

EM SSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call

Thursday, May 7, 2009
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Participants

Chairs/Representatives:

Idaho	R.D. Maynard, Ceri Chapple
Nevada	Walter Wegst, Kelly Snyder, Denise Rupp
NNM	J.D. Campbell, Ralph Phelps, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	Pete Osborne
Paducah	Bobby Ann Lee, Judy Clayton, Buz Smith, Eric Roberts, Suzanne Clinton
Portsmouth	Richard Snyder, David Kozlowski, Greg Simonton
Richland/Hanford	Susan Leckband, Shelley Cimon
Savannah River	Ranowul Jzar, Gerri Flemming, Mindy Mets

DOE representatives:

EM-13	Melissa Nielson, Cate Brennan, Michelle Hudson
EM-3	John Mocknick
EM-12	Christine Gelles
EM-20	Mark Gilbertson
EM-30	Merle Sykes

Opening Remarks

Ms. Cate Brennan welcomed participants to the call and reviewed the afternoon's agenda.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update

Mr. John Mocknick from the Environmental Management (EM) Recovery Act Program Office provided participants with an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) activities. There is a nine-person team at EM Headquarters (HQ) working on ARRA planning and visiting the sites to assess individual needs. The team has already visited the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Site, Savannah River Site (SRS) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to make sure that each is receiving systems and process support.

When the ARRA funding became available, EM was able to pull work from the shelf that had previously been deferred. The EM ARRA work scope includes soil and groundwater remediation, excess facility deactivation and decommissioning (D&D), and transuranic (TRU), low-level and mixed low-level waste (LLW and MLLW) disposition. Projects that were considered eligible for the stimulus funds had validated baseline costs, previously negotiated regulatory agreements, readily available contract vehicles, and proven

technologies; essentially, they were “shovel-ready.” Additional principles taken into consideration for the stimulus funding included footprint reduction, lifecycle cost reduction, and the opportunity to create jobs and train people as quickly as possible.

EM received \$6 billion in ARRA funding. The objective has been to get the money from EM-HQ out to 17 sites in 12 states. Outreach associated with ARRA includes numerous job fairs and recruitment activities. Mr. Mocknick did not have an official number for the jobs created to date, but noted that he had heard of many success stories at sites such as the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and SRS.

To ensure successful project management, EM-HQ directed sites to complete a 20-point checklist in order to obtain ARRA funding. Site managers and chief financial officers on both the contractor and federal side were asked to verify that contracting, business, and project management oversight systems were in place. Sites were also asked to ensure that funding for ARRA activities is kept separate from the EM base budget for Fiscal Years (FY) 2009, 2010 and 2011.

EM will track and report on ARRA activities through IPABS, the program’s financial and accounting system. EM has also added a page to its Web site for ARRA funding that will receive feeds directly from the reporting system. EM hopes the direct feed will create clarity with regard to metrics, costs, and the scope of the work being done.

Further information on EM’s ARRA projects and employment opportunities can be obtained by visiting www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery or contacting the Recovery Act Program Office at emrecovery@em.doe.gov or 202-586-2083. Each of the field sites is also launching its own Web site that lists local recovery efforts and available positions.

Mr. Ralph Phelps, vice chair of the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB), opined that the way the jobs were being publicized seemed reactive rather than proactive. He asked if there was anything that the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) could do to encourage the contractors to reach out to the community and make use of the local resources.

Mr. Mocknick cited a job fair that had taken place in Richland, WA and at SRS, where thousands of people showed up for interviews on the spot, and some were even hired that day.

Ms. Susan Leckband, chair of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), concurred that thousands of people attended the two large job fairs at Hanford and that the contractors advertised outside of the Tri-Cities area to encourage people in the larger surrounding communities to attend.

Mr. Mocknick noted that the work that EM is doing with the ARRA funding requires people be trained in four to six weeks rather than months.

Engineering and Technology Update

Mr. Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Engineering and Technology (EM-20), reported that his office is in the final stages of organizing a technical exchange meeting in Denver, CO, on May 19-21. This will be the seventh annual technical exchange meeting and will bring operators, engineers, scientists, and stakeholders together from across the complex to facilitate information sharing and lessons learned, associated with tank and waste-processing operations. Additional topics to be discussed include waste retrieval and closure, waste form development, pre-treatment, facility readiness and start-up, regulatory activities and performance, and waste storage and tank farm operations improvement. More information on the technical exchange, including a full agenda, is available online at http://srnl.doe.gov/owp_techex09. EM SSAB members were also encouraged to tune in to the webcast of the exchange at http://srnl.doe.gov/owp_techex09/denver_webcast/webcast_login.htm.

