

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) is a formal volunteer group of interested citizens and representatives who provide informed recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Nevada Field Office Environmental Management regarding activities at the Nevada National Security Site. The NSSAB provides a mechanism for public and community participation through an ongoing exchange of information. Regularly held NSSAB meetings are open to the public.

Origins and Membership

The NSSAB is one of the eight advisory boards representing DOE Environmental Management sites across the United States. These local boards were created in 1994 by authority of the DOE National Site-Specific Advisory Board, which is chartered under the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*. Although the NSSAB operates in compliance with the Act and receives DOE funding for administrative and technical support, the NSSAB is autonomous when providing advice and recommendations to the DOE Nevada Field Office.



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board members at a well drilling site on the Nevada National Security Site

The NSSAB's federal charter and standard operating procedures provide for a maximum of 20 members, each serving a two-year term with an option to renew for two more terms (six years total). These members bring a variety of perspectives to the NSSAB and provide views of the general public, and represent the interests and environmental concerns of rural communities that surround the Nevada National Security Site.

In addition to the regular members, the NSSAB includes non-voting liaison members. These liaisons represent Clark, Lincoln, White Pine, Esmeralda, Elko and Nye counties, National Park Service, Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office, Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations and the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Activities

In accordance with the federal charter, NSSAB activities and recommendations must focus solely on Environmental Management activities. As such, the NSSAB provides recommendations on budget, groundwater contamination, historic nuclear test area clean up, radioactive waste transportation and disposal activities at the Nevada National Security Site.



Definitions

Federal Advisory Committee Act: Became law in 1972 and provides standards and uniform procedures governing the establishment, administration, operation, and duration of any federal advisory committee.

Full Board Meeting: A public meeting of the entire NSSAB which meets on average six to seven times a year, based on a yearly work plan.

Site-Specific Advisory Board: A federally chartered advisory board comprised of eight boards developed to involve stakeholders more directly in U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management cleanup decisions. Local advisory boards are established at Hanford (Washington), Idaho, Nevada, Northern New Mexico, Oak Ridge (Tennessee), Paducah (Kentucky), Portsmouth (Ohio), and Savannah River (South Carolina).

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Work Plan

Each fiscal year the NSSAB identifies specific objectives, which are developed into a work plan for review and approval by DOE. The NSSAB is provided additional information (reports, tours, briefings, etc) on each work plan item in order to make informed recommendations.

Actions

Recommendations are presented, discussed and considered for approval during full board meetings. If approved, recommendations are submitted in writing to the DOE Nevada Field Office and/or other affected DOE Environmental Management offices.

Member Responsibilities

Board membership may require a time commitment of approximately 10 hours per month. No technical experience is required. Responsibilities include:

- Attend full board meetings
- Actively participate in Board/committee activities
- Review all materials (documents, emails, etc.) in a timely manner and respond, as requested

Public Involvement

The NSSAB provides the public with first-hand information on current issues and facilitates public involvement in the decision-making process. The NSSAB also functions as an educational and informational link to the community by providing the public an opportunity to ask questions or comment on issues. Members of the public are invited to attend full board meetings. While the majority of NSSAB meetings are held in Las Vegas, they are occasionally held in other locations within southern Nevada.



Members of the public interested in joining the NSSAB should call 702-630-0522 or e-mail nssab@nnsa.doe.gov. Membership information, applications, meeting agendas and minutes, work plan items, and recommendations are available on the NSSAB web site at www.nnss.gov/nssab.



For more information, please contact:

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For information on all Nevada Field Office Environmental Management activities
visit: www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/em/Environmental.html

