



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) Table of Contents

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Work Plan Item #6

NSSAB FULL BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

October 2020 through September 2021 (FY 2021)

Name	*11/18/20	*1/20/2021	*2/17/2021	5/19/21	7/21/21	9/22/21	Max Terms
MEMBERS							
Gail Alexander	√						2026
Francis Bonesteel	√						2022
William DeWitt	√						2024
Bill Dolan	√						2026
Karen Eastman	√						2020
Gary Elgort	√						2026
Charles Fullen	√						2022
Anthony Graham	√						2024
Mark Hilton	√						2026
Bruce Jabbour	√						2026
Ron Korner	√						2026
James Moldenhauer	√						2026
Dan Peterson	√						2026
Janice Six	√						2024
Richard Stephans	√						2022
Favil West	√						2026
Dina Williamson-Erdag	√						2022
LIAISONS							
Clark County	√						
Consolidated Group of Tribes & Organizations	E						
Elko County Commission (limited)							
Esmeralda County Commission	U						
Lincoln County Commission	U						
Nye County Commission	U						
Nye County Emergency Management	√						
Nye Co. Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office	√						
State of NV Division of Env Protection	√						
U.S. Natl Park Service (limited)	√						
White Pine County Commission (limited)							

KEY: √ - Present E - Excused V - Vacant U - Unexcused

Communication Plan for Pahute Mesa Groundwater Sampling Results - Work Plan Item #6



Jesse Sleezer, Strategic Communications Manager

Brian Haight, UGTA Integration Manager

Navarro, Contractor to the
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

January 20, 2021



OFFICE OF
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safety – performance – cleanup – closure



ID 2535 – 1/20/2021
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NSSAB - Work Plan Item #6

- From a community perspective, the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) will provide a recommendation on obligations regarding the nature, frequency, and requirements of stakeholder/public notifications related to sampling activities and for ways the communication plan for Pahute Mesa groundwater sampling results could be enhanced
- NSSAB recommendation is due in May 2021



Outline



- What is the Communications Plan?
- Why is it changing?
- What is changing?
- Review
- Questions
- What is the NSSAB Path Forward?



What is the Communications Plan?

- *Offsite Groundwater Contamination Communication Plan*
 - Provides general guidance for notifications made by the EM Nevada Program in response to groundwater contamination approaching and/or exceeding *Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)* safety standards
 - Applies to contamination identified beyond the boundaries of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)
- In the past, has sometimes been referred to as the *Pahute Mesa Sampling Communications Plan*
 - Shortest distance (15 miles) to public receptors
 - 60% of the NNSS inventory (~ 27 million curies in 2012, ~ 19 million curies in 2021)
 - Only remaining Underground Test Area (UGTA) Corrective Action Unit (CAU) not actively in regulatory Closure stage
 - Investigation and characterization activities remain underway



Why is it Changing?

- Much of the *existing Offsite Groundwater Contamination Communication Plan* links to a now-retired *NNSS Integrated Groundwater Sampling Plan*
- The *NNSS Integrated Groundwater Sampling Plan* was overcome by several events and factors:
 - Closure of UGTA CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
 - Closure of UGTA CAU 97, Yucca Flat/Climax Mine
 - Closure of UGTA CAU 98, Frenchman Flat
 - Development of the *UGTA Sampling Plan for CAUs 101 and 102, Central and Western Pahute Mesa*
- The sampling approach is evolving as CAUs transition into closure monitoring
 - Resulting from better understanding of preferred regulatory approaches, as agreed-upon with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)
 - Reflected in the new *UGTA Sampling Plan for CAUs 101 and 102, Central and Western Pahute Mesa*



Why is it Changing? (Continued)

- As a result of these developments, the EM Nevada Program needed to consider and address four general types of adjustments to the *Offsite Groundwater Contamination Communication Plan*:
 1. Remove and replace all references to the retired *NNSS Integrated Groundwater Sampling Plan*
 2. Align notification/action level approaches with those previously established with NDEP concurrence in the CAU 97 and 99 Closure Reports
 3. Remove NNSA/NFO integration as closure monitoring is implemented
 4. Make general or clerical edits to enhance clarity as a result of the above changes



What is Changing?

- Because the existing *Offsite Groundwater Contamination Communication Plan* is a relatively recent document (finalized 2019), EM Nevada endeavored to keep all changes/updates to a minimum:
 - All references to the *NNSS Integrated Groundwater Sampling Plan* have been removed and replaced
 - Minor updates have been made due to staffing and/or organizational changes
 - The most significant updates are reflected in a general change in approach under the Threshold Levels and Communication Actions notification table



What is Changing? (Continued)

- Proposed approach:

Attachment 2 – Threshold Levels and Communication Actions

Threshold Levels	Analytical Result*	Communications Actions**
Notification Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-time detection of COC (primarily tritium [³H]) or COPC is ≥5% of its SDWA MCL for NTTR, public and/or private sampling locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify NDEP • Notify USAF • Notify landowner or permit holder • Per approaches established under existing regulatory agreements (i.e., CAU 97 and CAU 99 Closure Reports), certain follow-on testing and/or notifications strategies may be established in consultation with NDEP
Action Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COC (primarily tritium [³H]) or COPC concentration is ≥ SDWA MCL for NTTR, public and/or private sampling locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specific communication plan will be written (drafting of plan will begin when initial, unverified results are obtained)

CAU: Correction Action Unit
 COC: Contaminant of concern
 COPC: Contaminant of potential concern
 FFAO: Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order
 MCL: Maximum contaminant level
 NDEP: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
 NTTR: Nevada Test and Training Range
 SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act
 USAF: U.S. Air Force

**The DOE EM Nevada Program manages all external communications, including communications with NDEP and entities not affiliated with the project.



Review

- The need for updates to the existing *Offsite Groundwater Contamination Communication Plan* was driven by several factors
- EM Nevada endeavored to limit changes to the existing document to a minimum
- The notification and action thresholds proposed in the updated plan are in line with regulatory approaches established with NDEP
- The plan maintains EM Nevada's commitment to proactive, transparent communications for the protection of people and the environment



Questions



NSSAB Path Forward

- From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation on obligations regarding the nature, frequency, and requirements of stakeholder/public notifications related to sampling activities and for ways the communication plan for Pahute Mesa groundwater sampling results could be enhanced
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