EM-20 has continued to execute external technical reviews. These reviews focus on the landfill and uranium-233 project at Oak Ridge, K Basin and sludge treatment processes at Hanford, systems planning and salt waste processing at SRS, and the planning stages for the groundwater review at LANL. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.em.doe.gov/EM20Pages/EM20ReferencePage.aspx#independent> .

On April 23-24, the Energy Communities Alliance hosted the Energy Parks Peer Exchange in Las Vegas, NV. Mr. Gilbertson encouraged those interested in tracking and following the status of the Energy Park Initiative to visit the Energy Communities Alliance's Web site at <http://www.energyca.org/meetings.htm> in order to view the meeting materials and presentations.

Ms. Leckband noted that the DOE and the HAB will co-sponsor a two-day technology workshop at Washington State University on June 9 to review current technologies at the Hanford site and lessons learned. The workshop will feature speakers from DOE HQ (including a representative from EM-20), the Richland Operations Office, and the Office of River Protection.

Ms. Shelley Cimon from the HAB noted her request to Dr. Inés Triay, Acting Assistant Secretary for EM, regarding the development of a chart or diagram that depicts the relationships and interactions between the EM complex and DOE national laboratories.

Mr. Gilbertson offered to speak with interested EM SSAB members separately regarding the work of the national laboratories and any interactions at their particular sites.

Ms. Melissa Nielson indicated that requests regarding a teleconference between EM-20 and the EM SSAB on groundwater remediation should be forwarded to either Ms. Brennan or Ms. Michelle Hudson.

Waste Disposition Strategies Update

Ms. Christine Gelles, Director for the Office of Disposal Operations (EM-12), provided an update on EM's waste disposition activities.

Ms. Gelles reported that with regard to LLW and MLLW, EM continues to progress toward the FY 2009 closure of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Incinerator in Oak Ridge. EM recently received the last off-site waste shipment and has been working with the regulator in Tennessee to obtain the approvals necessary to initiate RCRA closure. Mr. Frank Marcinowski, DAS for Regulatory Compliance, will send out a letter authorizing RCRA closure in the near future, and the TSCA incinerator will cease all activity by the end of FY 2009.

There has been progress on the commercial side with developing alternative treatments for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) mixed waste. Waste has been received from at least two EM sites and is now being prepared for treatment.

With regard to LLW disposal issues, the annual generators meeting was held at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) last week. Due to ARRA funding, many of the solid-waste disposition projects that could not be funded within the appropriations target profiles are able to proceed. The result is an increased volume of waste that will require both treatment and off-site disposal. There will likely be an update to the Waste Information Management System, but it will take place later this year, when more detailed project plans are provided from the contractors that received ARRA funding.

EM-12 is making excellent progress on the complex-wide treatment contract. EM-12 published a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) in early 2009 and received a number of comments from potential bidders. The RFP has been revised and is in the final business clearance process. EM-12 hopes to begin awarding the work by December 2009.

Progress has also been made in resolving the land withdrawal issue with the State of Nevada. EM has relinquished approximately 730 acres in Area 5 of the NTS and has submitted a package to the Bureau of Land Management. In mid-April EM received a letter from the Nevada Attorney General encouraging EM to resume discussions with the regulator and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection regarding MLLW profiling activities. Detailed discussions with the regulator continue, and EM is hopeful that the program will resume MLLW waste profiling for significant volumes of waste from INL, Oak Ridge, and LANL. EM will seek a permit for a new Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) compliant mixed waste disposal cell at NTS and is currently resolving funding issues to finalize that permit.

EM is dependent on Waste Control Specialists, LLC, for the permanent disposal of the Silo 1 and 2 residues generated during the cleanup of the Fernald site. These residues remain in storage pending the construction of the byproduct material facility, which is in progress. The target date for disposal to begin is in July, which is well before the CERCLA Record of Decision milestone for the Fernald closure project. Discussions have continued internally and with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Texas regarding a possible written agreement between DOE and Waste Control Specialists, LLC, concerning the planned construction of a federal waste disposal cell.

EM has resumed efforts to finalize the National Environmental Policy Act analysis to select disposal sites for the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion products

that will be produced by D&D at the Portsmouth and Paducah facilities. The two sites that are under evaluation are NTS and the Clive facility in Utah. The NRC has undertaken a detailed review of what waste classification scheme should be used for disposal of large quantities of uranium, and they are planning to prepare new guidance on site-specific performance assessment requirements for NRC or NRC Agreement State licensed LLW disposal sites.

