready for shipment, but it was necessary to wait until Carlsbad resources were available to complete the characterization and certification of the waste before it could be shipped offsite. There also was a delay in obtaining the TRU-PAC III containers. All six containers have now been received.

DOE hopes to finalize the Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by summer 2013. Recently, Congressman Steve Pearce (R-NM) introduced legislation on the GTCC issue, and it has passed out of committee as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. If enacted, the legislation will address the West Valley TRU waste and the smaller quantities of DOE-owned non-defense TRU waste inventory that remain throughout the complex, as well as sealed sources from LANL.

The Moab project continues to move forward. On June 17, 2013, the project met a milestone of 6 million cubic feet moved to Crescent Junction.

The first federal low-level waste (LLW) was disposed recently at Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS); it was waste shipped from LANL. It originated from the waste managed as TRU that was characterized as LLW. This work was part of the framework agreement and the 3706 TRU Waste Campaign.

Progress has been made with the Hanford TRU tanks. In early April 2013, DOE submitted a Class 2 permit modification to the state of New Mexico. In order for the permit to be granted, the waste must be classified as TRU. DOE is currently working on documenting that the waste is not HLW, and thus can be disposed of as TRU. It will take a couple of years to begin removing waste from the tanks and processing it for shipment.

Carlos Valdez, Chair of the Northern New Mexico CAB (NNMCAB), stated that the LANL framework agreement is a high priority for the coming year. He also asked about the status of funds being reprogrammed from NNSA.

Ms. Terry Tyborowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for the Office of Program Planning and Budget (EM-60), responded that \$19 million in reprogrammed funds should be at LANL already, or arriving at any moment.

Susan Leckband, Vice Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), noted that the HAB is concerned about the long-term program for TRU waste, as well as the ability and capacity of WIPP to receive Hanford's remote-handled (RH) and contact-handled (CH) TRU waste.

Mr. Marcinowski responded that the current configuration for WIPP is to put RH waste into the walls of the facility and to backfill with CH waste, although there are alternative plans for dealing with the RH waste. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state of New Mexico have approved the use of shielded containers. This would give DOE the ability to put the RH waste into shielded containers and stack the containers on the floor, similar to how the CH waste has been handled. There is also discussion about dedicating an entire room to RH waste. DOE is looking at other configurations, but Mr. Marcinowski is confident that WIPP will be able to accommodate the waste from Hanford.

Budget Update

Ms. Tyborowski, DAS for Program Planning and Budget, provided a budget update.

The House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations marked up the FY 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill on June 18, 2013. EM received a 2.4% reduction.

The House Defense Authorization Committee marked up its bill for defense appropriations. This bill does not contain the D&D or the nondefense fund. EM's request was for \$4.85 billion, and the markup was \$4.958 billion, which includes the following allotments:

- An increase of \$95 million for the liquid tank waste program at SRS
- A \$10 million increase for the technology development program
- \$92 million in support of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF)
- A single control point at \$690 million for the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP)

These figures give EM a sense of Congressional intent, not actual dollars, but given the current financial constraints, the numbers are a good indication that Congress supports the EM program.

At the subcommittee level, \$5.489 billion total was allocated for the EM program, which is \$132 million less than EM's request of \$5.621 billion. The amount allotted is a 2% drop in the Defense Appropriation, which is approximately a \$104 million reduction.

Given that the House breaks during August, resuming its session in September and that FY 2014 begins on October 1, it is unlikely that the appropriations bills will pass both the House and the Senate and be signed by the president in time for the start of new FY.

Consequently, DOE will most likely be working from a Continuing Resolution (CR) at the start of FY 2014. The House marks are important because they can affect the funding level of the CR. The Executive Branch usually allots the agency the lower amount of the House markup, Senate number, previously enacted level or budget request. The House amount tends to be the lowest figure and could be the base from which DOE's funding is derived.

The Senate will mark up the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill soon. The Senate's allocation for federal agencies is usually higher than the House's marks.

The duration of the CR will probably be one quarter of the fiscal year, at least to start; its framework will evolve over the next couple of months. Ms. Tyborowski stated that she does not know the EM enacted level on which the CR would be based. EM's sequestration level is \$5.2 billion, which is lower than the CR amount of \$5.6 billion last year.

