



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

**Full Board Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada
4:00 p.m. – September 10, 2025**

Members Present: Erik Anderson, Joycelyn Austin-Mabe, Lisa Blandi, Robert Blackstock, John Cole, Thomas Fisher, Pamela Handor, Mark Hilton (Chair), Tammi Odegard, Anntoinette Rivera, Kevin Trainor (Vice-Chair), Eddie Williams

Members Absent: Gary Elgort, Lori Olson-Arzaga, Brandon Schmidt

Liaisons Present: Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations [CGTO]), Andrew Bennett (Clark County), Frank Bonesteel and Scott Lewis (Nye County Emergency Management [NCEM]), Kelsey Bynum (National Park Service [NPS]), Meghan Lyle (State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP]), Fred Perez (Esmeralda County Commission), Janine Woodworth (Lincoln County Commission)

Liaisons Absent: Bruce Jabbour (Nye County Commission), John Klenke (Nye County Natural Resources and Federal Facilities Office [NRFFO])

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): **Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program:** Robert Boehlecke (Deputy Designated Federal Officer [DDFO]), Tiffany Gamero, Catherine Hampton, John Myers, Jackie Petrello
National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO): John Daniels, John Hogue

Government Contractors: **Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. (Navarro):** Kevin Knapp, Deron Linkenheil, Glenn Puit, Barbara Ulmer
Desert Research Institute (DRI): Beverly Parker
Mission Support and Test Services (MSTS): Reed Poderis

Open Meeting/Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mark Hilton welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance at the final meeting of fiscal year (FY) 2025. He thanked the liaisons and the staff for attending and providing their expertise that helps support the NSSAB in making informed decisions. Vice-Chair Kevin Trainor moved to approve the draft agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Liaison Updates

Clark County (*Andrew Bennett*)

Liaison Andrew Bennett, the Clark County Director of Traffic Safety, thanked the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) staff for inviting Clark County to participate in its emergency managers partner briefing last month. The county staff continues to coordinate with the NNSS for any emergencies and track transportation of low-level waste shipments across the county.

CGTO (*Richard Arnold*)

Liaison Richard Arnold noted that the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) held a planning committee meeting for the 2026 Annual Meeting to be held in Austin, TX, tentatively scheduled for May 2026. The committee is identifying topics and formats for the meeting, including breakout sessions, and booths and exhibits. The NTSF is also planning for topics for webinars that are held periodically during the year and discussing the adoption of science-based radiation limits in accordance with the Executive Order on reforming the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Liaison Arnold was involved with a meeting between DOE and the Tribal Committee, comprised of six representatives from various tribes affiliated with the NNSS, to share information and updates. In December 2025, DOE will host a field visit for Tribal leaders to an archaeological site on the NNSS. The CGTO will participate in the DOE and Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) National Cleanup Workshop in September 2025 in Arlington, VA. Liaison Arnold concluded that he will be working with the State and Tribal Government Working Group in preparation for the DOE Intergovernmental meeting on November 18-19, 2025, in Cincinnati, OH.

Esmeralda County (*Fred Perez*)

Liaison Fred Perez introduced himself as the new Esmeralda County liaison for the NSSAB, formerly held by Delon Winsor and before him Ralph Keyes. They both encouraged him to be involved with the NSSAB. He reported that Jeffrey Bushnell, the new Fire Chief, and Paul Melendrez, the Emergency Manager, are putting together a county emergency system. Liaison Perez concluded that he looks forward to meeting everyone.

Lincoln County (*Janine Woodworth*)

Liaison Janine Woodworth shared that this was the first time that she has participated in person to get a better understanding of her role as an NSSAB liaison. She has been a member of the ECA Board for a few years and has attended the National Cleanup Workshop on several occasions. Eric Holt, Emergency Manager and Lincoln County Fire Chief, keeps county commissioners informed on current issues. Liaison Woodworth noted that she has concerns with the transportation and storage of lithium batteries in her county. DDFO Boehlecke noted that the six

counties who receive DOE Emergency Preparedness Working Grant funding were invited many years ago to participate on the NSSAB as a liaison to have the opportunity to share pertinent information and insights with the EM Nevada Program, NSSAB, and other liaisons.

