

## **EMSSAB CHAIRS Bi-Monthly Conference Call**

**Thursday, February 24, 2005  
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.**

### **Participants**

#### **Chairs/Representatives:**

Fernald	Jim Bierer
Hanford	Todd Martin
Idaho	David Kipping
Nevada	Charles Phillips, Carla Sanda
NNM	Jim Brannon, Ted Taylor, Menice Manzanares
Oak Ridge	Kerry Trammell, Norm Mulvenon, Pat Halsey, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Chad Kerley
Rocky Flats	Jerry Depoorter, Ken Korkia
Savannah River	Jean Sulc, Bill Lawless

#### **DOE representatives:**

EM-21	Sandra Waisley (DFO)
EM-30.1	Melissa Nielson, Jay Vivari, Frederick Dowd, Doug Frost

### ***OPENING REMARKS***

After welcoming everyone, Sandra Waisley introduced Melissa Nielson, who is taking over management of the Internal/External Coordination Group (EM-30.1).

Ms. Nielson will participate on conference calls and will attend the April Chairs' meeting.

Ms. Nielson's phone number is (202) 586-0356.

Ms. Waisley announced that bad weather in the D.C. area would necessitate shortening of the conference call, and that a follow-up conference call would be scheduled for next week. Congress is in session, and FY 2006 budget hearings will occur during March and April. Paul Golan's title is again Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, not Acting Assistant Secretary, although he continues to manage the EM program.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

#### **April Chairs Meeting Update/National Stakeholders Forum**

Jean Sulc praised the efforts of the Planning Committee who put together the agenda and related materials. She commented that the approach to this meeting stresses the future – the future of the CABs, the future of waste disposition, etc. This is where the Chairs' energy will be concentrated. The driver for the agenda was the desire to obtain a commitment from Mr. Golan to attend the Chairs' meeting and to determine the topics

the Chairs could discuss with him. But a major impetus for the development of the agenda was the Hanford letter.

Jay Vivari thanked the many contributors to the agenda, but singled out Ms. Sulc, who drove to Augusta, Georgia to have breakfast with Mr. Golan. She asked him a lot of questions and received direct feedback. Mr. Vivari is also encouraged that the agenda is future looking – it is prospective rather than retrospective.

Ms. Sulc noted that part of the agenda for the April meeting was discussion of the National Stakeholders Forum initially proposed at the Hanford Chairs meeting in October 2004. Ms. Sulc asked if the Chairs would like to appoint a planning committee to begin to structure the Forum.

Volunteers were:

Jerry DePoorter and Ken Korkia, Rocky Flats  
Todd Martin and Shelly Cimon, Hanford  
Kerry Trammel and Norm Mulvenon, Oak Ridge  
Charlie Phillips and Carla Sanda, Nevada  
Jean Sulc and Bill Lawless, Savannah River

Ms. Waisley reported to the Chairs on a briefing given to EM Headquarters management by the National Research Council (NRC), which recently completed two reports for EM. The two reports will be released to the public on March 1. These reports may help inform the proposed National Stakeholders Forum. The NRC believes EM can improve its strategy and approach by looking at the DOE complex in a holistic way, treating it as a system and looking at the whole picture – exactly as this Forum proposes to do. The reports noted that EM does not do enough systems engineering or public participation. There are very strong recommendations included in the reports.

The titles of the two reports are: *Improving the Characterization and Treatment of Radioactive Waste for the Department of Energy's Accelerated Site Cleanup Program* and *Risks and Decisions about the Disposition of Transuranic and High-Level Radioactive Waste*.

Ms. Sulc asked if these could be placed on the EM Web page.

Ms. Waisley promised to obtain copies for the Chairs. Information in the reports is “food for thought” for the National Stakeholders Forum.

Mr. Mulvenon noted that the League of Women Voters held a similar forum in 1998 and issued a report entitled *Report to the Secretary of Energy: Inter-Site Discussions on Nuclear Material and Waste: A National Workshop*. This report contains good information and advice on handling all aspects of a national meeting.

(This report is available at the League of Women Voters website at:  
[http://www.lwv.org/where/protecting/waste\\_rpt.html](http://www.lwv.org/where/protecting/waste_rpt.html).)

Ms. Waisley noted that the new Secretary is interested in EM and the Forum is a great opportunity. EM staff do not have any information about EM's new Assistant Secretary. Margaret Chu, the Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (Yucca Mountain), resigned yesterday. Ted Garish, Deputy Director, is acting. Also, Dave Garman, who was DOE's Undersecretary and went back to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, still might come back as Undersecretary. He would be supportive of the Forum.

