U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Site-Specific Advisory Board: Celebrating 20 Years of Community Involvement

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September 18, 2014

What is the EM SSAB?

- Chartered under FACA to provide input regarding the cleanup of Cold War legacy sites in the U.S.
- Comprised of as many as 11 local boards at one time.
- Eight active local boards, in close proximity to a major DOE cleanup site.
- Members contribute diverse views to provide advice concerning environmental, restoration, waste management, technology development, and budget priorities.

Federal Advisory Committee Act

- There are ~45,000 members of ~900 federal advisory committees
- Goals to enhance public accountability and establish management controls to reduce wasteful expenditures.
- Principles:
  - Balanced Membership
  - Independent Advice
  - Openness
  - Public Records

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM SSAB History

October 1989
DOE creates the Office of Environmental Restoration; which later becomes the Office of Environmental Management

1992
DOE joins Keystone Center federal dialogue to discuss citizen involvement with cleanup issues

February 1993
Keystone Center Issues an Interim Report recommending the creation of SSABs as a way to involve stakeholders more directly

1993-1994
Local advisory boards are established in response to Keystone dialogue. (Fernald, Hanford, Savannah River Site, Idaho, and Rocky Flats)

May 1994
EM SSAB charter is approved under FACA; existing boards are brought under the new EM SSAB charter.

June 1994
The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for the Nevada Test Site Programs is established; name is later changed to Nevada SSAB.

1995
Los Alamos, Oak Ridge and Sandia SSABs are established

1996
Paducah CAB is established

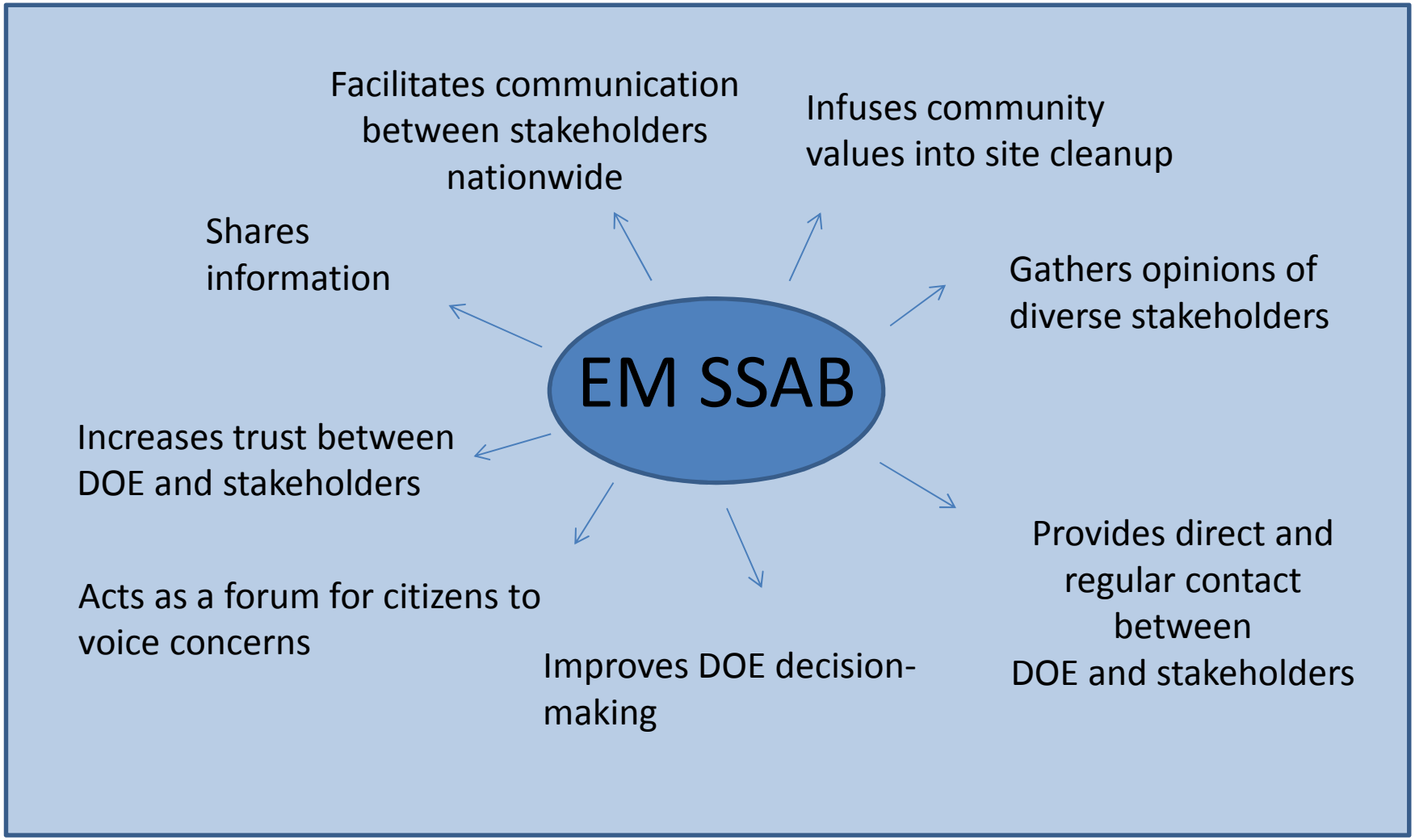
1997
The Los Alamos CAB is disbanded and reformed as the Northern New Mexico CAB

