



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

Full Board Meeting Molasky Corporate Center Las Vegas, Nevada

4:00 p.m. – July 17, 2024

- Members Present:** Erik Anderson, Joycelyn Austin-Mabe, Lisa Blandi, John Cole, Gary Elgort, Anthony Graham (Chair), Mark Hilton (Vice-Chair), Bruce Jabbour, Janice Six, Kevin Trainor, Eddie Williams
- Members Absent:** Dan Peterson, Favil West
- Liaisons Present:** Andrew Bennett (Clark County), Janine Woodworth (Lincoln County Commission), Richard Friese (National Park Service [NPS]), Frank Carbone (Nye County Commission), Scott Lewis, and Frank Bonesteel (Nye County Emergency Management [NCEM]), Chris Andres, Meghan Lyle, and Kyle Jones (State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP])
- Liaisons Absent:** Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations [CGTO]), John Klenke (Nye County Natural Resources and Federal Facilities Office [NRFFO]), Bill Wolf (White Pine County Commission)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE):** **Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program:** Robert Boehlecke (Deputy Designated Federal Officer [DDFO]), Tiffany Gamero
National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO): Angela Colarusso, John Daniels, Kathryn Gladden
- Government Contractors:** **Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. (Navarro):** Marilew Bartling, Grant Johnson, Kevin Knapp, Glenn Puit, Byron Smith, Barbara Ulmer
Desert Research Institute (DRI): Beverly Parker, John Russel
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): Wayne Belcher
- Members of the Public and Media Signed In:** Doug Blackstock, Juan Diaz, Thomas Fisher, Tammi Odegard, Steven Rosenbaum, Wayne Barber (Exchange Monitor)

Open Meeting

Chair Anthony Graham thanked everyone for attending and for those who have prepared presentations for tonight's meeting. He encouraged NSSAB members to ask questions of the presenters in the spirit of curiosity, collaboration, and working together to provide valuable recommendations to the EM Nevada Program. Member Kevin Trainor moved to approve the draft agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The following public comment was provided by Steven Rosenbaum from Las Vegas, Nevada:

Greetings, Board, Steve Rosenbaum. I'm a former member of this body from 2014 to 2020, and I am speaking on behalf of the Devils Hole pupfish. This is a project or something that's been going on, and Barb has some historic documents of the presentation I made way back in 2015. The pupfish are a species that is imperiled, and it's the only species in the world and it's in Ash Meadows in Devils Hole. Recently, there's been talk off and on with the Bureau of Land Management about lithium exploration in that area. It's off and on, there's still talks going on with it, but I'm speaking as an individual. I really don't think it's a good idea there. Yes, I agree, lithium is important, but there are other places to mine for it. The reason why I'm saying this is their ecosystem is so fragile any drilling can change it and can wipe out the population. As well as that, any drilling can change the groundwater flow and that impacts flows and issues coming from the security site itself. So, this is something that I think is certainly tangentially connected, and that is something that the board should keep an eye on and decide how it wants to support saving them. There are two packages here that are available for you guys to review from 2015 when I first started working with the pupfish. Thank you very much.

Liaison Updates

Clark County (*Andrew Bennett*)

Liaison Andrew Bennett introduced himself as the Director for the Clark County Office of Traffic Safety and noted that he has been an NSSAB liaison for a year. His office is currently in the strategic planning process of redefining the county's nuclear waste program to focus on what is important to the community. Liaison Bennett opened his office doors to local citizens, not just residents of Clark County, to share feedback on what would be most impactful for the county to focus on. His public email address for comments is TrafficSafety@ClarkCountyNV.gov.

Lincoln County Commission (*Janine Woodworth*)

Liaison Janine Woodworth had nothing new to report.

Nye County Commission (*Frank Carbone*)

Liaison Frank Carbone noted that he will be leaving the commission at the end of the year. He appreciated the opportunity to participate as an NSSAB liaison and appreciates all that the EM Nevada Program and the NSSAB are involved in.