David Kipping asked whether the round robins at the Chairs meeting should include written materials. Mr. Vivari responded that the idea of templates would help focus the discussions, summarizing the top three issues for each SSAB. He stated that for the second round robin, prepared written materials would be helpful in moving the discussion forward.

### **FY 2006 Budget Update**

Ms. Waisley stated she will put a copy of Mr. Golan's budget rollout on the SSAB website (now posted at: <http://web.em.doe.gov/public/ssab/letters.html>.) The EM vision was stated very simply as: Deliver real risk reduction in environmental cleanup that is safe for the workers, protective of the environment and respectful of the taxpayers. The budget is \$6.5 billion for FY 2006, which is a decrease of \$500 million from FY 2005, EM's peak year for funding.

The rollout also discusses accomplishments by site, safety performance, corporate performance measures, life-cycle costs to 2059, commitments for 2006 focused on closure sites, and accidents at sites.

There's also a comparison of budgets:

FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
\$6.0B	\$6.3B	\$6.6B	\$6.75B	\$7.0B	\$6.5B

EM will be defending the FY 2006 budget request during the next few months. We will be developing the FY 2007 budget in April and May, then submitting it to the Secretary of Energy. The budget will then go to OMB in September 2005.

### **Status of EMSSAB Appointment/Reappointment Packages**

Mr. Vivari noted that CEMI has done a comprehensive update of the status of the packages. Ms. Nielson noted that there is a new White House Liaison, Darren Bearson, who is reviewing the backlog of packages.

Mr. Dowd noted that there are three packages (Fernald and two Oak Ridge packages) and two packages (Northern New Mexico and Paducah) that have been resubmitted after language changes directed by the General Counsel's office. Savannah River's package has also just gone into the system.

Pat Halsey noted that Oak Ridge would soon be sending in a package for about six reappointments. In addition, 4-5 members are leaving after serving six years on the Board, and there will be several new appointments. The current Oak Ridge packages have been in the system over one year.

Mr. Dowd noted that the White House Liaison is trying to expedite the packages as quickly as possible. Ms. Nielson noted that there are many DOE advisory boards and they all go through the same process. With the new Secretary and the new White House Liaison, there is a push to clear out these packages. The pendulum seems to be swinging our way.

Mr. Martin asked for confirmation that there were no Hanford packages in the system. Ms. Nielson responded that the package has not been received from the Richland office or ORP. Mr. Martin stated he would check on progress.

### ***Next Meeting***

Mr. Vivari scheduled the next conference call for Thursday, March 3, at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Waisley thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting.

## **EMSSAB CHAIRS Bi-Monthly Conference Call (cont.)**

**Thursday, March 3, 2005  
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

### **Participants**

#### **Chairs/Representatives:**

Fernald	no attendee
Hanford	Todd Martin
Idaho	David Kipping
Nevada	Charles Phillips, Carla Sanda
NNM	Jim Brannon, Ted Taylor, Menice Manzanares
Oak Ridge	Norm Mulvenon, Spencer Gross
Paducah	Rhonda McCorry, Jeannie Brandstetter, Kim Crenshaw
Rocky Flats	Jerry DePoorter, Ken Korkia
Savannah River	Bill Lawless, Dawn Haygood

**DOE representatives:**

EM-21 Sandra Waisley (DFO)

EM-30.1 Melissa Nielson, Jay Vivari, Frederick Dowd, Doug Frost

***OPENING REMARKS***

After welcoming everyone, Sandra Waisley stated that the call would focus on the site reports and discussion. She asked Jay Vivari to report on the distribution of the National Academies of Science reports.

Mr. Vivari reported that the two reports were sent out on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to the nine Chairs and to the five additional non-Chair individuals who agreed to serve on the National Forum Steering Committee. The reports are posted on the National Research Council's Website.

*Risks and Decisions about Disposition of Transuranic and High-Level  
Radioactive Waste* is available on-line at:

<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11223.html>

*Improving the Characterization and Treatment of Radioactive Wastes for the  
Department of Energy's Accelerated Site Cleanup Program* is available on-line  
at: <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11200.html>

Ms. Waisley asked Mr. Vivari about the cost associated with the reports on-line.

Mr. Vivari said that they may try to charge, but they are available to be read for free.

Ms. Waisley called for the site reports and stated that any time left over would be used for old or new business.