EM is currently working with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) on the FY 2015 budget request. The CFO is compiling information from all of the DOE programs for the Secretary of Energy. EM is working with the sites and staff at headquarters (HQ) to create the budget and is hoping to present the budget to the Secretary in early July 2013. The final budget document will go to the Office of Management and Budget in early September 2013.

Mr. Bridges asked about the markup in the defense appropriation for SRS. Ms. Tyborowski explained that EM only received numbers for the account level, not site allocations. The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill was released without an accompanying report. The report will be made available to the public when the bill goes to the full committee for markup.

Mr. Bridges asked if \$5.489 billion will be the controlling number for the budget. Ms. Tyborowski responded that there are 31 control points, and that SRS has five or six. The budget number depends on these control points.

Ms. Alexander asked Ms. Tyborowski to explain how control points work. Ms. Tyborowski explained that there are 31 account areas or control points for EM. EM can move money within these 31 control points, but cannot take it out and move it elsewhere to fund work in other control points. For example, SRS has the control points for liquid waste operations, nuclear materials, line items for the SWPF, and community and regulatory activities. Sites cannot move money between account areas without obtaining authority to reprogram.

EM SSAB Chairs' Round Robin

Idaho Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) - Herb Bohrer

- The CAB held a meeting and conducted a site tour last week. The tour went through facilities at the Waste Management complex, including the Advanced Mixed Waste Process Plant. The CAB members were satisfied that operations seem to be going well. The CAB feels that startup issues regarding advanced mix waste (contract turnover, etc.) have been resolved.
- The CAB is interested in greater communication with the public to provide information about the board and facilitate interest in serving on the CAB. The board formed a subcommittee to discuss the creation of a newsletter. At the next CAB meeting in September, the board will begin thinking about the implementation of the newsletter.
- The CAB is working on a Dashboard, which is a color-coded, quick indicator of how a program is running. The CAB would like to be able to give constituents a short answer on the status of site operations. The board is discussing three or four topics that would be appropriate to include on the Dashboard. The CAB will take the next steps at its September meeting.

- The INL CAB usually meets every three months, but at the last meeting the board decided to reduce the number of meetings to three per year. The meeting in June will be followed by a meeting in September.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) - Steve Hudson

- Due to budget constraints, the HAB did not hold an April meeting. The June meeting was quite productive. Five pieces of advice were adopted and the sixth was sent back to committee for consideration. Between the February and June meetings, there were calls between the members and committee meetings. Members have been more involved in topics and drafts of advice. There is also a stronger sense of public involvement than in the past due to increased communication with constituents. The issue managers, who are responsible for guiding the pieces of advice through board meetings, had time to review and refine the method for how issues are raised. This has been a successful process. The budget has limited the HAB's usual events, such as a site meeting, which gives members an opportunity to speak to decision-makers. The board will have the site meeting in the fall and is trying to refine the process despite budget constraints.
- The HAB is looking forward to hosting the Spring Chairs' meeting and planning the Hanford site tour for April 2014.

Ms. Alexander stated that there are many considerations concerning the frequency of board meetings. Frequency is determined by board managers at DOE-EM with board input. The EMSSAB Charter calls for approximately 6-12 meetings per year. Downsides to having fewer meetings, including loss of continuity, lower levels of member engagement, and deliberations that could migrate offline, which is contrary to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to deliberate board recommendations in public meetings.

Nevada SSAB- Kathleen Bienenstein

- There will be no membership drive this fiscal year.
- The board is working on a path forward for a student liaison position.
- In June, two board members attended the Waste Acceptance Review Panel meeting.
- In July, two board members will attend the Community Environmental Monitoring Program workshop.
- The board has had several meetings with the public to discuss OR's U-233 coming to Nevada.

Northern New Mexico (NNM) CAB - Carlos Valdez

- The CAB recently drafted a couple of recommendations.
- The board has about 18 members. A membership package will be submitted in the fall.
- The CAB toured the Buckman Diversion Project in Santa Fe, and has plans to tour WIPP.
- The CAB had a public comment session about mercury storage in Albuquerque.
- Mr. Valdez suggested that HQ consider videotaping the Chairs' meetings so that members not in attendance will be able to view them.

Oak Ridge SSAB - David Martin

- Ongoing discussions on groundwater involve DOE, EPA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. A board consultant from the U.S. Geological Survey is sitting in on the portions concerning short-term groundwater issues and reporting back to the board.

