

## Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

## **Full Board Virtual Meeting**

4:00 p.m. - January 20, 2021

Members Present: Gail Alexander, Frank Bonesteel (Chair), William DeWitt,

William Dolan, Karen Eastman, Gary Elgort, Anthony Graham,

Mark Hilton, Ronald Korner, James Moldenhauer, Dan Peterson, Janice Six, Richard Stephans, Favil West, Dina

Williamson-Erdag

Members Absent: Charles Fullen, Bruce Jabbour

Liaisons Present: Chris Andres (State of Nevada Division of Environmental

Protection [NDEP], Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations [CGTO]), Richard Friese, (U.S. National Park Service [NPS]), Phil Klevorick (Clark County), Patrick Lazenby (Nye County Emergency Management

[NCEM])

Liaisons Absent: Jared Brackenbury (Lincoln County Commission), Leo Blundo

(Nye County Commission), John Klenke (Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office [NWRPO]) Delon Winsor

(Esmeralda County Commission)

Department of Energy (DOE): Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program: Robert

Boehlecke (Deputy Designated Federal Officer [DDFO]), Tiffany

Gamero, Catherine Hampton, John Myers, Gary Younger

(Hanford Advisory Board), Bill Wilborn

National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field

Office (NNSA/NFO): Darwin Morgan

Government Contractors: Navarro: Michelle French, Brian Haight, Kevin Knapp, Christy

Morris, Patty Neese, Ken Rehfeldt, Ari Rosenberg, Jesse

Sleezer, and Barbara Ulmer

Desert Research Institute (DRI): Chuck Russell

Public: Kelsey Shank (theEdge, LLC)

## Open Meeting/Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Frank Bonesteel thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Following the Chair's opening remarks, Member Richard Stephans moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## Written Public Comment Read into Record

There was no written public comment.

## **Liaison Updates**

## Clark County (Phil Klevorick)

Liaison Phil Klevorick informed the Board that he is on the Clark County School District (CCSD) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Board. He is working with staff from the EM Nevada Program, NNSA/NFO, the National Atomic Testing Museum, and Navarro to plan virtual field trips, particularly for STEM students, although the recordings will be available to all CCSD students.

#### **CGTO** (Richard Arnold)

Liaison Richard Arnold updated on the Tribal Revegetation Project at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). The Tribal Revegetation Committee (TRC), tasked to develop an approach for a revegetative cover, has observed positive results with the incorporation of native seed mixes, planting transplants in test plots, soils analysis, development of a systematic watering system, and identification of an additional planting season. The TRC has performed traditional ceremonies and other activities, including monthly monitoring to evaluate plant growth in the test plots. The TRC is working with Portland State University and DRI to produce a progress report. Liaison Arnold noted that he has been involved with the State and Tribal Governments Working Group (STWG) on multiple topics including tribal issues. He is involved with the Low-Level Waste (LLW) Stakeholders Forum. In March 2021, he is planning to attend the Waste Management Symposia, a conference helpful in identifying emerging topics for the tribal community. Liaison Arnold announced that the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) is making a determination whether it will be held virtually from June 14-17, 2021. In collaboration with NTSF, the Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee participates in monthly calls for updates on activities, including its semi-annual meeting. The CGTO, comprised of 16 different culturally-affiliated tribes of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), is moving its annual meeting from March to August 2021. The CGTO annual meeting is a forum to share updates on NNSS activities and the Tribal Revegetation Project at Area 5 RWMC.

### NCEM (Patrick Lazenby)

Liaison Patrick Lazenby had nothing new to report.