On April 17, the NRC held a public meeting on matters related to LLW. As part of the DUF6 deliberations, the NRC commissioners directed staff to undertake a revision of the current LLW classification scheme, considering the scheme developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The NRC staff will identify the necessary resources and ultimately update regulations for the disposal of LLW. Additional information can be found by visiting <http://www.nrc.gov/> and clicking on public meetings.

Moving on to TRU waste, Ms. Gelles noted that a shipment of TRU waste from the Battelle Memorial Institute, which had been temporarily stored at SRS, had now been shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). There are a few more regulatory approvals that EM must obtain before the balance of that inventory can be shipped, but approximately 16 canisters are currently approved. During late April, three shipments of legacy TRU waste were sent from the NTS to INL for certification prior to shipment to WIPP. Unfortunately, two containers encountered technical issues and remain on site until a revised milestone is submitted to the State of Nevada by the end of May.

EM is looking forward to resuming shipment of remote-handled (RH) TRU waste from Argonne National Laboratory and has some legacy waste that needs to be repackaged before shipment. ARRA funding is being used to prepare additional RH TRU at INL. EM hopes to resume shipments from INL by the end of FY 2009, but there are regulatory issues with the Environmental Protection Agency.

The next shipping campaign is going to be RH TRU from the General Electric Vallecitos Nuclear Center that will go directly to WIPP. There may also be some contact handled waste that may need to be shipped to Idaho for certification. ARRA funding will enable additional inventories of both TRU and MLLW to be available for off-site disposition.

Ms. Gelles provided a brief update on the Greater-Than-Class C Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EM-12 will send out the pre-decisional draft EIS for internal review beginning next week. This draft does not include specific analysis of Yucca Mountain. WIPP is the one operating geological repository that will remain unchanged by this EIS. EM-12 has also been working with the affected and interested Tribal communities to plan three workshops. The focus of these workshops will be to help the tribes develop a narrative that captures their unique perspective in the draft EIS. These workshops will begin in May and continue through June.

Ms. Gelles pointed out that EM plans a significant increase in TRU waste activity and recommended that the Chairs visit some of the ARRA links that Mr. Mocknick provided earlier to view the project operating plans. There are plans for an aggressive retrieval campaign at Richland, as well as dedicated resources for accelerated repackaging and remediation in order to quickly build a backlog of certified TRU waste. EM plans for

Carlsbad to support the first components of a certified program at Hanford in order to resume shipments of TRU from Hanford to WIPP much sooner than budget baselines previously allowed.

FY 2010 & FY 2011 Budget Update

Merle Sykes, DAS for Program Planning and Budget (EM-30), provided an update on the FY 2010 and FY 2011 budget process. EM's budget request for FY 2010 is \$5.830 billion. EM will focus this base program funding on high-risk activities such as tank construction activities at SRS, the H-Canyon facilities at SRS, the Office of River Protection, and INL.

Ms. Sykes noted that EM intends to make a significant investment in engineering and technology in order to find solutions to costly activities related to tank waste. EM is looking to spend \$105 million on technology development, which is a \$73 million increase over the last year. Areas of focus include higher efficiency melters, alternative tank waste disposal technologies, and groundwater. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce life-cycle costs.

In FY 2010, funding for Portsmouth is scheduled to increase from \$240 million to almost \$320 million. There is a growing demand for D&D work at the site. The areas of program direction, management, and acquisition will also receive additional funding. EM has added 360 positions to these areas and is looking to increase the budget by \$45 million. LANL is another area that is receiving a significant increase in funding due to the ARRA.

Ms. Sykes indicated that President Obama is going to ask for the renewal and reauthorization to collect receipts from the nuclear utilities to be put into the uranium enrichment D&D fund, which will result in approximately \$200 million to offset EM's budget. The Defense Account would also put appropriations into the fund to make sure that the uranium enrichment plants at Portsmouth, Paducah, and Oak Ridge can be fully decommissioned.

EM-30 has begun to prepare the guidance for the FY 2011 budget and is planning on holding a workshop to assemble planning information. A key activity is to reconcile the scope that will be included within the ARRA funding and make sure that the proper notations and adjustments are being made to the baseline. The next step will be to determine what the prioritization for FY 2011 will be. EM is currently addressing as many of the lower-tier risk projects as possible.

Ms. Sykes noted that the Hanford request fully funds the River Corridor contract with an increase of approximately \$100 million. EM is looking to achieve significant progress at the Hanford 200 Area.

Follow Up: Recommendations from March Chairs' Meeting

Ms. Brennan discussed the recommendations from the March Chairs' meeting and asked if there were any questions regarding the process of obtaining approval of the local boards.

Mr. Walt Wegst, vice chair of the NTS Community Advisory Board (CAB), stated that his board met on May 6 and approved the Chairs recommendation regarding recyclable

metals. The majority of the other local boards are scheduled to vote on the letter during public meetings in May and June.

Ms. Leckband stated she had circulated a draft recommendation asking EM to ensure that there is a public process for siting high-level waste repositories, but had not received any comments to date.

Around the Complex:

Savannah River – Ranowul Jzar

- The SRS CAB will hold its next full board meeting on May 18-19, 2009.

Portsmouth – Richard Snyder

- The Portsmouth EM SSAB is interested in looking at existing or potential sites of historical significance.
 - DOE is holding a workshop on June 20 and will have local preservation experts present.
- DOE is reworking the D&D RFP process; one of the significant changes is that the RFP will change from a Management and Operating contract to a closure contract.
 - Secretary Chu sent a letter to local elected officials that reiterated that accelerated cleanup will begin at the Portsmouth site. This will affect the D&D RFP by reducing it considerably.
- DOE will hold a public meeting on May 28 regarding waste disposition options. An issue likely to come up is the disposal of waste generated by D&D activities.
 - The issue is whether the waste will be shipped off site or remain on site in CERCLA cells.
- Portsmouth received \$118 million in ARRA funding that will aid in the D&D of excess facilities. The site also plans to clean up 65 acres of contaminated soil and remove the source of the highest contaminate concentrated groundwater plumes on the site, preventing further groundwater migration off site.

Paducah – Bobby Ann Lee

- The Paducah EM SSAB recently welcomed six new members.
 - Based on a Paducah EM SSAB suggestion, DOE created an orientation program for new members.
 - Paducah may submit an additional membership package in order to reach the board's full capacity.
- The Paducah EM SSAB has established five functioning subcommittees.
 - The Future End-Use Subcommittee met recently and discussed scenario planning for potential future use of the site.
- The Paducah site received ARRA funding for D&D projects and will also focus on issues regarding waste disposal options.

Oak Ridge – Pete Osborne

- The Oak Ridge SSAB (ORSSAB) has continued to focus on historical preservation activities.

- In February, the ORSSAB proposed a new alternative to memorialize the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The board recommended that DOE build an unstaffed interpretative center at the K-25 site.
- In March, the ORSSAB passed a recommendation asking DOE to initiate historical preservation early on in the planning for demolition work to identify any buildings that might have historical significance.
- The ORSSAB passed a recommendation in April concerning the FY 2011 budget and requested additional funding for the Building 3019 Project.
- The ORSSAB is planning a stewardship workshop and will hold a stewardship refresher course for its members prior to the workshop.
- The ORSSAB's two student representatives completed their terms in April.

Northern New Mexico – Ralph Phelps

- The NNM CAB's annual retreat will be held on May 13, followed by a public meeting on May 14.
- There are two new Pueblo members on the NNM CAB.
 - A representative from the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council has been scheduled to provide Tribal perspectives on environmental cleanup work.
- LANL has received \$212 million in ARRA funds and is spending it primarily on building removal from the original pavilion reprocessing facility.
- The NNM CAB plans to recommend that LANL provide support to use the TA-21 closure project as an example of successful environmental cleanup. The hope is that this educational initiative will be computer-based and help get the word out to local schools.

Richland – Susan Leckband

- Hanford's ARRA funding, in the amount of \$1,634,000,000, will be focused on the D&D of river corridor closure projects, nuclear material stabilization, plutonium finishing plant dismantlement, waste site treatment and disposal, and soil and groundwater remediation.
- The Mission Support Contract was just awarded at Hanford. This is the third and final major contract for the site.
- The HAB plans to work on the tank closure and waste management EIS.
- There will be a budget workshop in late May.
- During the week of May 11, the HAB will hold its leadership retreat, where the board will develop its priorities for the coming year.
- The HAB will hold its next full meeting on June 4-5.

Idaho – R.D. Maynard

- The INL CAB is currently recruiting new members to fill vacancies on the board.
- The INL CAB will host the fall EM SSAB Chairs meeting on September 23-24, with a site tour planned for September 22.
- The INL CAB is currently focused on the INL budget and the impact of ARRA funding on site employment.

Nevada – Walt Wegst

- The drilling of the NTS CAB-sited Underground Test Area characterization well will begin at the end of May.
- At the request of the NTS CAB's Transportation Subcommittee, Dr. Ruth Weiner from Sandia National Laboratories met with board members to calculate the risk of exposure associated with transporting LLW and MLLW through a number of the highways in Nevada. The results indicate that the risk of exposure was extremely low.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Brennan thanked the participants for their time.

The next EM SSAB Chairs call is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. EDT.