***LOCAL SSAB ISSUES/UPDATES***

**Fernald – no attendee**

**Hanford – Todd Martin**

- The HAB is providing input to DOE and the regulators on how to make final decisions in the Central Plateau where the bulk of the waste is located.
- As a result of the 50% budget cut that Hanford is planning to receive, the HAB will provide DOE and its contractors recommendations on prioritization of projects.

**Idaho – David Kipping**

- The contract award for the Idaho cleanup project (through 2012) will be announced on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will start May 1<sup>st</sup>. Major projects are on hold waiting for this contract.
- Excavation of buried transuranic waste is in progress (on a half-acre site) and being planned (for another half-acre site), but there is no long-term plan for the 12-15 acres that need to be excavated. The aforementioned contract award also impacts this activity.
- The current support contract is closing at the end of the fiscal year. The Board's participation in the selection process is in question. The Board would like to have as much participation in the selection process as possible.

### **Nevada – Charles Phillips and Carla Sanda**

- In January, the CAB welcomed their new DDFO, Stephen Mellington. Mr. Mellington currently serves as the Acting Assistant Manager for Environmental Management at the Nevada Test Site and replaces Carl Gertz as the DDFO upon his recent retirement.
- In February, the CAB issued two formal letters of recommendation. One was pertaining to the site's application for a RCRA Part B Permit that would authorize the NTS to accept and dispose of mixed low-level radioactive waste from off-site generators. A key element of the permit application is an alternative landfill design. The letter detailed this aspect of the permit and supported the site's approach to the alternative design. The second letter consisted of a recommendation that the Underground Test Area project place three additional monitoring wells at the NTS
- On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the CAB will present its recommendations for the FY 2007 EM budget prioritization at its public meeting in Las Vegas.
- On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, members of the Savannah River Board toured the NTS. Included in the tour were comprehensive briefings of both the NTS historical testing areas as well as a stop and briefing at the low-level radioactive waste management site.

### **Northern New Mexico – Jim Brannon**

- The Consent Order for cleanup at the Laboratory was signed.
- The Board has planned and is beginning an advertising campaign for a public forum to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding cleanup of Area G and Technical Area 54.
- Several recommendations from the Environmental Restoration Monitoring and Surveillance Committee are forthcoming.
- The Community Involvement Committee's work plan has been reconstituted and refocused. Their first meeting under this new work plan was held the week of February 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Oak Ridge – Norm Mulvenon**

- On February 17<sup>th</sup>, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the EMSSAB exhibit at the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge. Mr. Mulvenon described the exhibit and ceremony for the call participants. Pictures are available from the Board's Website at:  
<http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/AMSE-photos/AMSE-photos.htm>.
- Copies of the Stewardship Education Resource Kit were mailed to DOE Headquarters and the other Boards. Members of the Stewardship Committee are meeting with local school system representatives regarding their comments on the final product.
- A three-day teachers workshop is being planned for this summer in conjunction with the University of Tennessee.
- The March Board meeting will focus on waste disposition at the Oak Ridge Reservation in preparation for the National Forum.
- DOE has changed its plans for the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Incinerator. DOE Headquarters has directed Oak Ridge to keep it operational for one to two years past 2006 to help work off waste inventories across the complex. Ms. Waisley stated that it was one of the recommendations in the NAS report.
- Mr. Mulvenan suggested the National Forum Steering Committee read the League of Women Voters report associated with their 1998 forum entitled *Report to the Secretary of Energy: Inter-Site Discussions on Nuclear Material and Waste: A National Workshop* (available at:  
[http://www.lwv.org/where/protecting/waste\\_rpt.html](http://www.lwv.org/where/protecting/waste_rpt.html)).
- The SSAB is currently reviewing a proposed plan for remediation of contaminated soils in the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek watershed at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

#### **Paducah – Rhonda McCorry**

- The Paducah facility is still not shipping waste as a result of the trouble that occurred in the fall.
- North Wind Contractors from Idaho Falls is the new Small Business Contractor, but has not been able to begin work. Bechtel-Jacobs' contract has been extended, because of two or three challenges to the selection of North Wind. This situation could continue through May.
- The CAB Annual Report is completed and at the printer.
- The CAB has a low membership of ten and is implementing a membership drive.
- DUF6 Conversion will continue despite the lack of a contract and Bechtel-Jacobs is filling-in as contractor. Ms. McCorry is unsure of how long activity will continue without a contract.
- The Community Outreach Committee has drafted a presentation for use at various community meetings regarding the CAB and the Site.