NCEM (*Scott Lewis*)

Liaison Scott Lewis thanked the EM Nevada Program for the improved communications on shipments of radioactive waste through Nye County. NCEM continues to track shipments of lithium ion originating in southern California to northern Nevada for disposal and repurposing. Liaison Lewis noted that NCEM is working with the NNSS to upgrade radio systems so there is an interoperability between emergency responders given any type of emergency incident that may occur on transportation routes. NCEM staff will attend the Threat Hazards Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) that is sponsored by the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management. THIRA attendees spend several days reviewing existing plans, areas of opportunity, and comparing lessons learned with other county partners to ensure that all entities are in coordination in the event of an actual emergency. Liaison Lewis informed the Board that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held its last meeting in August 2025. The LEPC mission is to bring together key stakeholders to share and disseminate information.

NDEP (*Meghan Lyle*)

Liaison Meghan Lyle commented that the biggest update for NDEP is the retirement of Chris Andres. With her departure, NDEP has been undergoing a transition, although NDEP staff is progressing with the work. NDEP has been involved with regular document review, observing demolition activities at Test Cell C and EMAD, and attending post-closure inspections at some Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) sites on the NNSS.

NPS (*Kelsey Bynum*)

Liaison Kelsey Bynum introduced herself as the Energy and Mineral Specialist for Death Valley National Park (DVNP). Her focus is on large-scale utility and mining projects proposed outside of DVNP and being involved with committees and boards, such as the NSSAB, to have a voice on cumulative impacts, especially on cross-boundary resources, particularly groundwater. Devils Hole and the endangered Devils Hole pupfish are located within DVNP and is legally mandated for their protection, so groundwater is a high-priority resource. Liaison Bynum concluded that DVNP is currently between 30-40 percent understaffed for various reasons and are planning to hire seasonal workers to fill in the gap.

NNSA/NFO Update (*John Daniels, Federal Public Affairs Officer, and Paul Hogue, Deputy Assistant Manager for Environmental Safety and Health*)

Mr. John Daniels reported Brandon Williams is expected to be confirmed as the new NNSA Administrator in the next two weeks.

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

Underground Test Area (UGTA) Drilling Campaign:

The UGTA Team has completed the drilling of two wells in Pahute Mesa on the NNSS. The team is now working on deepening an already existing well that will close out the final step of the drilling campaign. Work started with drilling on well ER-20-13-1 in May 2025. Drillers reached a final depth of 2,570 feet below ground surface before moving on to the second well, ER-20-13-2 that was completed on August 19, 2025, at a depth of 2,870 feet. The UGTA Team then mobilized to

existing well ER-20-1 to commence work on extending the depth of that pre-existing well. This final stage of drilling started on August 26, 2025.

This drilling effort is important to document the nature and extent of groundwater contamination caused by historic nuclear testing at the NNSS and supports future closure of the final groundwater corrective action unit on the NNSS. The EM Nevada Program's goal is to demonstrate the reliability of the groundwater contaminant transport model results and provide confidence that the model results can support decisions leading to closure.

The UGTA Team has focused on both safety and using the newest technology during the drilling campaign. This undertaking is a result of extensive planning and attention to details. The EM Nevada Program appreciates all the hard work by Navarro and others who have supported this important work.

Industrial Sites Update on Test Cell C (TCC) in Area 25 of the NNSS:

The EM Nevada Program achieved a significant milestone in August 2025 with the successful demolition of TCC, a historic industrial facility. Planning commenced in 2022 and is now complete after three years of meticulous preparation and labor-intensive work. The TCC demolition was carried out with the safety of workers as the top priority from day one.

