

EMSSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
Thursday, October 20, 2005
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Participants

Chairs/Representatives:

Fernald	No representative
Hanford	Todd Martin
Idaho	David Kipping, Shannon Brennan
Nevada	No representative
NNM	J.D. Campbell, Menice Santistevan , Christina Houston
Oak Ridge	Kerry Trammell, Norm Mulvenon, Pat Halsey, Spencer Gross, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Chad Kerley, Dave Dollins
Rocky Flats	Gerald DePoorter, Ken Korkia
Savannah River	Gerri Fleming, Dawn Haygood, de’Lisa Bratcher

DOE representatives:

EM-30.1	Melissa Nielson, Doug Frost
CI	Betty Nolan

OPENING REMARKS

Melissa Nielson welcomed everyone.

NEW BUSINESS

Status of Letter to the Assistant Secretary

David Kipping reported that the Rocky Flats, Oak Ridge, Savannah River and Northern New Mexico Boards have approved the letter. The other Boards will be discussing the letter at their upcoming meetings.

Housekeeping/Administrative Issues

Ms. Nielson discussed the following:

- Guidance on correspondence from SSABs to other than the Assistant Secretary and Site Manager is currently being reviewed by General Counsel. The guidance provided by Sandra Waisley on September 9, 2004 remains in effect until new guidance is provided.
- Board input into the database for the FACA Annual Report on the SSABs is due. Information should be sent to Headquarters or to CEMI.

- Each Board's meeting schedule for the new fiscal year should be sent to Headquarters.
- Comments on the minutes from the semi-annual Chairs' meeting in Idaho Falls are due by October 31.

Update on Waste Disposition Strategies for LLW/MLLW

Ms. Christine Gelles, Director of the Office of Commercial Disposition Options, provided an update of the low-level waste/mixed low-level waste planning process.

The data call for the Strategic Plan is due by November 17; the draft Plan will be available later in the year.

LOCAL SSAB ISSUES/UPDATES

Fernald – No report.

Hanford – Todd Martin

The Board will meet on November 3-4. There will be five recommendations/advice, including one on plutonium consolidation.

DOE and EPA are discussing whether to cap soil waste sites or to partially retrieve and then cap the sites. The Board will advise.

The Board continues to wait for the cost and schedule impacts to the waste vitrification plant at Hanford.

The Board is increasing its public outreach by developing a display.

The Board is rebidding its facilitation contract. Award is expected in late November.

The Board asked that Mr. Frost's comments on SSAB interaction with intergovernmental groups be included in the minutes of the Chairs' meeting.

Idaho – David Kipping

A new CAB support services contract has been awarded and will go into effect on December 1.

Idaho Cleanup Project LifeCycle Baseline

- Cleanup contract awarded to CH2M-WG; took effect May 1. Contract value is \$2.9B continuing through 2012.

- LifeCycle Baseline (by CH2M-WG) consists of detailed proposals, remediation plans, and schedule. It consists of about 250 pages of text, charts and figures. The CAB is beginning to digest it.
- Theme of November CAB meeting is the presentation of the Baseline, including project risks and schedules.
- The CAB is pleased to see the master plan for the next seven years, and will evaluate it very carefully.

Nevada – No Report

Northern New Mexico – J. D. Campbell

The Board is opposed to development of Area G.

The Board discussed the report of contamination from the groundwater drilling program. This is a major issue and the National Academies of Science may be asked to get involved.

The Board discussed with the site manager the issue of classifying pre-1970 TRU waste.

Oak Ridge – Kerry Trammell

In the past five years, the Stewardship Committee has submitted 30 recommendations. Some were considered out of scope, some were answered, and some were ignored. The Board compressed these into four recommendations and will present them again to DOE for response. Hopefully, the Board will get a better response than it has in the past.

The Board is looking closely at the haul road issue at the East Tennessee Technology Park at the K-25 site, where D&D is beginning. The haul road should be completed by December 1.

The legacy waste milestones have been met – 1.2 million cubic feet of low-level waste and mixed low-level waste have been disposed of.

On October 25, the Board will meet with Assistant Secretary Rispoli to discuss site – specific issues related to public involvement.

Paducah – Chad Kerley

The new remediation contract is scheduled to be awarded on November 1. The Bechtel-Jacobs contract has been extended through January 29, 2006.

The Board will vote tonight (October 20) on the letter to Mr. Rispoli.

The Board is down to 11 members. The Board is reviewing applications from its recent recruitment drive.

There is a site tour on October 22. Local politicians and civic leaders are scheduled to attend.

Mr. Kerley thanked the Oak Ridge Board's Stewardship Committee for its assistance in providing educational materials.

The annual planning retreat will be in November.

Rocky Flats – Jerry De Poorter

One week ago, the physical cleanup was completed at Rocky Flats. Regulatory documents need to be finalized.

Savannah River – Dawn Haygood

Jean Sulc is meeting with Mr. Rispoli and is unable to participate in the call.

The Board approved the letter to Mr. Rispoli by a vote of 10 to 9. There is also a minority statement.

The Board conducted its process retreat and identified 20 action items to improve the Board's operations.

The Board passed 4-5 recommendations in late September.

The Tank Waste Determination document is available for public comment.

The Board sent a member to the EPA public hearing on Yucca Mountain standards to voice support for the standards.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE – BETTY NOLAN

The Energy and Water Development bill, which funds EM, is in conference. The entire government is running under a continuing resolution until November 18. Progress is being made on the bill. There was a \$1.5 billion difference between the House and Senate bills. They plan to "split the difference." A complication is that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are funded in the same bill.

The Secretary of Energy will testify before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on October 27. It will be Webcast. Mr. Rispoli will testify on November 3.

PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING

Ms. Nielson tentatively scheduled the next call on December 15.

CONCLUSION

Ms. Nielson reported that Patricia Atkinson-Brown will begin supporting the SSABs on October 29. She will be contacting everyone over the coming weeks.

Ms. Nielson thanked everyone for participating.