#### **NDEP** (Christine Andres)

Liaison Christine Andres noted that she continues to participate in virtual meetings to keep the work flowing. She reiterated from past meetings that NDEP's workload has not decreased during the pandemic; a testament to the good working relationship that her Bureau of Federal Facilities (BFF) has with the EM Nevada Program. NDEP is currently responding to documents for Corrective Action Units (CAUs) 572 and 577. She explained that her BFF has fewer employees in comparison to other state bureaus and has been facing the challenges of training two new

employees during telework status. Regarding the Y-12 incident, she participates in weekly meetings to develop an agreement to be shared with upper management for comment. Plans are to have a signed agreement in the next several months. In 2020, Liaison Andres approved the closure for the Yucca Flat and Rainier Mesa groundwater areas. The last groundwater area, Pahute Mesa, is in the corrective action investigation stage. Liaison Andres also participates on the STWG representing the State of Nevada. She is a member of the Federal Facilities Task Force that held its fall/winter meeting virtually last week. She is looking forward to participating in the Waste Management Symposia virtually in March 2021. She will be training her new employees on items related to the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order annual meeting next month. Liaison Andres concluded that she attends the LLW Stakeholders Forum on behalf of the State of Nevada.

## NNSA/NFO Update (Darwin Morgan, NNSA/NFO)

Mr. Darwin Morgan reported that Dr. David Bowman was named the new NFO Manager in November 2020. An announcement of a deputy NFO manager is not expected to until after the Administration transition. The NNSA released its 2020 Year in Review and is available at <a href="https://www.energy.gov/nnsa">www.energy.gov/nnsa</a>

## U.S. DOE Update (Robert Boehlecke, DOE)

DDFO Robert Boehlecke wished the Board a happy new year and opened with a status that despite unprecedented challenges, the EM Nevada Program made significant progress in 2020. The Program's milestones were highlighted in the EM HQ 2020 Year in Review that is available at https://www.energy.gov/em/downloads/department-energy-office-environmental-management-2020-year-review. EM Nevada Program's 2020 accomplishments include the completion of the transfer of 70 closed cleanup sites on and around the Tonopah Test Range to the DOE Office of Legacy Management. Closure of the Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain and Yucca Flat/Climax Mine groundwater areas resulted in three of the four major groundwater areas in closure. The remaining groundwater area, Pahute Mesa, will be undergoing environmental restoration activities for a number of years. The Program safely and securely disposed of ~500,000 cubic feet of LLW and mixed LLW (MLLW) radioactive waste in support of the DOE complex. These accomplishments were possible due to the dedicated professionals who adapted to changing conditions and continued to execute cleanup and waste acceptance missions safely, securely, and successfully. DDFO Boehlecke thanked the NSSAB for its valuable recommendations. feedback, and guidance through the past year, and the Program looks forward to another successful year.

DDFO Boehlecke reported on recent EM Nevada Program progress:

- Underground Test Area (UGTA): In November 2020, NDEP provided comments on the Pahute Mesa Hydrologic Data Document and comment resolution will be completed soon. In December 2020, the Pahute Mesa Transport Data Document began internal technical review.
- Industrial Sites: Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan
  (CADD/CAP) for CAU 577, Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells and draft
  Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) for Test Cell C documents
  were submitted to NDEP for its review and comment. EM Nevada Program to work with
  NDEP on comment resolution.

- **Post-Closure Monitoring**: In December 2020, annual inspections were completed with maintenance and the repairs identified to continue throughout the calendar year.
- Area 5 RWMC: Disposal operations are regularly receiving waste shipments with additional controls in place to protect drivers and facility staff. The Area 5 RWMC has received 65,000 cubic feet of waste during the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2021. The current total forecast for FY 2021 is ~706,000 cubic feet. In past years, ~1.2 million cubic feet per year of waste has been received for disposal at the NNSS. The current volume forecast is considerably lower due to current conditions and completion of DOE cleanup projects. Irrigation to promote seed growth of the closure cover for the MLLW cell continued. Construction of the closure cover for several of the CAU 577 disposal cells commenced with seeding and irrigation to begin soon. Construction of the berm and drainage channel in the southern portion western section anticipated to be completed early this year.

DDFO Boehlecke reiterated comments by Liaison Andres that the EM Nevada Program continues to work with both NDEP and NNSA/NFO on developing a settlement agreement in response to the Y-12 incident. Progress has been made on this agreement and is almost to a point where it will be shared with the NNSA/NFO, EM HQ, and NDEP chains of command for input and consensus. It is anticipated that the agreement will be signed in the next several months. Updates will be provided at future NSSAB meetings.