Crews completed biological surveys, and radiological samples were taken throughout closure activities. Crews also removed electrical and lighting components known to contain regulated waste (i.e., mercury switches, thermometers, batteries, mercury vapor light bulbs), from ancillary buildings and equipment at TCC. Asbestos abatement activities were conducted at all structures before demolition commenced.

A string of ancillary buildings at TCC were demolished using traditional demolition techniques. Explosives were used to bring down a 150,000-gallon elevated water tank in January 2024. Another challenge was the removal of an insulation material called perlite that was located between the inner and outer tanks of the Dewars. Approximately 500,000 pounds of perlite were carefully removed, packaged, and disposed of prior to size-reduction of the Dewars.

The biggest challenge was dismantling and disposing of the multiple Dewars at TCC. The exterior carbon steel shell on the larger spherical-like Dewars was 5/8 inch thick with the inner stainless-steel shell was just over 3/4 inch thick. Navarro successfully used water jet cutting – an innovative approach that uses pressurized water to make many of the cuts necessary. All Dewars have successfully been brought down.

The EM Nevada Team determined that the stainless steel from the Dewars did not have any coatings. The team worked with the NNSA/NFO contractor, MSTs, to develop a plan for recycling the 400,000 pounds of stainless steel from the Dewars.

Drive-Through Truck Portal - Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC):

The new drive-through truck portal at the Area 5 RWMC is in the final stages of preparation. The portal complements existing technology used to screen radioactive waste shipments to ensure the shipments comply with safety standards and the Waste Acceptance Criteria prior to the waste being disposed of at the NNSS. Packages are screened using radiography to identify prohibited items such as liquids, batteries or electronics.

The biggest limiting factor with the current real time radiography (RTR) unit is size restrictions. The new drive-through truck portal allows for larger packages to be screened with the latest technology for shipments arriving at the Area 5 RWMC by being screened while the shipment is being transported into the facility on tractor trailers. The new technology distinguishes between specific materials such as liquids and solids or plastics and metals. The portal is the result of an additional \$15 million in funding allocated by Congress to the EM Nevada Program.

Number of NSSAB Meetings:

The EM Nevada Program has decided to reduce the number from six to four meetings annually for the NSSAB. This is largely a function of ensuring that there is adequate work plan items to justify the number of meetings.

Navarro STEM (Science, Technology Engineering, and Math) Grants:

EM Nevada Program's contractor, Navarro Research & Engineering, has announced its new Community Commitment Grants Program cycle. Over the past four years, Navarro has provided over \$61,000 for STEM grants projects in schools, and this year Navarro has committed \$20,000 to the effort. The Navarro STEM grant is specifically intended to support educational activities that promote learning related to STEM in communities near the NNSS.

Eligibility for the grants program is open to public, private, and charter schools in the counties of Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine in Nevada. All K-12 schools and classrooms are eligible to apply; however, preference will be given to applications supporting clearly defined STEM-based activities. Grant deadline is October 22, 2025, and the application is located [here](#).

Recent/Upcoming Engagements:

The EM Nevada Program hosted the Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum in August 2025 to engage with stakeholders regarding waste transportation issues. NNSS Fire Chief Brian Dees and his Deputy Chiefs attended and provided a very thorough report on all the preparations for fire safety at the NNSS. On another item, Robert Boehlecke will be attending the National Cleanup Workshop scheduled for September 23–25, 2025, in Arlington, VA. Finally, the Program will participate in the annual DOE Intergovernmental Meeting on November 19-20, 2025, in Cincinnati, OH. This meeting includes representatives from Tribal governments, Governors' offices, Attorneys General, and environmental regulators from across the nation.

Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of EM

DOE announced today that Joel Bradburne has been named acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of EM. With over two decades of service at DOE projects across the nation, a master's degree in EM and certification as a Project Management Professional, Bradburne brings a wealth of experience and nuclear expertise to EM Headquarters. Most recently, Bradburne has served as the Manager of EM's Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office where he safely delivered priority projects, streamlined decision-making to enable accelerated cleanup and helped transform liabilities into opportunities for American energy dominance and for the people of Ohio and Kentucky.

Follow-up to Development of an Outline for a Communication Plan for the Transition of EM Sites on the NNSS – Work Plan Item #3 *(Tiffany Gamero, DOE)*

The NSSAB was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective to the EM Nevada Program on specific topics to be included in the final Site Communication Plan for transition and how and to whom it should be communicated.

In support of the scope of this work plan item, Tiffany Gamero, DOE's Regulatory/FFACO Lead, conducted a work plan presentation and answered questions during the June 18, 2025, NSSAB Full Board Meeting. The briefing included information on the purpose, background, roles and responsibilities, stakeholders, and the communication tools to be used for the final Plan.

The NSSAB began developing recommendations during its June meeting, although the Board approved a motion to finalize them during tonight's agenda to give members an opportunity to ponder any additional recommendations. In preparation for the meeting, NSSAB members were provided with the recording of Ms. Gamero conducting the presentation and the list of proposed recommendations developed by the Board during the June meeting.

Ms. Gamero was available to answer any additional questions to assist the NSSAB in formulating any additional recommendations for work plan item #3. In response to questions/comments, the following clarification was provided:

- The EM restoration mission on the NNSS is scheduled to be completed in FY 2030 and the long-term monitoring mission completed in FY 2031 and transitioned to the NNSS long-term steward. The EM Nevada Program's waste management mission baseline has been recently extended from FY 2035 to FY 2045.

Chair Hilton led Board discussion on work plan item #3 starting with the following proposed recommendations developed by the Board during the June meeting on specific topics to be included in the final Communication Plan for site transition and how and to whom it should be communicated. These proposed recommendations also include items of interest that the NSSAB felt are important to communicate with the public during the transition.

- Under the Purpose section, include categories describing the types of restrictions and post-closure monitoring requirements (*G. Elgort*)
- Under the Background section, provide background on the history of U.S. Department of Energy legacy nuclear testing activities on the NNSS (*G. Elgort*)
- Under the Stakeholders section, provide a method to determine which communities that will be given additional communications regarding the transition (E.g., Communities adjacent to the NNSS? Communities in California/Utah?) (*G. Elgort*)
- Under the Communication Tools section, include links to the Nuclear Testing Archive Public Virtual Reading Room and for other important documents, such as the NNSS Environmental Report (*G. Elgort*)
- Address in the scope: 1) a definition of stewardship, 2) migration for both groundwater and dust, and 3) what the transition to a future steward encompasses and what does it not include (*L. Olson-Arzaga*)

- Provide before and after visuals of FFACO closed sites to demonstrate progress at NNSS (*R. Blackstock*)
- Explore using an interactive texting/response system (*T. Odegard*)
- Celebrate the successes of completing the cleanup mission on the NNSS (*T. Fisher*)
- Communicate adequate information to the public and where they can access more if interested (*T. Fisher*)
- Limit the use of jargon and acronyms (*T. Fisher*)

After further discussion, the NSSAB did not have any additional recommendations. Vice-Chair Trainor made a motion to approve the potential recommendations listed above. The motion was scheduled and passed unanimously. Ms. Gamero thanked the NSSAB for the thoughtful consideration of this work plan item and looks forward to formally receiving the NSSAB's recommendations. The NSSAB Office will submit a recommendation letter to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and a formal response.

Follow-up to RTR at the Area 5 RWMC at the NNSS (Work Plan Item #5) (*Reed Poderis, MSTs*)

During the April 16th NSSAB meeting, Byron Smith, Navarro RTR Verification Technician, briefed on work plan item #5. The NSSAB was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, for how Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program's (RWAP's) RTR operations could be enhanced. Prior to the meeting, the NSSAB was provided with the recording of the briefing to refamiliarize themselves with the topic to come prepared to have meaningful discussion on recommendations for this work plan item.

In support of this work plan item, Members Robert Blackstock and Eddie Williams accompanied the RWAP Team to observe RTR operations at the Area 5 RWMC on July 29 with Byron Smith and September 4 with Deron Linkenheil from Navarro RWAP and Jackie Petrello from the EM Nevada Program. Members Blackstock and Williams provided very informational and thorough reports during the meeting, including a PowerPoint presentation with photographs, that outlined their observations during the visits. Members Blackstock and Williams commented that the staff was professional and took the time to answer all their questions. It was a great experience, and they look forward to getting updates and observing the operation of the drive-through truck portal when available.

Reed Poderis, MSTs Director of Environmental Management and Compliance Group, and Mr. Linkenheil were available to answer any additional questions to assist the NSSAB in formulating recommendations for work plan item #5. In response to Board questions/comments, the following clarifications were provided:

- RWAP staff can request that a waste container be flipped on its side to get another view of a particular item(s).
- RWAP staff can contact the generator if they question the identity of an item. The generator can refer to the inventory log regarding the questioned item and report back.
- The NNSS does not have a facility to open waste containers to view a particular item.

- The RTR image is viewed on a computer screen that is divided into sections by placing a board with locator letters and numbers behind the waste container within the RTR machine.
- The requirements for RTR verifications are included in the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria and accessible to the public [here](#).

Chair Hilton led Board discussion on work plan item #5. Member Blackstock brought forward a recommendation for discussion that the EM Nevada Program optimize the loading/unloading of the waste containers by extending the concrete pad on the north side of the RTR building. Member Trainor made a motion that this potential recommendation be approved for work plan item #5. The motion was seconded. After Board discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hilton thanked Members Blackstock and Williams for their attendance and reports on their site visits and commended the Board for its diligence in providing recommendations for RTR at the Area 5 RWMC at the NNSS. He also thanked Mr. Poderis and Mr. Linkenheil for being available to answer additional questions during the meeting. DDFO Boehlecke apologized to Members Blackstock and Williams that the RTR machine was not operational during their first visit. Ms. Petrello appreciated being included and learning more about RTR operations. The NSSAB Office will draft the NSSAB recommendation letter and submit it to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and response.

FY 2026 Chair/Vice-Chair

Chair Hilton expressed interest in serving as Chair and Vice-Chair Kevin Trainor and Member Eddie Williams expressed interest in serving as Vice-Chair for FY 2026. There was no other interest from NSSAB members. Vice-Chair Trainor and Member Williams were provided with an opportunity to provide a brief speech regarding their interest in the vice-chair position. Members participating in person were provided with a ballot and members participating virtually voted by text. The votes were tallied during the break with an announcement later in the meeting.

Follow-up to Low-Level Waste (LLW) Facility Evaluations (Work Plan Item #4) (Deron Linkenheil, Navarro)

During the April 16th NSSAB meeting, Jhon Carilli, DOE LLW Activity Lead, briefed on work plan item #4. The NSSAB was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, for how RWAP's facility evaluations could be enhanced. Prior to the meeting, the NSSAB was provided with the recording of the briefing to refamiliarize themselves with the topic to come prepared to have meaningful discussion on recommendations for this work plan item.

In support of this work plan item, Chair Hilton and Member Tammi Odegard accompanied the RWAP Team, NDEP staff, and Jackie Petrello from the EM Nevada Program to observe a surveillance of the West Valley, NY generator the week of August 25, 2025. Chair Hilton and Member Odegard provided very informational and thorough report, including PowerPoint presentations with photographs, that outlined their observations during their visit. They noted that they received an incredible education from all who conducted the surveillance who are ultimately concerned with the safety of the current and future citizens of Nevada and anyone else impacted by the waste being stored, shipped across the country, and then disposed of at the NNSS. The attention to detail and the significant time that the RWAP Team spent reviewing records prior to arrival at the generator site was extensive and they commended them for the outstanding job.

Mr. Linkenheil, Navarro RWAP, was available to answer any additional questions to assist the NSSAB in formulating recommendations for work plan item #4. In response to Board questions/comments, the following clarifications were provided:

- Based on a performance assessment, it was determined that onsite disposal of LLW at West Valley was not ideal due to the amount of precipitation with resulting erosion.
- Each generator site has its own waste procedures and processes, although the waste destined for the NNSS must meet the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria. The generator may request a deviation from the EM Nevada Program if within the law.
- Used government equipment must undergo a process to determine if another DOE site can use it before declaring it as a waste.
- Per the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria, free liquids in LLW waste must be less than one percent by waste volume or .5 percent of the waste processed to solidified form.

Chair Hilton led Board discussion on work plan item #4. Member Odegard brought forward a recommendation for discussion that the EM Nevada Program provide NSSAB members, prior to travelling to the site to observe a facility evaluation, with a list of inspection items that includes a description, a summary of previous inspections, and a listing of the waste generator's risk value with a reasoning for that value. Member Trainor made a motion that this potential recommendation be approved for work plan item #4. The motion was seconded. After Board discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The NSSAB Office will draft the NSSAB recommendation letter and submit it to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and response.

EM SSAB Fall National Chairs Meeting *(Mark Hilton, Chair)*

The EM SSAB Fall National Chairs Meeting will be held virtually on October 28, 2025. The meeting will include update briefings and the round robins from each of the eight EM advisory boards presenting topics to EM Headquarters Senior Management that highlight the board's top interest/concerns and accomplishments.

Chair Hilton began a Board discussion with the round robin topics that were to be presented during the EM SSAB Spring National Chairs Meeting:

Board Accomplishments:

- Successful Board recruitment of new members from a variety of communities surrounding the NNSS and retention of those members (K. Trainor)
- Excellent liaison participation and contributions that add value to Board discussions during meetings (E. Anderson)

Board Concerns:

- Misinterpretation/misunderstanding of waste activities at the NNSS (E. Anderson)
- Will the NSSAB continue to be active after the completion of the EM restoration mission on the NNSS? (K. Trainor)

Vice-Chair Trainor made a motion to adopt the slate of round topics listed above. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NSSAB Update on LLW Stakeholders Forum

Member Lisa Blandi shared items of interest from her attendance at the LLW Stakeholders Forum held in Pahrump on August 13, 2025.

LLW Stakeholders Forum Representative for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

Chair Hilton stated that there is an opening for an NSSAB representative on the LLW Stakeholders Forum for FY 2026. This forum provides an opportunity to share and discuss information related to the shipment and disposal of waste primarily at the NNSS. Chair Hilton added that these hybrid meetings are held two times a year and rotate locations between Las Vegas and Pahrump, NV, with the next meeting is scheduled for February 2026 in Las Vegas. 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. For in-person meetings, there is DOE reimbursement available for one NSSAB member to attend each meeting. Members Lisa Blandi volunteered to attend the meeting in Las Vegas and Robert Blackstock volunteered to attend the meeting in Pahrump. The NSSAB Office will provide the final meeting details when available.