NCEM (*Scott Lewis*)

Liaison Scott Lewis updated on an ongoing project for the F-500 Task Force purchased with Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) grant funding. The trailers have been received and are in the process of being registered. In despite of the temperatures and the

environment, training was successfully completed last week with both classroom and live fire training. Two Navarro staff were available to videotape the training that is currently being edited and reviewed for public release. The F-500 is a molecular encapsulant agent that interacts with water to reduce the amount of water needed for a large suppression. Liaison Lewis continued that there will be a trailer located in Beatty and a second in Pahrump for any task force assignment on the Highway 95 corridor or within the respective towns for high hazards and large risks. Liaison Lewis concluded that Patrick Lazenby is currently on a special assignment on Mount Charleston.

NDEP (*Chris Andres*)

Liaison Chris Andres introduced one of her staffers, Kyle Jones, from the Bureau of Federal Facilities. In the April/May 2024 timeframe, NDEP issued the solid waste permit for Area 5 for PCB and asbestos waste. All NDEP's waste management and water pollution control permits on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) are currently up to date. On June 27, 2024, Liaison Andres issued the letter that closed out the Y-12 Settlement Agreement. This process took five years from the date of the original incident followed by all the improvements throughout the DOE Complex in its waste management program. This was a significant milestone for all involved. As a Nevada representative, Liaison Andres attended the State and Tribal Government Working Group and the Federal Facilities Task Force meetings in April and May 2024. During these meetings, Liaison Andres concluded that it is very heartening to see and hear when other states are discussing their relationships with their DOE counterparts versus the productive and good relationship that is enjoyed in Nevada.

NPS (*Richard Friese*)

Liaison Richard Friese introduced himself as the hydrologist for Death Valley National Park (DVNP). He shared that Death Valley had nine consecutive days with temperatures over 125 degrees, which is a world record. This was followed by a three-day power outage. The summer brings an increase in highway accidents, in particular truck accidents, from overheated brakes. A truck carrying drill cuttings with overheated brakes caught fire a few days ago. The truck driver may have been lost as he was transporting a shipment to Reno from a mine near Mohave, Cal. Last summer, DVNP had two significant tractor/trailer accidents that required complicated cleanups. One was carrying emulsified asphalt, and the other was carrying 240 beehives. Liaison Friese continued that DVNP recognizes that the U.S. Department of Transportation regulates transportation to the NNSS and the NPS expresses its appreciation that none of these accidents have included DOE shipments to the NNSS. The NPS spends an enormous amount of time and energy working to prevent cross boundary impacts from external projects that appear to be proliferating. Liaison Friese concluded that NPS promotes responsible water usage in the greater Death Valley region.

NNSA/NFO Update (Angela Colarusso, Assistant Manager for Business and Contracts, John Daniels, Federal Public Affairs Officer, and Kathryn Gladden, Program Liaison for EM)

Mr. John Daniels reported that the Deputy Nevada Field Office Manager, Laura Tomlinson, retired last month after a distinguished 30-plus year career as both a federal employee and contractor within the NNSA Enterprise. In the interim, Betty Huck, Assistant Manager for Mission and Infrastructure, will be acting until a replacement is named.

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

DDFO Robert Boehlecke reported on the following DOE EM Nevada Program updates:

- **Navarro staff changes:**
John Wrapp, Navarro Program Manager for the EM Nevada Environmental Program Services contractor, recently retired due to medical reasons. The Program is appreciative of the support provided by Mr. Wrapp during his tenure over the last 20 months. The EM Nevada Program will continue to work in partnership with Navarro during its search to permanently fill the position. Dave Taylor has been named interim Program Manager for Navarro. Mr. Taylor previously served as the Navarro Program Manager from 2005 to 2022 and has a wealth of experience to draw upon.
- **Category 1 Shipments:**
The EM Nevada Program recently learned from the state of Nevada that Category 1 radioactive source shipments to the NNSS will no longer require a Nevada State Police (NSP) escort. This issue of NSP escorts for Category 1 shipments first came to light due in part to an incident in April 2024 when Chief Lewis of NCEM brought it to the attention of the EM Nevada Program that local citizens observed a cask shipment travelling through Pahrump. The shipment was low-level waste destined for the NNSS for disposal and contained radioactive sources collected by the DOE Off-site Source Recovery Program, and it was accompanied by several NSP officers. The shipper adhered to all regulatory protocols, but because the shipment did not meet Highway Route Control Quantity Levels, the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) was not notified of the route the shipper chose. This, in turn, meant that the EM Nevada Program could not immediately advise the shipper to take a route that avoided Pahrump. This led the Program to perform a review of the requirements to make sure that the EM Nevada Program is doing everything possible to better communicate with shippers.

In assessing this situation, RWAP discussed the issue with the Radiation Control Program, Division of Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services. They reviewed the matter and determined that these DOE shipments are exempt from the state requirement to have NSP escorts in large part because they are DOE-generated waste being transported to DOE facilities. As a result of this scenario, the EM Nevada Program is going to continue to advise shippers whenever possible to avoid less populated routes and Pahrump. Thank you to Chief Lewis for bringing the initial shipment to the Program's attention. Thank you to the NSP for its continued diligence, and to the state of Nevada for working through these issues. It is an example of all parties working together on complex issues with an end result that benefits all Nevadans.
- **Underground Test Area (UGTA):**
The EM Nevada Program recently communicated that the UGTA team delayed any new drilling from 2024 to 2025 and are now planning on carrying out geophysical work this summer and are in the process of selecting a driller for next year's work.
- **May the Science Be with You:**
The EM Nevada Program was represented at an event at the Atomic Museum called 'May the Science Be with You' on May 2, 2024. The Star Wars themed event allowed the Program and UGTA's groundwater team to provide a groundwater basics lesson to school children from across the region.

- **Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP):**
On Monday, Robert Boehlecke presented to the Desert Research Institute's (DRI's) CEMP. The CEMP relies on volunteers to help with community monitoring stations located around the NNSS to monitor airborne and groundwater environments. His presentation offered a comprehensive look at the EM Nevada Program with a focus on waste management.
- **Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum (LLWSF):**
The EM Nevada Program hosted its LLWSF in Las Vegas in May 2024, and Beverly Parker from DRI provided an informative presentation on the CEMP.
- **EM Site-Specific Advisory Board National Chairs' Meeting hosted by the Portsmouth Site:**
In May 2024, the meeting was attended by Chair Graham, Vice-Chair Mark Hilton, Liaison Frank Bonesteel, Barbara Ulmer and Glenn Puit from Navarro. The team received an update from Jeff Avery (EM-2), along with other speakers before holding board discussions. The group also toured the Portsmouth and Fernald sites.
- **Idaho/NSS Observation:**
Thank you to Members Gary Elgort and John Cole for participating in the recent facility evaluation at Idaho National Laboratory. Also, thanks to Members Elgort and Lisa Blandi for participating in the real time radiography observation at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). RWAP is working on scheduling Member Kevin Trainor to observe a visual verification prior to the next NSSAB meeting.
- **Navarro Bottled Water Drive:**
In June 2024, Navarro hosted a bottled water drive that raised money for the purchase of bottled water to assist those who receive services from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.
- **Waste Generator Workshop:**
In early May 2024, the EM Nevada Program hosted its Waste Generator Workshop. The workshop was a huge success with nearly 100 people attending in person and dozens of others participating online. It was a days-long event where the RWAP and EM Nevada Program staff joined with waste generators to discuss practices and lessons learned.
- **EM Update Article:**
The real time radiography (RTR) drive-through portal was the lead story three weeks ago in EM Update. The article chronicled plans for the new RTR drive-through portal that is expected to be a great asset for Program work at the Area 5 RWMC. The portal is expected to be operational in 2025. The article can be accessed [here](#).
- **Y-12 Settlement Agreement (SA):**
Over the last five years, the EM Nevada Program has been working on about 30 items included in the SA for either short- or long-term improvements. All these items were recently completed, and Liaison Andres has concurred in writing that all commitments have been fulfilled. Many of these commitments have led to long-term improvements that the Program plans on keeping in place. The EM Nevada Program thanks the state of Nevada for working together on the issues that has led to some very significant improvements.
- **Test Cell C (TCC) Facility:** The Industrial Sites team is evaluating the technical approach to cut up the Dewars (large spherical tanks) and are planning to take them down in November 2024. The team is currently working on removing surrounding industrial equipment, stairs, piping, and supports, etc.

- **Engine, Maintenance, Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility:** The Industrial Sites team continues to remove hazardous materials, including asbestos, light bulbs, and electronic waste, etc. In the last couple of weeks, Navarro has been able to remove a large chiller unit from the roof that has been slowly deteriorating. This will allow for the crew to complete asbestos abatement on the roof.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Robert Boehlecke will be attending the EM National Cleanup Workshop in Arlington, VA, in mid-September 2024. It is an opportunity to hear from senior DOE leaders, local government officials, and industry leaders about DOE's cleanup priorities and the future of the workforce. He will also be attending the DOE Intergovernmental Meeting in Las Vegas in early December 2024. This annual meeting is hosted by DOE-EM and six intergovernmental groups to discuss the ongoing cleanup of defense-related nuclear waste.

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided regarding the U.S. DOE update:

- Only one company bid on the initial well design for several reasons: busy with other competing work, such as oil or water development; working on a DOE site has additional requirements than commercial; and the original well design required a larger drill rig. When the request for proposal (RFP) went out for the second round, there were only one or two bidders that were disqualified for safety records. In consultation with NDEP, the well design was revised for a potential subcontractor to use a smaller drill rig and still meet the requirements identified in the corrective action plan. This change has opened up the RFP for additional bidders. Navarro is evaluating the proposals it has received to select a subcontractor. This subcontractor has to be approved by the EM Consolidated Business Center before a selection can be finalized.
- The proposed new wells will be used to provide additional information for model evaluation to close the data gaps to reduce the uncertainty in the models that was identified by the external peer review team.

Follow-up to Real Time Radiography (RTR) Operations at Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) (Work Plan Item #4) *(Byron Smith and Marilew Bartling, Navarro)*

During the January 17th NSSAB meeting, Byron Smith, Navarro RTR Verification Technician, briefed on work plan item #4. The NSSAB was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, on ways that the EM Nevada Program could enhance RWAP's RTR operations at Area 5 RWMC. Prior to the meeting, the NSSAB was provided the presentation slides and Q&A from the minutes to refamiliarize themselves with the topic to come prepared to have meaningful discussion with Chair Graham on recommendations for this work plan item.

On May 14th, Members Lisa Blandi and Gary Elgort observed first-hand RTR activities at the Area 5 RWMC on the NNSS. Members Blandi and Elgort provided a very informational and detailed oral report on the RTR process and their observations during their visit that included a PowerPoint presentation with photographs. They noted that the employees involved in the RTR from the DOE EM Nevada Program, MSTS, Navarro, and the Teamsters worked together seamlessly to accomplish a successful RTR observation. The members shared with the Board

that a careful grid search of the entire containers was conducted and the different depths of the field throughout the container by the RTR was very impressive and highlighted its capability.

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- Once an indeterminate item is captured by the RTR, RWAP puts a hold on and stages the waste container/box. RWAP then follows-up using their procedures and checklist process. RWAP contacts the generator and establishes lines of communication and notifications to all involved parties. The generator is provided the opportunity to provide additional information to identify the indeterminate item as acceptable under the NNSW Waste Acceptance Criteria. At Area 5 RWMC, personnel do not engage in a physical examination of the container. One of the waste containers observed by Members Blandi and Elgort was returned to the generator at its expense.
- The current RTR vault is capable of handling B-25 waste boxes (6'x4'x4') and up to 110-gallon drums. The new RTR drive-through portal will expand the waste verification capabilities to allow for a larger variety of waste containers to be screened at the NNSW. The portal will allow entire trucks to be scanned and is expected to be operational in the fiscal year 2025.
- RWAP has a baseline guidance to RTR about 10 percent of the waste containers/boxes to be disposed in the permitted cells at the NNSW. Once an indeterminate item is observed, RWAP is not limited to 10 percent and has the latitude to RTR any other containers/boxes included in the same waste profile.
- RWAP has the capability to provide the generator with an RTR recording to view an indeterminate item to assist the generator in identifying and providing RWAP with additional information.
- At the Area 5 RWMC, a lead grid board is used during an RTR observation to identify and mark the location of an indeterminate item that is marked off in 6-inch sections.
- After the new drive-through portal is in place, the equipment will be tested to determine the capabilities of the equipment. The EM Nevada Program will then establish its procedures and processes for the portal, and the method that it will be used to complement the existing RTR unit.
- RWAP will continue conducting visual verifications of waste packaging at generator sites as it is beneficial to interview the generator regarding the waste prior to being transported to the NNSW.
- RWAP uses a risk-based approach of its approved generators to prioritize the available resources and funding to help schedule RTR observations, facility evaluations, visual verifications.
- To increase the percentage of containers/boxes that undergo RTR, considerations are taken account for the time capacity for the current RTR unit and for personnel operating the RTR who are also involved with unloading trucks daily and supporting the installation of the new drive-through portal.
- RWAP develops an Annual Report that compiles information derived from results of RWAP facility evaluations of NNSW approved generators.
- Upon receiving a Finding resulting from a facility evaluation, the generator is required to conduct a causal analysis to determine the direct or root cause and contributing cases, such as training, management, etc.

Chair Graham led Board discussion on work plan item #4 with potential recommendations provided by members during the meeting on how to enhance RWAP's RTR operations at Area 5 RWMC.

After Board discussion, the NSSAB proposed the following recommendation:

- When an indeterminate item is found, the waste stream profile should have a higher inspection rate for a determined period of time until there is confidence that there is not a continuing problem.

Member Elgort made a motion that the potential recommendation above be approved and submitted to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration. The motion was seconded. After Board discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Graham thanked the NSSAB for its interest, participation, and questions regarding work plan item #4. He also thanked Members Blandi and Elgort for taking the time to observe the RTR activities and for providing their report. Appreciation was also given to Mr. Smith and Ms. Bartling for supporting the RTR visit and for their availability to answer Board questions during both the RTR visit and Full Board meetings. The NSSAB Office will draft the NSSAB recommendation letter and submit it to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and response.

Follow-up to LLW Waste Visual Verifications (Work Plan Item #2) (*Marilew Bartling, Navarro*)

During the January 17th NSSAB meeting, Marilew Bartling, Navarro RWAP Manager, briefed on work plan item #2. The NSSAB was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, on ways that the EM Nevada Program could enhance visual verifications. Prior to the meeting, the NSSAB was provided the presentation slides and Q&A from the minutes to refamiliarize themselves with the topic to come prepared to have meaningful discussion with Chair Graham on this work plan item.

In early March 2024, Member Gary Elgort accompanied Ms. Bartling to a processing facility in Oak Ridge, TN, and observed first-hand visual verification activities conducted by RWAP. Member Elgort provided a very interesting and detailed oral report on his observations of the visual verification process during the visit. He shared that facility staff were very careful verifying the waste that went into the package, ensuring the waste was placed in the package safely, closing the box, and taking radiation readings before, during, and after the packaging. Member Elgort concluded that he was impressed with the depth of review and subsequent follow-up with facility staff by the RWAP team.

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- The facility visited is a company that processes radioactive waste that meets its license. This company provides specific services to the DOE and only waste with a clearly traceable nexus back to DOE can be shipped and disposed of at the NNSS. The company also handles waste from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, universities, hospitals, etc.

- The company can request permission to comingle DOE waste in one container to maximize the volume within a container, therefore minimizing the volume for disposal. Although, the waste must meet the profile with very distinct records to allocate the activity from one generator to another as there potentially may be different radionuclides.

Chair Graham encouraged the Board to keep their notes on Member Elgort's report. Member Trainor will be attending a visual verification and will report on his observations at the September 11, 2024, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, and then the Board will come together and deliberate on potential recommendations on enhancements to the RWAP's visual verification process. The Board thanked Member Elgort for attending the site visit and his report. Ms. Bartling was also appreciated for supporting the visit and for her availability to answer Board questions during both Full Board meetings.