In response to a Board question concerning CAU 577, DDFO Boehlecke clarified that the groundwater will not be impacted by the waste in these disposal cells. There are no groundwater pathways, the groundwater level is ~700 feet below ground surface, and low precipitation results in groundwater evapotranspiring to the ground surface. Providing background, DDFO Boehlecke stated that several years ago the NNSS accepted waste from a generator as LLW that should have been characterized and shipped as MLLW and disposed in a lined waste cell. A Corrective Action Plan/Closure Report was drafted and approved by NDEP. Corrective actions were implemented for a closure cover of eight feet of fill that would allow rainfall to be absorbed and evaporate to the surface before reaching the waste.

## Follow-up to NSSAB Long-Term Strategy – Work Plan Item #4 (Robert Boehlecke, DOE)

At the November 18, 2020, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Kelly Snyder, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), provided a briefing on NSSAB Long-Term Strategy - work plan item #4. The Board's mission for this work plan was, as follows: From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation for how the NSSAB envisions its future role as the EM Nevada Program mission transitions to completion, including recommendations on the frequency of meetings, number of members, and overall community expectations. During the November meeting, Chair Bonesteel initiated discussion on potential recommendations that were subsequently emailed to the NSSAB for its consideration, along with the recording of the briefing to review.

As there were no additional questions for the EM Nevada Program by the Board, Chair Bonesteel initiated discussion to finalize a recommendation for work plan item #4, as follows:

Potential recommendation on NSSAB Membership:

 Option 1: Recommend that as NSSAB members complete their six (6) years of service, they are not replaced; members that resign and have not termed out should be replaced for the remaining unexpired term(s); revisit in FY 2025 or FY 2026.

**Rephrased**: 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 terms(s); revisit in FY 2025.

Option 2: The same basic approach as Option 1 above, but with guaranteed representation for geographic areas in proximity to the NNSS.
 Rephrased: During membership recruitment campaigns, the EM Nevada Program shall endeavor to maintain representation for geographic areas in proximity to the NNSS.

Member Dan Peterson made a motion that Option 2, as rephrased, on NSSAB Membership be approved as a recommendation for work plan #4. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Potential recommendation on Meeting Frequency:

- **Option 1:** Recommend only having NSSAB meetings when there is a work plan item to be considered.
- **Option 2:** Recommend having six (6) NSSAB meetings a year that can include updates/educational sessions, etc., even when there is no work plan items.
- **Option 3:** Recommend that NSSAB meetings held quarterly at a minimum.
- **Option 4:** Recommend a gradual process of reduction (of meetings, work plan items) as the end of the program approaches and ends just prior to the end of the EM Nevada Program mission.

**Rephrased (Options 3 and 4 combined):** 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.

Member Gary Elgort made a motion that Options 3 and 4 combined, as rephrased, on Meeting Frequency be approved as a recommendation for work plan #4. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Potential 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 cleanup missions reach its regulatory end-states.

Member Peterson made a motion that the potential recommendation (Other) be approved as a recommendation for work plan #4. The motion was seconded. DDFO Boehlecke provided a clarification to a Board question that the NSSAB can only provide recommendations to the DOE EM Nevada Program. Once the EM Nevada Program mission is complete, the NSSAB mission would also be complete. The motion passed unanimously.

Potential recommendations considered by the NSSAB that may not align with work plan item #4:

- **Bullet 1**: Recommend that additional ways be considered for outreach to communities, including schools; an example would be to develop a short video presentation available to the public on EM activities on the NNSS and its path to closure.
- **Bullet 2**: Recommend that NSSAB members make their community members aware of EM Nevada Program activities.
- **Bullet 3**: Recommend keeping top of mind that the overall end of EM Nevada Program goal for the NSSAB is to work itself out of a job.
- **Bullet 4**: Recommend flexibility in reducing the Board's scope as the Program draws toward completion.
- **Bullet 5**: Recommend the "class" of FY 2028 be the final class of NSSAB members with one or two volunteers possibly remaining, if needed.

Member Elgort made a motion to include bullets 3 and 4 in the introductory paragraphs of the NSSAB recommendation letter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Bonesteel thanked the NSSAB members for its recommendations for NSSAB Long-Term Strategy - work plan item #4. The NSSAB Office will draft the NSSAB recommendation letter and submit to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and response.

# <u>Communication Plan for Pahute Mesa Groundwater Sampling Results – Work Plan Item #6</u> (Jesse Sleezer and Brian Haight, *Navarro*)

#### NSSAB – Work Plan Item #6

- 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
  - Including recommendations on the frequency of meetings, number of members, and overall community expectations
- NSSAB recommendation is due in May 2021

#### Outline

- o What is the Communications Plan?
- o Why is it changing?
- o 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 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 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 NDEP
  - Reflected in the new UGTA Sampling Plan for CAUs 101 and 102, Central and Western Pahute Mesa
- 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:
  - Remove and replace all references to the retired NNSS Integrated Groundwater Sampling Plan
  - Align notification/action level approaches with those previously established with NDEP concurrence in the CAU 97 and 99 Closure Reports
  - Remove NNSA/NFO integration as closure monitoring is implemented
  - 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

## Proposed approach:

Attachment 2 - Threshold Levels and Communication Actions

Threshold Levels	Analytical Result*	Communications Actions**	
Notification Level	First-time detection of COC (primarily tritium [₃H]) or COPC is ≥5% of its SDWA MCL for NTTR, public and/or private sampling locations	Notify NDEP     Notify USAF     Notify Isandowner 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	CAU: Correction Action Unit COC: Contaminant of concern COPC: Contaminant of potential concern FFACO: Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order MCL: Maximum contaminant level NDEP: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection NTR: Nevada Test and Training Range SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act USAF: U.S. Air Force
Action Level	COC (primarily tritium [□H]) or COPC concentration is ≥ SDWA MCL for NTTR, public and/or private sampling locations	A specific communication plan will be written (drafting of plan will begin when initial, unverified results are obtained)	

<sup>\*\*</sup>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

#### 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
  - Including recommendations on the frequency of meetings, number of members, and overall community expectations
- NSSAB recommendation is due in May 2021

Based on Board questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- The primary purpose of the Communication Plan is to provide guidance to the EM Nevada Program for coordination of the approaches to be taken in the event that a groundwater sample result from an off-site receptor triggers an action.
- The hold statements and press releases included in the Communication Plan are predrafted with tritium as the most likely contaminant of concern (COC) to trigger an action, although groundwater samples are screened for other radionuclides as well.
- The SDWA is the most stringent federal law established for drinking water standards that the EM Nevada Program, with NDEP's approval, uses when reporting groundwater sampling results.
- Although Attachment 1 Minimum Notifications List in the Communication Plan, provided to the NSSAB in advance of the meeting, was not specifically covered during the work plan briefing, the EM Nevada Program welcomes NSSAB input on potential enhancements/ improvements.

- From the previous Communication Plan, the notification level for the first-time detection of a COC was lowered from ten percent to a more conservative five percent based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards resulting from lessons learned.
- The EM Nevada Program receives groundwater sampling results of public and private wells from the Nye County Tritium Sampling and Monitoring Program and the Community Environmental Monitoring Program. In drafting the previous Communication Plan, communication actions were directed to the landowner of an impacted well located on private property.
- Permit holders referenced in the Communication Plan include the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Air Force.
- The EM Nevada Program validates or confirms its groundwater sampling results prior to releasing, as initial results could result in a false positive.
- The Communication Plan does not include public notifications via public or town hall meetings. Although, if the action level exceeds the SDWA standard in public and/or private sampling locations, a specific communication plan would be written in a proactive, transparent manner to ensure the public is aware of movement of potential contaminants. In this specific communication plan, the EM Nevada Program would consider all communication options, including community group meetings. As the notification level for first-time detection is very conservative, it is more likely that the threshold level initially would be exceeded at an NNSS sampling location rather than an off-site sampling location.

After questions were addressed, Chair Bonesteel led Board discussion on work plan item #6 with potential recommendations provided by members during the meeting, as follows:

- Recommend that the communication plan include more discussion as to what contaminants get generated from past nuclear testing at the NNSS and why sampling focuses primarily on those radionuclides.
- Recommend that the NSSAB get notified by the Environmental Program Services (EPS)
  contractor within five (5) days of the EPS notification rather than waiting until the next
  scheduled NSSAB meeting.
- Recommend that landowners or permit holders be defined in more detail so that if tests affect them they would be notified.

Member Anthony Graham made a motion to table providing a formal recommendation in order to provide members the opportunity to digest the information provided during the meeting and to review the briefing and the proposed Communication Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Chair Bonesteel requested that NSSAB members carefully consider these and other potential recommendations. The NSSAB Office will email these potential recommendations in advance for Members to be prepared to continue discussion at the NSSAB meeting on February 17, 2021.

## Other NSSAB Business (Frank Bonesteel, NSSAB Chair)

At the November 18, 2020, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Chair Bonesteel introduced the two EM SSAB charges, as follows:

## Charge #1 - Advisory Board and Site Outreach

 Develop a best practices white paper that the Department could use as a guide to augment existing outreach programs and set expectations for future outreach activities

- Each Board shall identify existing outreach practices performed at their site by both the NSSAB and DOE
  - Outreach data should include, but not limited to, STEM, budget prioritization, and events
  - Determine if there are any gaps or need for additional outreach

## **Charge #2 – SSAB Expectations/ Guiding Principles**

- Identify NSSAB end-state expectations and guiding principles that could be used as a complex-wide framework for DOE EM's interaction with stakeholders/communities
  - Each Board will document their expectations regarding what EM mission completion looks like at their site and the Board's expectations for how DOE EM will interact with local stakeholders/communities to reach that vision

The NSSAB Office populated starter lists for both Charge #1 and #2 that were provided to the NSSAB for review in advance of the meeting. The NSSAB was asked for its input, as follows: For Charge #1 – Advisory Board and Site Outreach, members to review the starter list to determine if there are any gaps or need for additional outreach. For Charge #2 – NSSAB Expectations/ Guiding Principles, members to review the starter list for any additions and/or refinements for what the Board's expectations are regarding what the EM mission would look like in Nevada and the Board's expectations for how EM will interact with local stakeholders and communities to reach that vision.

Chair Bonesteel initiated Board discussion on Charge #1 and received NSSAB input, as follows:

- Establish liaison with the school systems of nearby counties, including the Nevada System of Higher Education.
- Examine status of completion of the recommendations in the FY 2018 Community Analysis
   Work Plan Item #7 per the September 25, 2018 response from the EM Nevada Program, and expanding the virtual reality tour to that of the NNSS.
- Handling of Board members could be enhanced by having better introduction to the community and improved exit. For example, it would have been most helpful for the administrators to prepare a letter to the respective city of community announcing the new board member and explaining the position, the rigorous selection and approval process, approval in Washington DC, etc., and his or her value to the community.
- At the end of a 6-year term, provide more than a photo, if that, to Board Members. (In Nevada, there is a gubernatorial volunteer recognition certificate for spending 200 hours per year of volunteer work that may be applies for).
- Seek added funds to better support and provide recognition for Board Members.
- Have a formal Public Affairs milestone plan prepared for the period 2021-2030 that lists the key news releases to be issued.
- The National Atomic Test Museum (NATM), a Smithsonian affiliate, currently includes EM exhibits; coordinate with NATM to add EM exhibits as there is available space; University of Nevada, Las Vegas has an active public history program and has experience with installing exhibits and can assist with this coordination.
- Interface with NNSA/NFO to explore potential for increasing the number of public tours; need to be aware that there will be a surge in interest and consider increasing frequency after the pandemic is over.

