



**U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management
Nevada Program
100 N. City Parkway, Suite #1750
Las Vegas, NV 89106**

March 2, 2021

Frank Bonesteel, Chair
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
100 N. City Parkway, Suite #1750
Las Vegas, NV 89106

**RESPONSE TO THE NEVADA SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (NSSAB)
RECOMMENDATION FOR NSSAB LONG-TERM STRATEGY (WORK PLAN ITEM #4)**

Reference: Ltr Bonesteel to Boehlecke, dtd 2/3/21

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program appreciates the time that the NSSAB dedicated to reviewing and discussing recommendations for fiscal year 2021 Work Plan Item #4. This exercise will inform the DOE in how the Board envisions its future role as the EM Nevada Program transitions to mission end-state.

During the open discussion, the Board expressed a desire to maintain an active NSSAB commensurate with the scope of the EM Nevada Program overall, even as the various projects and activity areas reach desired end-states. EM Nevada will strive to provide the Board with opportunities to flexibly scale its self-identified scope over the remainder of the Program, as feasible.

Below are responses to NSSAB recommendations regarding the NSSAB Long-Term Strategy:

NSSAB Recommendation: NSSAB Membership: Recommend that as NSSAB members complete their six (6) years of service, they are not replaced; memberships which are terminated due to resignation or other causes(s) that have not termed out should be filled for the remaining unexpired term(s); revisit in fiscal year 2025. During membership recruitment campaigns, the EM Nevada Program shall endeavor to maintain representation for geographic areas in proximity to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

DOE Response: The EM Nevada Program will consider this recommendation to identify priorities, including geographic representation, during the planning of strategies and approaches for future membership recruitment drives.

NSSAB Recommendation: Meeting Frequency: Recommend that NSSAB meetings continue to be held bimonthly, as currently scheduled, and institute a gradual, annual process of reduction to the number of meetings and work plan item(s) as the end of the program approaches and which will end just prior to the end of the EM Nevada Program mission.

DOE Response: The EM Nevada Program will consider this recommendation to inform the development of the annual NSSAB Work Plan framework, as well as the scheduling of future NSSAB meetings.

NSSAB Recommendation: Other: Recommend that there is an NSSAB as long as there is radioactive waste transported to and disposed at the NNSS, and that the NSSAB takes an even more active role in focusing on waste disposal and transportation activities as the EM Nevada Program clean-up missions reach its regulatory end-states.

DOE Response: As the Board is aware, the NSSAB is explicitly chartered through the DOE Office of Environmental Management.

While the EM Nevada Program is scheduled to achieve mission end-state via completion of its baseline prior to 2030, it is anticipated there will still be a continued need within the DOE Complex for NNSS waste disposal. However, it has not yet been determined what entity would be responsible for managing any future waste disposal activities at the NNSS beyond 2030.

Therefore, should the EM Nevada Program cease to exist in the future, there would be no basis for the NSSAB to continue to operate, and the Board as currently structured would cease to exist as well.

While there are a number of variables impacting this recommendation, the EM Nevada Program can pledge to continue to involve the NSSAB in awareness of waste management activities at the NNSS as long as the EM Nevada Program maintains an active waste management mission in Nevada.

As always, the NSSAB's input is valued and your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the NSSAB Office at (702) 523-0894.

Robert Boehlecke
Program Manager
EM Nevada Program

EMOS:14410.RB

cc via email:

Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-4.32)

Kelly Snyder, DOE/HQ (EM-4.32)

Jesse Sleezer, Navarro

Barbara Ulmer, Navarro

NSSAB Members and Liaisons

Robert Boehlecke, EM

Catherine Hampton, EM

Bill Wilborn, EM

EM Records