FY 2025 Work Plan Status *(DOE Activity Leads)*

- **FY 2025 Work Plan Items Status**

- **Annual NNSS Environmental Report** – from a community perspective, provide recommendations for ways that Chapter 11 of the NNSER could be enhanced (i.e., readability, presentation of information, etc.).
- Status:
 - NSSAB Recommendation – February 2025
 - EM Nevada Program Response – April 2025
 - Status update – NSSAB recommendations used to make enhancements to the 2024 NNSER that is scheduled to be published this month. This report is written to inform the public, regulators, employees, and other stakeholders of the performance of the NNSS environmental program. The NNSER can be accessed [here](#).
- **Development of an Outline for a Communication Plan for the Transition of EM Sites on the NNSS to Long-Term Stewardship** – from a community perspective, provide recommendations on specific topics to be included in the final Communication Plan for site transition and how and to whom it should be communicated.
- Status:
 - NSSAB Recommendation – Due Tonight
 - EM Nevada Program Response – Upon receipt of NSSAB recommendation letter
- **FY 2027 Prioritization** – from a community perspective, provide a recommendation ranking planned activities to inform the EM Nevada budget submission.
- Status
 - NSSAB Recommendation – February 2025
 - EM Nevada Program Response – February 2025
 - Status update: NSSAB recommendation used to inform EM HQ of NSSAB priorities.
 - As a reminder, the items were ranked by the NSSAB from the highest to the lowest:

- Central and Western Pahute Mesa (Groundwater)
- Post-Closure Monitoring
- Radioactive Waste Management Disposal Operations
- Stakeholders Support
- EMAD Facility (Industrial Sites)
- **LLW Facility Evaluations** – from a community perspective, provide recommendations for how RWAP’s facility evaluations could be enhanced.
- Status:
 - NSSAB Members Tammi Odegard and Mark Hilton observed a surveillance at a West Valley, NY generator
 - NSSAB Recommendation – Due Tonight
 - EM Nevada Program Response – Upon receipt of NSSAB recommendation letter
- **RTR Operations at the Area 5 RWMC at the NNSS** – from a community perspective, provide recommendations for how RWAP’s RTR operations could be enhanced.
- Status:
 - NSSAB Members Doug Blackstock and Eddie Williams observed RTR operations
 - NSSAB Recommendation – Due Tonight
 - EM Nevada Program Response – Upon receipt of NSSAB recommendation letter
- **Post Closure Inspection Observation and Evaluation for Groundwater Sites at the NNSS** – from a community perspective, provide recommendations on ways the standard post-closure inspection process for groundwater sites could be improved or enhanced
 - NSSAB Recommendation – April 2025
 - EM Nevada Program Response – May 2025
 - Status update – EM Nevada Program considering including graphs of sampling results in future post closure monitoring reports and coordinating the use of excess water from pumping when safe and practical
- **Post Closure Inspection Observation and Evaluation for Industrial Sites and Soils Sites at the NNSS** – from a community perspective, provide recommendations on ways the standard post-closure inspection process for Industrial Sites and Soils sites could be improved or enhanced
 - NSSAB Recommendation – April 2025
 - EM Nevada Program Response – May 2025
 - Status update – EM Nevada Program will consider and research options using remote sensing/drones for visual inspections in the future

There were no Board questions on the status of the FY 2025 Work Plan items. Chair Hilton thanked the presenters for being available to update on the status of the FY 2025 Work Plan.

FY 2026 Work Plan Development

DOE FY 2026 Proposed NSSAB Work Plan Tasks:

The EM Nevada Program proposed the following three work plan items related to EM activities planned for FY 2026 for the NSSAB’s consideration. EM Nevada Program staff explained and answered Board questions for each of the proposed work plan items and the recommendation associated with each task.

1. From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations for ways to enhance/improve LLW Stakeholder Forum meetings, including suggesting educational topics related to waste transportation and improving overall engagement.
2. From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation ranking the planned activities for FY 2028 to inform the EM Nevada Program's budget submission.
3. From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation for how the EM Nevada Program can improve its education and briefings of the Board. This includes recommendations on use of technology, frequency of meetings, length of meetings, and pertinent educational sessions.

Other NSSAB Task Input

NSSAB members had a discussion and did not have any additional work plan items to bring forward. Vice-Chair Trainor made a motion to close discussion on the topic of other work plan items proposed by the NSSAB. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Work plan item #2 listed above is required by EM Headquarters annually; therefore, a vote was not taken on this item. Using task posters, members voted on each work plan item separately and the remaining two tasks received a unanimous vote.

