



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

May 20, 2015

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State of Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection
U.S. National Park Service

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Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro
Kelly Snyder, DDFO
*U.S. Department of Energy,
Nevada Field Office*

Mr. David A. Borak, Designated Federal Officer
Office of Environmental Management (EM-3.2)
100 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: Conference Attendance for Environmental Management (EM)
Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Members

Dear Mr. Borak:

Recently, two Board members were scheduled to go to the Waste Management Symposia 2015. However, close to the conference date the Board was told that the Nevada Field Office could only send one Board member. This was a result of Headquarter-directed attendee restrictions. Field locations were directed to limit the number of attendees to a Headquarter prescribed number for each category of attendees (e.g., federal or contractor). Unfortunately, the federal employees category also encompassed advisory board members; as there is no category established for just advisory board members. As a result, the Nevada Field Office had to choose between sending a federal programmatic employee vs an advisory board member even though funding was available for both individuals to attend.

The NSSAB feels that it would be beneficial to the Board and the DOE to allow multiple Board members to attend conferences, as there are dual sessions that are of interest and value. It is the NSSAB's recommendation that the Department of Energy (DOE) create an advisory board attendee category within the conference management system, similar to the federal and contractor categories. This would allow field offices to identify which conferences are endorsed and allocate the number of advisory board member(s) spots, contingent on local funding availability.

The NSSAB appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the DOE in regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Hruska, Chair

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cc: K. G. Ellis, DOE/HQ (EM-3.2)
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