Follow-up to LLW Facility Evaluations (Work Plan Item #3) *(Marilew Bartling, Navarro)*

During the January 17th NSSAB meeting, Marilew Bartling, Navarro RWAP Manager, briefed on work plan item #3. The NSSAB was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, on ways that the EM Nevada Program could enhance RWAP's facility evaluations. Prior to the meeting, the NSSAB was provided the presentation slides and Q&A from the minutes to refamiliarize themselves with the topic to come prepared to have meaningful discussion with Chair Graham on recommendations for this work plan item.

In mid-June 2024, Members John Cole and Gary Elgort accompanied the RWAP team and observed first-hand facility evaluation activities at a generator site in Idaho. Members Cole and Elgort provided a very informational and thorough oral report, along with a PowerPoint presentation, on the facility evaluation process and their observations during their visit. During the facility evaluation, the RWAP team conducted many interviews, reviewed documentation, and completed checklists to do a deep dive into the chemical and radiological characterization of the waste. The RWAP team worked efficiently and were highly critical, thorough, and focused on their tasks. Mr. Cole concluded that they had great cooperation from the RWAP and Idaho staff and included them as part of the team. Mr. Elgort added that team safety was a focus, not just for the NSSAB observers, but the entire RWAP team was escorted through the facility very carefully.

There were no additional questions regarding facility evaluations and the reports provided by Members Cole and Elgort.

Chair Graham led Board discussion on work plan item #3 with potential recommendations provided by members during the meeting on how to enhance RWAP's facility evaluations.

After Board discussion, the NSSAB proposed the following recommendation:

- The NSSAB expresses its appreciation for the EM Nevada Program's support of its members to observe facility evaluations and recommends that future opportunities be made available to the Board.

Vice-Chair Hilton made a motion that the potential recommendation above be approved and submitted to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration. The motion was seconded. After Board discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Graham thanked Members Cole and Elgort for their commitment to travel to Idaho for four days to observe the RWAP team conducting a facility evaluation and for providing their report. Ms. Bartling added that she appreciated the positive feedback and will share it with the RWAP team that was on the trip. The NSSAB Office will draft the NSSAB recommendation letter and submit it to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and response.

Other NSSAB Business (*Anthony Graham, Chair*)

EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) National Chairs' Meeting

In May 2024, Chair Graham and Vice-Chair Hilton represented the NSSAB during the EM SSAB Spring National Chairs' Meeting held in Chillicothe, OH, and sponsored by the Portsmouth Site. Chair Graham presented the NSSAB's round robin to Jeffrey Avery, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (EM-2), highlighting accomplishments and key topics of importance to the NSSAB. Chair Graham provided a PowerPoint presentation of photos and recapped the meeting for the Board. Meeting agenda, round robin, and presentations from the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

Chair Graham brought forward a draft recommendation that was developed during the EM SSAB Spring National Chairs' Meeting entitled "*EM SSAB Website Content*." A copy of the draft recommendation was provided in advance of the meeting for the NSSAB's review and consideration. After Board discussion, Member Eddie Williams made a motion to approve the EM SSAB draft recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Chair Graham will be a signatory along with any of the other seven EM SSAB Boards that approve the draft recommendation.

The EM SSAB Fall National Chairs' Meeting will be held on September 24-26, 2024, hosted by the Oak Ridge Site in Oak Ridge, TN. A tour of the Oak Ridge Site will be conducted on the first day. The meeting on the next day 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 boards' top interests/concerns and accomplishments. On the last day, the meeting will be held in the morning followed by emergency response training in the afternoon.

Chair Graham began Board discussion for round robin topics to be presented during the EM SSAB Fall National Chairs' Meeting:

Board Accomplishments:

- In addition to attendance at Full Board meetings, exceptional Board interest in Program actions and participation in volunteer activities (national conferences, workshops, educational sessions, Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program observations, Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum, etc.)
- Excellent Board retention and recruiting success

Board Concerns:

- Continued community participation and input after the NSSAB is no longer active
- Historic preservation of unique cultural sites at the NNSS while executing the cleanup mission

Member Elgort made a motion to adopt the slate of round topics listed above. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Chair Graham will work with members that suggested round robin topics to develop a narrative to use during the presentation.

