

EM SSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
August 27, 2013

Participants

Board	Chairs/Representatives	Site Staff
Hanford	Steve Hudson, Susan Leckband	Kim Ballinger, Michael Turner
Idaho	Herb Bohrer	Peggy Hinman
Nevada	Donna Hruska	Kelly Snyder, Barbara Ulmer
Northern New Mexico	Carlos Valdez	Lee Bishop, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	David Hemelright	Melyssa Noe, Spencer Gross, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Ralph Young	Buz Smith, Eric Roberts
Portsmouth		Greg Simonton, Julie Galloway
Savannah River	Donald Bridges	Gerri Flemming, Ashley Whitaker

DOE-HQ Representatives

EM-3.2	Cate Alexander, Michelle Hudson, Elizabeth Schmitt, Alexandra Gilliland Sayoh Mansaray
EM-30	Doug Tonkay
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.

Budget Update

Ms. Terry Tyborowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget, provided a brief budget update. Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 begins on October 1, 2013 and as of yet there are no agency appropriations numbers for FY14. Congress is back in session on September 9, 2013, but does not have sufficient time to determine the appropriations for all of the federal government. As a result, a Continuing Resolution (CR) will most likely be put into effect at the start of FY14.

The debt ceiling is the amount of money the government can borrow in order to pay off its financial liabilities. As of mid-October, the government will no longer be able to continue borrowing and will need an increase in the debt ceiling. Without this extension, there will be a budget stalemate for the upcoming year.

Ms. Tyborowski has had no guidance from the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), but she believes there will be a short-term CR that will be drafted in September and go into effect on October 1, keeping the government running for a couple of weeks. During this time Congress and the administration will most likely be brokering a deal on the debt limit.

Ms. Tyborowski believes that Congress will then draft another short-term CR that will last through December. Following this, Ms. Tyborowski expects a CR to cover the remainder of FY14, taking effect in January.

FY14 budget allocations are dependent on how Congress drafts the CR. There are 31 or 32 control points, which dictate how EM's money is allocated. Based on the CR, Congress may allocate funds based on pre-reprogramming or post-reprogramming. Last year, there were several sites whose funds were reprogrammed in order to revise the allocations. For FY14, Congress may use previously enacted funding levels, EM's requested levels, the House or Senate marks for the previous year, or it may start from scratch and devise an entirely different budget. Congress can also grant anomalies, which are special provisions to address particular program needs within an agency. For example, last year, the National Nuclear Science Agency (NNSA) received an anomaly for the entire program, which allowed them to use their FY13 request without control points. Ms. Tyborowski believes that DOE has asked the OMB for an anomaly for the entire department for FY14. After such a request, the OMB sends it to the Hill for consideration. OMB controls what is sent to the Hill on behalf of the administration.

In summary, Ms. Tyborowski expects a CR on October 1 that will last a couple of weeks, a second CR that lasts through December, and then a full CR through the end of FY 14. There has been a lot of positioning on the debt limit, which will include discussions about funding for FY14. Ms. Tyborowski expects the level of funding for the short-term October CR to be quite low, so some of the sites may be looking at a lower number than they had in FY13. Site managers have been given an indication as to how much their funds are expected to decrease, and those managers are currently preparing to execute at that level, beginning October 1.

Ms. Susan Leckband, Vice Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), asked if the level of the probable second CR could be based on the lowest number of the House and Senate marks. Ms. Tyborowski responded that hopefully Congress will cut the deal in mid-October and then work expeditiously to allocate all of the funds. Hopefully, the lower numbers will not be used, and EM will be at \$5.3B like last year, or better. The worst case scenario could occur if the discussions concerning allocation of funds drag on, and, at the start of the January session, the administration and Congress are still negotiating. In that case, EM would expect to see a lower allocation in January.

Ms. Tyborowski said the FY15 EM budget numbers have been compiled and are being sent to the CFO's office; they will go to OMB on September 9. The budget will be reviewed, and, in October or November, EM should get a passback from the CFO, indicating what EM's budget will look like.

Ms. Alexander informed Ms. Tyborowski that the upcoming EMSSAB Chairs' meeting will be just outside of Portsmouth, Ohio, in October. Ms. Tyborowski is scheduled to speak on October 16.

Waste Disposition Update

Mr. Doug Tonkay, Director of the Office of Disposal Operations, provided a waste disposition update.

Highlights include:

- Transuranic waste (TRU) disposition at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is being carefully monitored. This includes the 3706 TRU Waste Campaign, which consists of above-ground stored TRU waste. The goal is to disposition the 3706 cubic meters by May 2014. LANL expects to disposition 1800 cubic meters by the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Tonkay noted that LANL was the first site to use the new national Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity disposal contract with Waste Control Specialists. LANL is also looking at sending TRU waste in Type B containers to Idaho's Advanced Mixed Waste Facility for treatment.

- Waste continues to be shipped directly to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The facility is operating at capacity with 20 shipments of TRU waste per month. WIPP has received more than 4,500 cubic meters in FY13 shipments from LANL, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Savannah River Site (SRS) and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), and 88,300 cubic meters of packaged waste, cumulatively, from all sites. With continued budget support, shipments will continue.
- Richland and the Office of River Protection (ORP) continue with onsite disposal of waste. Headquarters (HQ) is also looking at the possibility of sending to WIPP TRU waste from the Hanford site that has historically been managed as high-level waste (HLW). The State of New Mexico is considering a proposed Class 3 permit modification for WIPP to accept tank waste, which EM believes should be classified as TRU mixed waste that can be safely disposed at WIPP.
- The Idaho Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) facility is continuing to disposition the legacy waste at the site and is successfully processing organic sludges, which are being shipped to WIPP. The facility is continuing to maintain 8-10 shipments to WIPP per week; a backlog of packaged waste is waiting for shipment when capacity at WIPP is available. Idaho is preparing to resume excavations on the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) in September.
- The Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) project is designed to treat salt-bearing waste. Phase 3 testing has been completed, and there are plans to begin treating the waste by March 2014.
- Nevada continues to function as the regional disposal center for sites that do not have onsite disposal capabilities. About 1 million cubic feet of waste have been disposed there in 2013. Budget constraints most likely will prevent the site from reaching its original forecast of 1.3 million cubic feet of waste during the fiscal year.
- Next week in Las Vegas is the Exchange Monitor's RadWaste Summit meeting, which is an annual commercial conference for Waste Management.
- Alpha-gamma hot cells at ANL are continuing to be cleaned out. The project started with Recovery Act funding, but is now using funds from the Office of Science (SC). ANL is one of prime shippers of remote-handled (RH) TRU waste, and next month the facility will start a pilot program for using new shielded containers. The containers will allow the RH TRU waste to be disposed in a similar method to CH waste.
- Portsmouth is shipping converters from its 326 Building to Nevada. Both Portsmouth and Paducah continue to consider decisions regarding onsite and offsite disposal.
- Oak Ridge (OR) continues to dispose of waste at the Mixed Waste Integrated Program (MWIP) facility. The material stream is U-233-based. The site continues to work with HQ and the State of Nevada to resolve any outstanding issues for moving the material. It will most likely be a few months before those issues are resolved.
- Debris TRU waste is being characterized from legacy TRU waste at OR. The site is preparing for the return of the Carlsbad certification program at the start of FY14.
- SRS is planning to complete the characterization of all legacy TRU waste by October 2013. As the waste is characterized, it must be remediated. SRS has tens of cubic meters of legacy TRU waste remaining, and the waste will be shipped out as WIPP has capacity. SRS is shipping the

waste using TRUPACT III containers. The completion of work has been delayed due to difficulties with boxes containing slab tanks, so the characterization and remediation of the last two boxes will delay the end date.

- West Valley is in the early planning stages of disposal of the melter and two components that recently went through the waste determination process for waste incidental to reprocessing (WIR). If funding is available next year, the site hopes to ship the components for disposition.
- The Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) project plans to start processing tank sludge and begin disposal in September 2013.

Ms. Leckband asked for clarification regarding EM's role in funding the alpha-gamma hot cells work at ANL. Mr. Tonkay responded that the work is no longer funded by EM, and that SC is helping to support the WIPP program by paying for certifying the waste for shipment.

Ms. Leckband asked whether the workers at WIPP have positive views of the Class 3 permit modification request being considered by the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Tonkay responded that the modification was initially submitted as a Class 2, but that the State made it a Class 3 to require more public input. Mr. Tonkay believes people in Carlsbad are supportive. Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz is traveling to New Mexico next week to visit with New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez.

Ms. Leckband asked when the modification would be finalized and when it could be approved.

Mr. Tonkay responded that the formal process will take a minimum of 18 months and, perhaps longer.

Proposed Recommendations

Ms. Alexander reviewed the proposed recommendations submitted for development at the upcoming EM SSAB Chairs' meeting in October. They include:

1. A recommendation submitted by Mr. Carlos Valdez, Chair of the Northern New Mexico CAB (NNMCAB), relating to the budget.
2. A recommendation submitted by Ms. Leckband, proposing a graphic representation of DOE/EM's legacy waste paths to permanent disposal.
3. A recommendation submitted by Mr. Ralph Young, Chair of the Paducah CAB, and drafted by Paducah CAB member Judy Clayton, regarding nickel.