After further Board discussion led by Chair Hilton, Member Erik Anderson made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2026 work plan including the three work plan tasks presented and to submit to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The NSSAB Office will submit the proposed FY 2026 Work Plan to the EM Nevada Program for its review and approval.

FY 2026 Meetings Schedule

Approval of Proposed Schedule

A proposed schedule was provided based on the timing of briefings and due dates for recommendations included in the FY 2026 Work Plan.

*The Full Board meeting scheduled for FY 2026 as follows:

- Wednesday, November 5, 2025 – starting at 4:30 p.m. in Las Vegas, NV (please note it is ½ hour later due to another meeting scheduled earlier on the same day)
- Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – starting at 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – annual NSSAB Tour of the NNSS (full day)
- Wednesday, June 17, 2026 – starting at 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 16, 2026 – starting at 4 p.m.

NSSAB Intergovernmental Meetings for NSSAB liaisons will be held an hour prior to each Full Board meeting. The meeting locations will be finalized by the NSSAB Office.

Follow-up to FY 2026 Chair/Vice-Chair

Chair Hilton ran unopposed and will serve as the NSSAB Chair for FY 2026. After the votes were tallied, Member Williams was elected as the Vice-Chair for FY 2026. The Board and staff thanked Chair Hilton and Vice-Chair Trainor for their leadership in the past fiscal year and look forward to working with Chair Hilton and Vice-Chair Williams in FY 2026.

Update on Annual Confirmation Letters to NSSAB Liaisons

NSSAB Administrator Barbara Ulmer provided the Board with responses to the annual confirmation letter sent out in July 2025 to each of the eleven NSSAB liaison organizations. By request of the NSSAB, these letters are sent out annually requesting the parent organization to reconfirm their interest in sponsoring a liaison position on the NSSAB and who they want as its point of contact. The parent organization chooses the option to be a Full or a Limited Liaison.

Full Liaison: This option allows liaison organizations to have a voice in Board discussions and input into recommendations. This option heavily relies on liaisons attending meetings.

Limited Liaison: This option allows liaison organizations to observe NSSAB activities by receiving meeting minutes, monthly reports, NSSAB recommendations, and DOE responses. This option does not allow for a formal seat on the Board, although they are invited and welcome to attend all meetings and provide updates related to EM activities in Nevada.

Ms. Ulmer continued by providing an update on the status on the Liaison organizations and the points of contact.

There are three Limited Liaison organizations:

- Elko County Commission – Jon Karr
- U.S. National Park Service – Kelsey Bynum
- White Pine County – Bill Wolf

There are eight Full Liaison organizations:

- Clark County – Andrew Bennett
- Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations – Richard Arnold
- Esmeralda County Commission – Fred Perez
- Lincoln County Commission – Janine Woodworth/Diane Path as secondary
- Nye County Commission – Bruce Jabbour
- Nye County Emergency Management – Scott Lewis/Patrick Lazenby and Frank Bonesteel as secondaries
- Nye Co Natural Resources & Federal Facilities Office – John Klenke/Megan Labadie as secondary
- State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection – Meghan Lyle

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Ulmer thanked the liaisons for their engagement and support of the NSSAB and the EM Nevada Program mission.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment

*Upcoming calendar of events:

- EM SSAB National Chairs' Meeting (Virtual) – October 28, 2025
- NSSAB Full Board Meeting in Las Vegas – November 5, 2025 – starting at 4:30 p.m.
- NSSAB Intergovernmental Meeting in Las Vegas – November 5, 2025 – starting at 3:30 p.m.

*Dates, times, and topics are tentative and subject to change. If you have any questions on the calendar of events, please contact the NSSAB Office at 702-523-0894.

Chair Hilton closed by asking the Board to take a moment tomorrow to remember the events of 9/11 and the ones who this country lost as a result. Member Thomas Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed with a majority. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.