

**EM SSAB CHAIRS  
Bi-Monthly Conference Call**

**Thursday, July 13, 2006**

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Participants**

**Chairs/Representatives:**

Idaho	Richard Buxton, William Flanery, John Bolliger, Shannon Brennan, Lisa Aldrich
Nevada	Kathleen Peterson, Kelly Snyder, Carla Sanda
NNM	J. D. Campbell, Christina Houston, Menice Santistevan, Gaeton Falance
Oak Ridge	Rhonda Bogard, Pat Halsey, Norm Mulvenon, Pete Osborne, Spencer Gross
Paducah	Chad Kerley, Jeannie Brandstetter, Kim Crenshaw
Richland/Hanford	Todd Martin, Shelly Cimon, Eric Olds, Karen Lutz
Savannah River	Dawn Haygood, d'Lisa Bratcher

**DOE representatives:**

EM-13	Melissa Nielson, Doug Frost, Patricia Atkinson-Brown
EM-12	Doug Tonkay
CI	Betty Nolan

***OPENING REMARKS***

Doug Frost welcomed everyone.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**Low-Level Waste (LLW) and Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) Disposition Plan Update**

Doug Tonkay (Office of Disposal Operations (EM-12)) provided a brief update of the Disposition Plan, which is composed of two documents. The Waste and Materials Disposition Summary documents the strategy for each waste type and disposition and includes the disposition maps. The National LLW and MLLW Strategy is an internal, business-type approach to DOE's strategy for conducting its LLW and MLLW planning. The documents are expected to be published in the near future. Once published, they will be sent to the EM SSABs.

## **Congressional Update**

Betty Nolan (Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs) reported that Congress is back in session. The House has passed the Energy and Water Development Appropriation bill, which covers EM. In the Senate, both the subcommittee and the Appropriations Committee have voted out the Energy and Water bill, but it is not scheduled for floor action. This is likely to occur in September. The House and Senate are not expected to conference until after the November elections. As a result, Congress will probably pass a Continuing Resolution in early September that will cover several months. In December, Congress may pass a series of individual bills, an omnibus bill, or some combination of the two.

For EM, the House and Senate bills are not appreciably different, which is good news.

## **Agenda for the September Chairs' Meeting**

Mr. Frost and J.D. Campbell expressed thanks to Menice Santistevan and her staff for producing the registration package for the meeting which will occur on September 6-8 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mr. Campbell provided a brief overview of the agenda (attached). The site tour will occur on Wednesday. The Wednesday evening reception will be hosted by the new O&M contractor at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Security, LLC.

Mr. Campbell expressed the need to compile a list of topics for proposed work products to result from the Chairs' meeting prior to the meeting.

Ms. Santistevan stated she would be sending out the templates for each site's top three issues and groundwater issues by early next week. The deadline for submission of the templates is August 18.

The deadline for registration for the meeting is August 4.

## **SITE SUMMARIES**

### **Idaho – Dick Buxton/Bill Flanery**

- The Idaho Board is meeting on July 18-19. As part of the meeting, the Board will conduct its annual tour of the INL site cleanup projects.
- The District Court ruled on the issue of buried waste at INL, siding with the State of Idaho in mandating that all TRU waste at INL, including the buried waste, must be removed by 2018. The Board is not sure that removal of the buried waste is the best solution. It may be that covering the waste to prevent seepage into the aquifer is a better solution.
- The Board will be developing its 2007 Work Plan.

### **Nevada – Kathleen Peterson**

- The Nevada Board has just added 12 new members and two liaisons.
- The Board sponsored an orientation and invited all of EM's project managers at the site to participate.
- On July 12 the Board held an administrative meeting and received reports from its two standing committees –Waste and Transportation and Underground Test Area.
- The Board has formed an ad hoc committee to review public documents and other information to update and clarify information available to the public. DOE is supportive in improving these materials. A side benefit to this effort is that new members can learn more about EM.
- The Board distributed the new SOP from HQ and asked for comments.
- The Board's September meeting will focus on committee updates and work plans, as well as election of officers.
- The Board was given the opportunity to identify well locations for the Underground Test Area. DOE's Technical Working Group has reviewed the Board's recommendations and provided information that will help the Board refine some well locations.

### **Northern New Mexico – J. D. Campbell**

- The Northern New Mexico Board has several new members and is interviewing three candidates for new membership.
- The Board is continuing to work on groundwater contamination and monitoring issues. The Board will participate with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in a technical workshop to be held August 14-15. DOE has commissioned the NAS study and the Board is supporting its efforts.
- The Board is continuing to work on the Area G closure, which contains mixed low-level waste and pre-1970 TRU waste.
- DOE representatives came to Los Alamos to meet with New Mexico's Natural Resources Trustee and the San Ildefonso Pueblos trustee. The Board will meet with the NM Natural Resources Trustee to understand the process for evaluating natural resource damage assessments and how to integrate with DOE policy relating to cleanup at Los Alamos. Governor Richardson has asked that DOE fund the work of the trustees.
- The new O&M contractor, Los Alamos National Security, LLC (comprising Bechtel, University of California, and two other firms) began work on June 1. Both the contractor and the site are being extremely supportive of the Board.

### **Oak Ridge – Rhonda Bogard**

- The Board is preparing for its annual retreat in August. In preparation for the retreat, the Board is conducting a survey of stakeholders via newspaper and direct mail, interviewing Board members, and asking for input from DOE, EPA and the State of Tennessee on their priorities.

- The Board has received the 2006 Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award from EPA for the development of its Stewardship Education Resource Kit and work on tracking parcels of contaminated land on the Oak Ridge reservation.. Mr. Frost added that Assistant Secretary Rispoli was pleased to hear of this award. The Board has received a congratulatory letter from Mr. Rispoli.
- Carla Sanda asked if copies of the newspaper ad and direct mail survey could be sent to the other Boards. Pete Osborne agreed to do so. Melissa Nielson volunteered HQ to handle the mailings.

### **Paducah – Chad Kerley**

- There is a new remediation contractor, Paducah Remediation Services. The transition has been a bit slow, but is expected to improve.
- The Paducah Board has three new members during the past month, with five positions unfilled. Recruiting will begin next month.
- New Board officers will be elected in August.
- The Board is looking at the issue of DOE commissioning a study to look at the possibility of land buyouts around the site, which has caused community concern.
- The Board is expecting an update on the Site Management Plan.
- The Board has been delayed in publishing its 2005 Annual Report due to delays in receiving needed information from DOE.

### **Richland /Hanford – Todd Martin/Shelly Cimon**

- The Hanford Board is taking some time off this summer.
- During June, the Board was involved in reviewing the estimate at completion for the Waste Treatment Plant for Hanford's tank waste. It is significantly behind schedule and over budget.
- The Board helped DOE and the regulators develop a public involvement plan for the annual state of the site meetings that are held throughout the region.
- Committees will be meeting in August in preparation for the September Board meeting that will finalize work priorities for the coming year.
- The River and Plateau Committee will meet in August to review risk assessment integration efforts and a draft of the long-term stewardship plan for the River Corridor Project.
- Proposition I-297 was declared invalid. The State of Washington is filing an appeal.
- Demolition was completed on the 232D Building, an incinerator building that was part of the Plutonium Finishing Plant complex.
- Ms. Cimon asked the other Boards to consider requesting the reinstatement of the Site Technology Coordination Groups. There is a need to focus on science and technology issues across the sites. She plans to draft a letter on this issue and is soliciting ideas from the other Boards.

### **Savannah River – Dawn Haygood**

- The Savannah River Board has decided to use Federal employees for Board administration. Previously, the Board used the M&O contractor.
- On July 10, there was a ceremony for the opening of the second Glass Waste Storage Facility.
- The Board is meeting July 24-25 to discuss high-level waste risk reduction efforts, consider a recommendation on H-Canyon, and hear reports from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

### **Chairs Meeting and Conference Call Schedule**

Ms. Nielson proposed the following general schedule for upcoming meetings and calls:

Chairs' Meeting in September 2006  
Conference calls in November 2006 and January 2007  
Chairs' Meeting in March 2007  
Conference calls in May and July 2007

Ms. Sanda noted that there is a need to firm up the date of the March Chairs' Meeting in Las Vegas.

Mr. Frost noted that the week of March 28, 2007 is the preferred date.

### ***CLOSING REMARKS***

Mr. Frost thanked every one for participating.