The Chairs should have already received drafts of the first two recommendations, and Ms. Alexander will circulate the third following the conference call.

Mr. David Hemelright, Chair of the Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB), asked whether the recommendation discussed at the Spring Chairs' webinar in April 2013 on nickel was still being discussed or had been pulled. The Chairs had discussed recommending that DOE look at alternative methods of recycling nickel. Ms. Alexander responded that Mr. Will Henderson, Chair of the Portsmouth Site-Specific Board (PORTS SSAB), pulled the recommendation in order for the PORTS SSAB to work on it further, before presenting it again to the Chairs.

Ms. Alexander reiterated that the recommendations may be discussed, but cannot be deliberated on by a local board until the recommendations have been approved by the Chairs at the upcoming October 2013 Chairs' meeting.

Ms. Alexander mentioned that having the three proposed recommendations prior to the Chairs' meeting should give the Chairs a sense of product development requirements for the meeting.

Fall 2013 Chairs' Meeting

The Chairs are scheduled to hold a public meeting October 15-17, 2013 in Mount Sterling, Ohio. Ms. Alexander stated that everyone should have a copy of the latest draft agenda. The agenda format is slightly different from meetings past, with discussion sessions interspersed on Day One, the same day as the site tour.

The first discussion will take place during a working lunch, following the site tour. The tentative plan is to discuss DOE's national recycling policy.

Mr. Greg Simonton of the Portsmouth SSAB stated that the host site plans to have a subject matter expert in asset and recycling address the group in this segment. The board believes there is support for asset transfer and recycling, but there are bureaucratic hurdles that prevent sites from recycling nickel. For example, clean metal from the site cannot be recycled because of its pedigree. If the metal is from a radiological area on the site, it cannot be recycled regardless of how clean it is. There are also prohibitions on volumetrically contaminated material; no matter how clean the metal gets after treatment, it cannot be recycled into the stream of commerce because of the metal's history. Mr. Simonton mentioned that these prohibitions seem unnecessary considering that metals that have been cleaned under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards are made into products and shipped back to the US.

Mr. Simonton said that Portsmouth wants to lay out the issue for discussion, talk about the prohibitions, and discuss what the Portsmouth board has done thus far, and what it will do moving forward, in terms of evaluating the decontamination process of nickel. The board wants to open up this discussion because the board believes that every state has recyclable material based on international and domestic standards. Mr. Eric Roberts of the Portsmouth SSAB will develop a specific agenda

Several of the chairs agreed that this topic is on target for the Chairs' meeting.

Ms. Alexander reminded the Chairs that this session on nickel recycling is not for deliberating the recommendations. Such deliberations need to take place in a publicly announced meeting, and this session has been set aside only for educational and administrative matters. Mr. Simonton said that Mr. Roberts will help to facilitate the discussions after the working lunch, and he asked Mr. Roberts to make certain sure that the discussions did not overstep public deliberation stipulations.

Mr. Don Bridges, Chair of the Savannah River Site CAB (SRS CAB), asked for clarification on the number of recommendations. Ms. Alexander stated that three have been received thus far.

Ms. Alexander stated that the second proposed discussion at the upcoming Chairs' meeting is on community involvement decisions. Ohio University recently completed a future use public involvement project for the Portsmouth site, similar to one that was done in Paducah. The project

engaged broad segments of the community. A speaker from the university will look at the ways DOE received community input, specifically related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Mr. Simonton added that the study collected unbiased views from the community by utilizing different techniques to gather public input and gauge public preferences regarding the future use of the site. This study has been helpful to the Portsmouth site in decision-making.

Ms. Alexander explained that day two of the Chairs' meeting will include an EM Program Update presented by Mr. Dave Huizenga, Senior Advisor for EM. This will be an opportunity for the Chairs to present to Mr. Huizenga key issues that they would like to bring to his attention. Mr. Huizenga will stay for the Chairs' Round Robin, which will give him an opportunity to hear about the accomplishments and activities of each board. Day Two of the meeting also will include recognition of departing chairs, budget and waste disposition updates, a public comment period, and a product development session. The day will end with a networking dinner.

On Day Three, Ms. Alexander will give a short update. There will also be a session focused on property transfer and asset reuse. This session will focus on the transition of property and long-term stewardship responsibilities. These speakers are experts in property transfer processes and case studies.