- D&D work on the last sections of the K-25 building is underway. The work is scheduled for completion in July 2014.
- Senator Lamar Alexander has given thoughts on mercury removal. There is a request for the creation of a new waste treatment facility to service water at the Y-12 National Security Complex.
- As of July 1st, David Hemelright will be Acting Chair until board elections are held in September 2013. There will be a new slate of executive committee members by October 1st.
- The board has two new student members and four new members. There are 22 voting members.
- Four recommendations have been completed, including:
 - A recommendation regarding the FY 2015 budget
 - A recommendation regarding legacy waste and the path forward. State legislators requested that the board look at this issue.
- The Advocate Magazine is coming out on July 1st, and will be posted on the board's website. The board is lowering costs by reducing the number of hard copies.
- The board is reviewing the Reservation Environmental Review, with the goal of conveying comments in a letter, as opposed to a formal recommendation.

Paducah CAB - Ben Peterson

- The CAB and the community are dealing with the United States Enrichment Corporation shutting down the Gaseous Diffusion Plant and transitioning the plant back to DOE. The CAB is working with the community to speak to DOE as one voice moving forward.
- The CAB is working on six different recommendations.

Portsmouth SSAB - Greg Simonton

- In May, the board passed a recommendation expressing conditional support of on-site waste disposition. The board submitted a Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) document on waste disposition that reflects the involvement of the SSAB as one of the options being explored.
- The board is working on two more recommendations:
 - A recommendation regarding the creation of a mobile historic display of the site that would display artifacts from the early part of the D&D process.
 - A recommendation that calls for a comprehensive land use plan to be developed as the site transitions into full scale D&D. The board is moving it forward in draft form and will adopt it next month.
- The board is becoming more active in public outreach and community involvement, especially with students. This is the third year students from a local high school have helped write the annual site environmental report. Also, the Science Alliance is taking place on October 1-3, 2013. Public tours have begun and are full until September.

Savannah River Site CAB – Don Bridges

- The EMAB meeting took place at SRS in June. The meeting went well and SRS board members had good interactions with EMAB members.
- The board is focusing on public involvement by setting up meetings and presentations for civic groups, and by inviting people of diverse views to present at its meetings.

Follow-up discussion to the EM SSAB Chairs' April 25, 2014, webinar on proposed recommendations

Three topics were proposed during the spring Chairs Webinar:

1. A possible recommendation on graphic depiction of complex-wide waste disposition pathways
The following officers agreed to work on the proposal: Stephen Hudson and Susan Leckband (HAB), Donna Hruska (Nevada SSAB)

- Ms. Leckband said will start a framework for the recommendation and send it to members for consideration.

2. Nickel Recycling

The following officers agreed to work on the proposal: Kathleen Bienenstein (Nevada SSAB), Ralph Young and Ben Peterson (Paducah CAB), David Martin and David Hemelright (ORSSAB), Will Henderson (Portsmouth SSAB)

- Mr. Martin reported that an ORSSAB committee is evaluating how to pursue this issue. Mr. Greg Simonton said that Portsmouth has an interest in nickel recycling due to the large volume of nickel in the process equipment at the site. Previously, the board passed a recommendation proposing that Portsmouth becoming a center for nickel recycling. The Portsmouth SSAB would like to be involved in this issue on a national level.

3. EM SSAB Workplan Recommendation

-Kathleen Bienenstein and Donna Hruska (Nevada SSAB)

- The Nevada SSAB decided to pull the item from consideration at this time.

Fall Chairs' Meeting Overview and Creation of Planning Committee

- Eric Roberts gave details about the fall meeting:
 - The meeting will be October 15-17, 2013, with a site tour on the 15th and the meeting held on the 16th and 17th.
 - The meeting will be held at the Deer Creek State Park in Mt. Sterling, Ohio, which is 40 minutes outside of Columbus.
 - Online registration information will be distributed soon.

Ms. Alexander mentioned that a planning committee needs to be formed, so that work can begin within the next few weeks. Ms Leckband and Mr. Hudson volunteered to work on the agenda, along with Martha Crosby and Sharon Manson from the Portsmouth board.

Harold Simon, Vice Chair of the SRS CAB, asked whether there has been a revision to the Chairs' Meeting schedule. Ms. Alexander responded that every site will be hosting a meeting six months later than previously planned, due to the Spring Chairs' Webinar. She mentioned that HQ supports face-to-face meetings.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Alexander thanked the participants for their time and adjourned the meeting at 4:21 pm EDT.