#### **Rocky Flats – Jerry DePoorter and Ken Korkia**

- The Rocky Flats Site cleanup is going very well and is in the last stages of dismantling some of the buildings.

- In response to public concerns, Rocky Flats is providing funding for an Independent Verification and Validation (IVV) of the cleanup (separate from the funding provided to Kaiser Hill for the accelerated cleanup). For example, helicopters with radiation detectors will scan the Site to look for potential hotspots that may not have been detected previously. They are not expected to find any hotspots. The Site has also engaged the services of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) to examine the method samples have been taken, determine the adequacy of sampling plans, and conduct their own sampling for analysis.
- The CAB is involved with the formation of Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). The CAB is concerned that too much responsibility is placed with elected officials and does not allow enough participation by the general stakeholder population. It is not clear at this time if FACA will apply to the LSOs, and the status of NGOs on the LSOs has not been determined. There is a large difference of opinion between the CAB and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments regarding membership ratio, such as elected versus non-elected or voting versus non-voting, and member responsibilities. The CAB is concerned about the impact of the LSO on current public participation at the Site. A formal recommendation on this will be coming.
- Certain levels in the ponds were found to be higher than expected. DOE and the contractors have gone back, found the source, and are doing a good job of cleaning up the ponds.

#### **Savannah River – Bill Lawless**

- The CAB is pushing to get the Savannah River Site moving again on 3116, which pertains to high-level waste tank closures and low-level salt processing. The site should be able to get Tanks 18 and 19 closed over the next two years.
- With regard to HLW vitrification, half of all the canisters should be vitrified by the end of this year.
- Cleanup of legacy transuranic waste is 50% complete. The site is beginning to deal with the issues of repackaging large boxes and the need for a facility to handle them. The CAB is concerned that there is no certification program for the repackaging. The CAB is pushing for the TRUPAC III completion and a Certification Program for the repackaged TRU waste containers.
- There is currently no dedicated container for high-activity transuranic waste. The CAB is pushing for the ARAPAC container.
- The problem with possible flammability/explosive gas issues with transuranic waste drums has been resolved. The site is working to get the program back on track.

#### ***ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION***

Ms. Waisley called for any further questions regarding the local SSAB updates.



Mr. Phillips reported that the Nevada CAB is being brought over under NNSA in the FY06 Budget for its cleanup activities. Ms. Waisley expressed congratulations and stated that she had previously spoken with Alice Williams, who moved from EM to NNSA, about the CAB.

Mr. Lawless asked if the Nevada CAB was moving totally from EM to NNSA. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Waisley confirmed that the CAB would move to NNSA in October 2005.

Mr. Lawless asked if the transfer was in a formal letter. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Sanda stated that it is in the FY06 budget narrative. Ms. Waisley explained that with transfer all grants or contracts are documented, but was not sure at what precise point in the budget process this is noted.

Ms. Waisley also explained the potential changes to the Board, such as obtaining a new charter and Website. Ms. Sanda stated that the details are not clear yet, but as far as FY06 they would only continue work only on NNSA's cleanup issues and not their other activities. As Savannah River is trying to work on the same transfer issue, Mr. Lawless would like to see an example of any formal correspondence. The subject is on the upcoming Chairs Meeting agenda. Ms. Waisley asked Melissa Nielson to research more information and documentation on the transfer process. Ms. Nielson agreed.

Mr. Brannon asked Ms. Waisley if she knew of any plans for transfer of Los Alamos to NNSA. Ms. Waisley asked Ms. Nielson to research Northern New Mexico as well. Ms. Nielson agreed.

Mr. Mulvenon stated that NNSA seems to have a plan and is implementing it. Ms. Waisley reported that the site landlord is responsible for any waste newly generated.

Ms. Waisley asked for any reaction to the two NAS reports. She stated they could be helpful with the National Forum effort. As they have just been published, the group was unable to offer any opinions.

Ms. Waisley called for any old or new business. In follow-up to the call last week, Mr. Vivari reported that Paul Golan's Budget Presentation has been placed on the EMSSAB Website. The following four documents have been posted: the FY06 DOE Budget Request to Congress; the EM Budget Request; Paul Golan's Budget Rollout Presentation; and Mr. Golan's Background Briefing. Mr. Vivari agreed to send the group an email that includes the various links for the four documents.

### ***NEXT MEETING***

The group will meet again at the April Chairs Meeting. Ms. Waisley agreed to arrange a call if something that needed their immediate attention came up in the meantime.

Ms. Waisley thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting.