

**EM SSAB CHAIRS**  
**Bi-Monthly Conference Call**  
**1/15/14**

**Chairs/Representatives:**

Hanford	Steve Hudson, Susan Leckband, Kim Ballinger, Sharon Braswell
Idaho	Herb Bohrer, Lori McNamara
Nevada	Kathleen Bienenstein, Donna Hruska, Barbara Ulmer
NNM	Carlos Valdez, Doug Sayre, Lee Bishop, Christina Houston, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	David Hemelright, Bruce Hicks, Melyssa Noe, Spencer Gross, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Ben Peterson, Ralph Young, Buz Smith, Eric Roberts, Jim Ethridge
Portsmouth	Will Henderson, Greg Simonton, Julie Galloway, Rick Greene
Savannah River	Harold Simon, Marolyn Parson, Gerri Flemming, Ashley Whitaker

**DOE representatives:**

EM-3.2	Cate Alexander, David Borak, Michelle Hudson, Elizabeth Schmitt, Alexandra Gilliland, Sayoh Mansaray
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.

Congress recently introduced an omnibus spending bill for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. In the proposed legislation, the Department of Energy (DOE) fared well with a recommended appropriation of \$5.830B for the Office of Environmental Management (EM). That is a \$200M increase over EM's requested FY 2014 amount. The omnibus bill still has to pass the House of Representatives and the Senate before being sent to President Obama for signature. In the meantime, the government is operating under a short-term Continuing Resolution that expires on January 19, 2014.

The delayed passage of a FY 2014 budget has impacted federal agencies' ability to finalize their FY 2015 budget requests. Typically, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) releases information on the federal government's budget request for the upcoming FY in February. Announcement of the FY 2015 request will likely be pushed back until March. Ms. Tyborowski expressed hope that deliberation on the FY 2015 appropriations would wrap up before the end of September, especially given that it is an election year. Either way, the proposed omnibus for FY 2014 and outlook for FY 2015 represent major improvements over the fiscal uncertainty EM sites have experienced in the past year.

## **Discussion of Recommendations from the November 2013 Chairs Meeting**

The Chairs discussed the status of three proposed recommendations resulting that were developed at the November 2013 Chairs' Meeting in Ohio:

- Recommendation 2014-01: Funding for Cleanup
- Recommendation 2014-02: Graphic Representation of Waste Disposition Paths
- Recommendation 2014-03: Metals Recycling

Recommendations 2014-01 and 2014-02 were approved unanimously by the local boards and will be formally submitted to Dave Huizenga, Senior Advisor for EM, for consideration. Recommendation 2014-03 was approved by every local board except the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB). Ms. Alexander invited Mr. Steve Hudson, Chair of the HAB, to comment on why the HAB did not approve 2014-03.

Mr. Hudson explained that the HAB was divided on the metals recycling recommendation. There were concerns voiced by board members who had previously participated in supporting the recycling moratorium. These members thought the recycling expectations were unrealistic, and that properties must be disposed of before remediation begins. Some members thought the recommendation was overly broad, while others wanted more public involvement before the decision about the recommendation was made. Others believe that higher recycling standards were less protective than state and federal standards, and that the recommendation called for weaker standards. When the board voted, it was divided in half. Yet, many members expressed hope that this topic will be added to the agenda for the upcoming Chairs' meeting for further discussion.

Ms. Alexander noted that the metal recycling recommendation could still go forward on behalf of the other seven local boards, and asked the Chair of each site to put forth a vote on this issue. All seven remaining Chairs agreed that the metal recycling recommendation should go forward without the signature of the HAB Chair.

Ms. Alexander reported that a draft recommendation titled "EM SSAB CHAIRS Recommendation on Capitalizing on EM Successes" had been submitted for consideration at the April 2014 Chairs' Meeting. Boards are welcome to provide thoughts on the recommendation from their members and discuss the concept, but the recommendation should not be deliberated on because it is not yet a formal recommendation.

Ms. Susan Leckband, Vice Chair of the HAB, asked if it was appropriate for members that have questions or suggestions on the recommendation to send them directly to the person who developed the recommendation. Ms. Alexander responded that it is fine to ask questions, and it might be beneficial to share those questions or suggestions with the Board. Members must make certain that they are only sharing information and not deliberating on the recommendation outside of a public forum.