2000
The Sandia SSAB is disbanded as a result of a decreased workload

2006
Fernald CAB and Rocky Flats CAB are disbanded after the completion of EM's mission at both sites.

July 2008
The Portsmouth SSAB is established.

The Value of the EM SSAB



Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

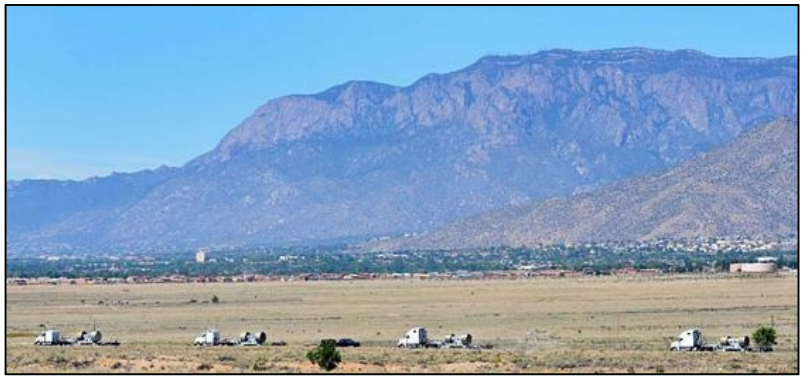
- Originally known as the Fernald Citizens Task Force.
- Found creative and interactive ways to educate members using *FutureSite*.
- Developed a “balanced approach” to site cleanup.
- Received 1999 Outstanding Organization of the Year Award from the International Association of Public Participation.
- Recognized for the “The Future of Fernald” workshops and contributions to establishing the Fernald Preserve.