Ms. Alexander asked whether the Chairs approve of this agenda.

Ms. Leckband approved of the agenda, but questioned the length of time allotted to work on product development. She said that the Chairs must be succinct, and it would be helpful to receive information ahead of time to facilitate discussion.

Ms. Alexander responded that Day Two has a one hour and fifteen minute session allocated for product development and that there is an additional one hour session allotted on day three. She echoed Ms. Leckband's encouragement to look at information carefully before arriving at the meeting, and to come with questions because there will likely to be subject matter expert there to answer their questions.

EM SSAB Chairs Round Robin

Northern New Mexico (NNM) CAB - Carlos Valdez

- TRU waste disposition is on schedule and within budget; it will hopefully be completed by the end of June 2014.
- New Mexico Environment Department Cabinet Secretary Ryan Flynn is visiting the CAB on September 10, 2013, to discuss several topics, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Consent Order and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) capacity.
- On September 25, 2013 a representative from WIPP will attend the CAB meeting and address the board.
- The CAB is gaining three new members in fall 2013.

Oak Ridge SSAB - David Hemelright

- The ORSSAB finished its annual planning meeting; the ORSSAB met with DOE/EM and regulators. The board is looking at methods to address comprehensive groundwater strategies and mercury contamination.
- There are four new members to the ORSSAB.
- The Environmental Management and Stewardship committees were combined because of overlapping work.
- A recommendation on nickel is going to the executive committee tomorrow.
- The board is working on the next Advocate Newsletter which will detail DOE's accomplishments at OR.

Paducah CAB - Ralph Young

- Thus far 100 people have been laid off, out of the projected 1,000, as a result of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC)'s shutdown of enrichment operations at the plant. Citizens are outraged.
- The Community Reuse Organization is in disarray; the director and other members have resigned. The CAB wants to support reorganization of the organization and present a united front to DOE regarding future use of the Paducah site.
- Planning is underway for a retreat in early September 2013. The CAB is supporting this activity, not leading it.
- The CAB is working on sending recommendations to DOE.

Portsmouth SSAB - Greg Simonton

- The executive planning retreat was held recently.
- The board will discuss the draft of its work plan.
- The board has not weighed in much on the budget, but wants to provide more recommendations going forward.
- The number of committees was cut down to four.
- A couple of recommendations went out in July 2013. The regulatory decision-making process is ongoing; therefore, the board cannot respond to the recommendations until the regulatory process catches up.

Savannah River Site CAB – Don Bridges

- The next meeting is in Savannah and will be the first out-of-town meeting since the implementation of budget constraints.
- Recent community outreach included presentations to the Aiken City Council and other organizations.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) - Steve Hudson

- The HAB will have its major fall meeting next week; the board will receive annual updates from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Information from those updates will be used to formulate the HAB's FY14 workplan.
- HAB new member orientation has not been successful in the past, so information and advice from other boards with comprehensive orientation programs would be helpful.

- The HAB's 20th anniversary celebration is coming up.

Ms. Alexander asked if there were any boards that would like to volunteer to share their new member orientation process with Mr. Hudson. Volunteers included:

- Kelly Snyder, DDFO for NSSAB
- Pete Osborne of ORSSAB
- Gerri Fleming of SRS CAB
- Herb Bohrer, Chair of Idaho CAB

Information can be emailed to Mr. Hudson and HAB DDFO Kim Ballinger.

Idaho Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) - Herb Bohrer

- There has been no CAB meeting since the last Chairs' call.
- The CAB is following the progress of the Idaho Cleanup Project's Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU), for which a regulatory milestone has been missed.
- The board is interested in the resumption of waste retrieval and is pleased to see it resume.

Nevada SSAB- Donna Hruska

- Richard Arnold from the Consolidated Groups of Tribes and Organizations (CGTO) has joined the NSSAB as the new tribal liaison.
- There is no membership drive for the NSSAB this year, but the board is seeking a student liaison. Letters have been sent to the principals of 60 local high schools, and applications are expected soon.
- At the August 2013 meeting, the NSSAB provided DOE with a recommendation on ways to enhance the Community Environmental Monitoring program.
- The board will finalize recommendations on the Waste Acceptance Review Panel at the September 2013 meeting.
- The NSSAB will soon be working on the FY14 work plan.
- DOE representatives are touring the Nevada site and holding meetings concerning the U-233 shipments from OR. The CAB will provide a recommendation on this issue to DOE in December 2013.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Alexander thanked the participants for their time and adjourned the meeting at 3:12 pm EDT.