## **Spring Chairs Meeting**

Kim Ballinger, Federal Coordinator for the HAB, gave a brief update on plans for the EM SSAB Chairs' spring meeting. The meeting will be held on April 23-24, 2014, in Richland, WA, preceded by a tour of the Hanford site on April 22. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a networking event on the evening of April 23. The proposed event is a boat tour of the Columbia River with dinner, to be paid for individually. More information will be made available on the Chairs' meeting registration website.

Mr. Hudson noted that one of the high points of the Fall 2013 Chairs Meeting in Ohio was the addition of the more narrowly focused educational sessions, because they were informative and well-structured. He said that if members had topics they want to see in that format, they could send those suggestions to him or Ms. Ballinger.

Volunteers for the Chairs' meeting planning committee are still needed. Lori McNamara, Ms. Donna Hruska, Vice Chair of the Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB), Mr. Hudson, Ms. Leckband, and Herb Bohrer, Chair of the Idaho Citizens Advisory Board all volunteered. Ms. Alexander noted that additional volunteers could join later, and mentioned that there would be a planning call in the near future.

### **Round Robin**

#### **Paducah CAB, Ben Peterson**

- Employment numbers are declining. The board is watching budget numbers and hoping more employees will be able to get back to work.

#### **Portsmouth SSAB, Will Henderson**

- Fourteen members are coming off the board in the next two years. The board is working to bring civic organizations onto the Portsmouth site, and give tours and briefings about the PORTS SSAB to encourage interest.
- The board recently held Committee meetings and came up with a possible educational session topic regarding property transfer and the finalization of the 770 transfer process rule, which was made final at the end of 2013. The Energy Communities Alliance had some questions on the process.

#### **SRS CAB, Marolyn Parson**

- The SRS CAB is hopeful about the budget. The treatment and closing of the high level waste in underground storage tanks is of tremendous concern to citizens because of the possibility that deadlines would be pushed farther out.
- Citizens are concerned about the lack of environmental monitoring at SRS by the state of Georgia. A draft recommendation went forward at the January 2014 meeting. The board would like an official response from DOE.
- The new budget is affecting contractors at the site.

#### **HAB, Steve Hudson**

- The board is focusing on the Waste Treatment Plant, groundwater and leaking tanks.
- Three helpful documents that the board read:

- Hanford Moniz Report: The HAB had concerns with the document, but discussions were productive.
- Annual Hanford Site Groundwater Monitoring report for 2012 (available at [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov)): an interactive report that is well done and provides good information, charts and graphs.
- Update on H Tank Farm from DOE Office of River Protection: a lot of information, including discussion on complexities of problems associated with tanks.

#### **Idaho CAB, Herb Bohrer**

- Radioactive Waste Management Complex just started its largest retrieval in the last week, which will help meet a milestone.
- The Idaho Waste Treatment Unit is continuing operations.
- The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Unit is working on retrieving waste. There was a small fire and equipment issues.

#### **Nevada SSAB, Kathleen Bienenstein**

- There will be a tour of the site in one week
- There will be a membership committee meeting on January 27, 2014. The board wants to increase membership from the rural community.
- The board's student liason is developing a project for use in other schools

#### **NNMCAB, Carlos Valdez**

- The board has 23 members and is losing one in spring 2014.
- The student interns are spreading interest in the board.
- The 3706 Transuranic (TRU) Waste Campaign might be finishing one month early, at the end of May 2014 instead of at the end of June 2014. The board is looking forward to sitting down with the regulatory agency to come up with a framework agreement for what to focus on next.
- The city of Santa Fe approved a resolution to clean up all of Area-G.

#### **Oak Ridge SSAB (ORSSAB), Dave Hemelright**

- ORSSAB resumed regular meetings in January 2014 after taking December off.
- DOE-OR reached a milestone, which was the demolition of the last section of the K-25 building. Demolition has been ongoing since 2008. The debris that is covering a slab will be transferred offsite for disposal. UCOR, the contractor, completed the demolition of K-25 ahead of schedule and under budget.
- The board distributed the recent Advocate Newsletter.
- Several members of the board are going on a Nevada National Security Site and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) tour.
- The board is transitioning its website to the OR office website.

Ms. Donna Hruska asked Mr. Valdez about student interns. Mr. Valdez said that they are three high school seniors who attend board meetings and take notes.

Ms. Leckband asked Mr. Bohrer about the retrieval of radioactive waste. Mr. Bohrer said it is solid waste that came from Rocky Flats, and will be certified and sent to WIPP for disposal.

Ms. Alexander adjourned the call at 3:52 pm EDT.