Chair Bonesteel initiated Board discussion on Charge #2 and received NSSAB input, as follows:

- Groundwater:
  - What does completion of this activity mean to the NSSAB?
    - Flow Model complete and ensure proper controls for drilling identified
- Soils:
  - What does completion of this activity mean to the NSSAB?
    - Agree with DOE schedule
- Industrial Sites:
  - What does completion of this activity mean to the NSSAB?
    - Agree-Demo to Grade, Dispose Waste, Close in Place
    - Would the improvement in remediation techniques warrant a review of the earlier sites remediated to ensure that they are remediated to the highest potential?
    - Reexamining all the closed-in-place sites to see if clean closure is more appropriate with new technologies
- Waste Disposal Operations:
  - How would the NSSAB like to see DOE EM interact with local stakeholders/ communities to reach the completion vision?
    - Recommend that there is an NSSAB as long as there is radioactive waste transported to and disposed at the NNSS while being supported by the EM Nevada Program, 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. Upon EM Nevada Program mission completion, recommend that there is a formal process to ensure continued community involvement and transparency (already included in the starter list).
      - But it may be much smaller
- Stakeholder Outreach:
  - How would the NSSAB like to see DOE EM interact with local stakeholders/ communities to reach the completion vision?
    - Develop a Site EM Program History and Lessons Learned Compilation that starts with the original charter in about 1961 and mission statement.
    - Add a presentation to the NSSAB about the new Community Commitment Planning Committee – who, what, where, interaction with the NSSAB, etc.
    - More emphasis is appropriate on the interface with the NV Division of Environmental Protection and the Consent Order. A Las Vegas Site Visit or hold a meeting there
    - Coordinate with NDEP and the EM Program and seek mutual corporate knowledge to develop a historical summary, fact sheet, and lessons learned compilation that could be a reference input to an EM Program public affairs milestone plan for the 2020s.
    - After 2030, the stakeholders of the NNSS don't go away. Some level of interaction and function must continue and it appears that the Field Office will (does) have the responsibility.

Chair Bonesteel will present the NSSAB results for Charges #1 and #2 during the EM SSAB National Chairs meeting in April 2021. The Chairs will collaboratively discuss the individual Board results and develop a white paper for Charge #1. The Chairs will collaboratively discuss the

individual Board results, identify commonalties, and develop a complex-wide SSAB expectations and guiding principles framework for Charge #2.

Chair Bonesteel informed the NSSAB that he recently contacted DFO Snyder regarding member terms. Due to the pandemic, NSSAB members and liaisons have been unable to meet in-person for Board meetings, NNSS site visits for work plan or activity-focused items, conferences, seminars, or stakeholder activities for the past ten months. Chair Bonesteel continued that he is in favor of every SSAB member's term be extended by the length of the shutdown of in-person Board activities. DFO Snyder responded that the EM Nevada Program could not take action at a local level, although this recommendation could be brought forward to the Chairs during the spring EM SSAB National Chairs Meeting in April 2021. Member Graham made a motion that a recommendation be brought forward by Chair Bonesteel to the EM SSAB Chairs to extend SSAB member's terms by the length of the shut-down of in-person Board meetings, conferences, stakeholder events, site visits, etc. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

As the NSSAB Office received no additional interest in the Vice-Chair position since the November NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Chair Bonesteel congratulated Member Graham on becoming the new Vice-Chair.

Chair Bonesteel reminded the Board that the charter for LLW Stakeholders Forum was emailed to the NSSAB per its request after the November NSSAB Full Board Meeting. As the NSSAB Office received no additional interest, Member Ronald Korner from Las Vegas, NV and Member William DeWitt from Amargosa Valley, NV are the FY 2021 NSSAB representatives with Chair Bonesteel as the backup. The NSSAB representative is tasked with attending the meeting on behalf of the NSSAB and providing a written report highlighting the main points from the meeting.

#### **Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Upcoming calendar of events:

- LLW Stakeholders Forum Meeting (invite only) February 3, 2021 Virtual
- \*NSSAB Intergovernmental Liaisons meeting February 17, 2021 at 3 p.m. Virtual
- \*NSSAB Full Board meeting February 17, 2021 at 4 p.m. Virtual

(\*Meetings cancelled on February 4, 2021 and rescheduled for March 17, 2021)

Any questions on the calendar of events, please contact the NSSAB Office at 702-523-0894.

Member Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.