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

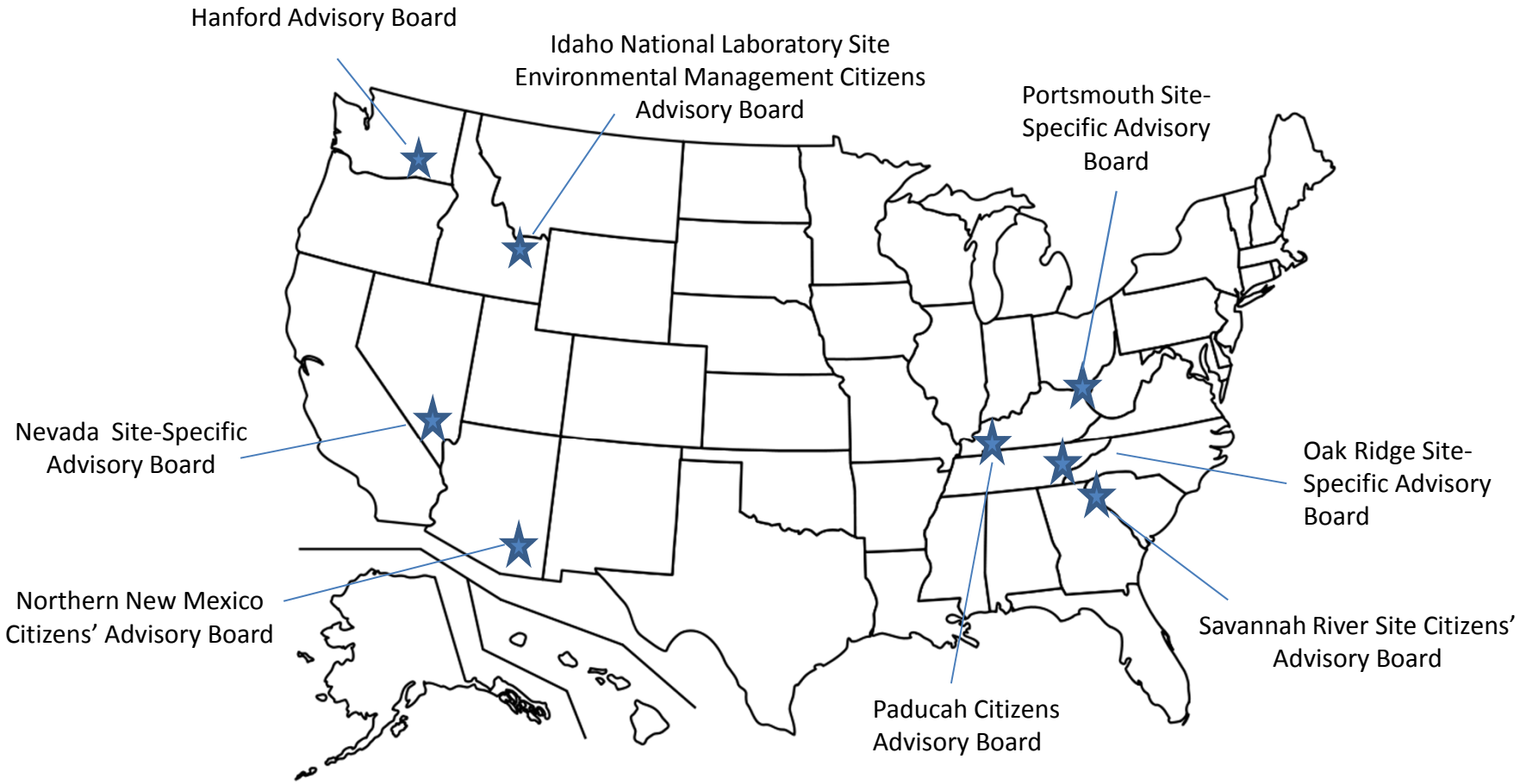
- Board produced a total of 117 consensus recommendations.
- Diversity of members allowed recommendations to have a greater impact.
- Recommendations: community values that should be incorporated into the cleanup agreement, an independent entity to review soil cleanup levels, ideas for the *DOE Ten Year Plan*, and long-term stewardship plans.
- EM completed its work at the site in 2006.
- A portion of the site is now operated as a national wildlife refuged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge System.

Sandia Site-Specific Advisory Board

- Established in May 1995
- Approved recommendations on Air Force base land use.
- Collaborated on recommendation on strategy to create an on-site storage, treatment and permanent containment facility for Environmental Restoration - generated wastes.
- DOE ceased board funding at the end of FY 2000 due to a decreased workload that was reflective of the transition to complete the Sandia Environmental Restoration Project.
- The Board advised DOE on a public participation approach that would work in the stewardship years.
- Public participation transitioned from SSAB to a Long-Term Stewardship Community Working Group.



EM SSAB TODAY



Looking Forward