Chair Graham notified the Board that he will not be able to attend the EM SSAB Fall National Chairs' Meeting, and the EM Nevada Program will support another NSSAB member to attend in his place. Chair Graham asked for interest and Member Trainor volunteered. Vice-Chair Hilton and Member Trainor will represent the NSSAB at the meeting with Vice-Chair Hilton conducting the round robin.

NSSAB Update on LLW Stakeholders Forum

Member Blandi shared items of interest from her attendance at the LLW Stakeholders Forum held on May 15, 2024, in Las Vegas, NV.

Notification of Chair/Vice-Chair Elections for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

Chair Graham announced that elections will be held for the NSSAB Chair and Vice-Chair positions at the September 11th Full Board meeting. A list outlining the responsibilities for both positions was provided to the Board, and members were encouraged to consider running for a leadership position. Interested members are asked to notify the NSSAB Office to be placed on the ballot by September 1, 2024.

Enhancements to Public Outreach and Media Communications – Work Plan Item #8 *(Glenn Puit, Navarro)*

- **NSSAB – Work Plan Item #8**
 - From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation for ways to enhance the EM Nevada Program's public outreach and media communications
 - NSSAB recommendation is due tonight
- **Communications Mission**
 - To foster awareness and educate the public regarding ongoing EM Nevada Program activities at and near the NNSS
- **Communications Goals and Outcome**
 - **Goals:** Develop engagement and relationships with key stakeholders by providing timely, accurate, and transparent information
 - **Outcome:** Build community trust and confidence in the EM Nevada Program
- **Key Messaging: Waste Acceptance**
 - The EM Nevada Program manages the safe and compliant acceptance and disposal of classified, low-level, and mixed low-level radioactive waste at the NNSS
- **Key Messaging: Groundwater**

- Public water supplies are safe from the impacts of historic nuclear testing at the NNSS. The EM Nevada Program, in partnership with scientists and technical experts, works to continuously monitor groundwater on and around the NNSS
- **Key Messaging: Industrial Sites**
 - To address environmental impacts from legacy nuclear testing, the EM Nevada Program has engaged in extensive corrective actions to cleanup, remove, or isolate contaminants and remaining infrastructure
- **Media Products**
 - Posters
 - Videos
 - Press releases
 - EM Update articles
 - HQ Communications products
 - Newsletters
- **Community Outreach**
 - Tours of the NNSS
 - Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum
 - Groundwater Open House
 - Fact Sheets
 - Museum partnerships
 - STEM scholarships
 - Conferences/workshops
 - Educational demonstrations (ant farm, Earth Day, etc.)
- **NSSAB**
 - Provides:
 - Communities near the NNSS a voice in EM Nevada Program activities
 - Members/liaisons the opportunity to share information with local citizens
 - A forum for engagement between NSSAB members, liaisons, and the EM Nevada Program
 - The public with a venue for commenting on EM Nevada Program
- **Social Media/Media Relations**
 - EM Nevada Program:
 - Maintains a social media presence on Facebook, X, and YouTube through the NNSS
 - Posts on social media spaces through the NNSS
 - Supports websites on the NNSS and DOE web pages
 - Press releases for media are distributed through the government delivery email distribution system
 - Glenn Puit manages media relations
 - Direct contact with media outlets deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis

In response to Board questions, the following clarifications were provided regarding the work plan presentation:

- There are a couple of reasons why the EM Nevada Program does not have its own separate social media platforms from the NNSS. One reason is that the NNSS platforms are well established with over 7,500 Facebook followers, almost 25,000 followers on X, and about 1,500 Instagram followers. Another reason is that the EM Nevada Program is

an important, although small mission on the NNSS, with the goal of NNSS social media to balance the content to provide an overall picture of NNSS activities/missions.

- The EM Nevada Program is in the process of updating the Operation Clean Desert teacher's guide and student activity books as a tool geared toward teaching students about ongoing efforts to address environmental challenges.

Chair Graham led Board discussion on work plan item #8 for potential recommendations provided by members during the meeting for ways to enhance the EM Nevada Program's public outreach and media communications.

After Board discussion, the NSSAB proposed recommendations that the EM Nevada Program:

- Considers attending and providing educational presentations at local conferences, such as the Tri-State Seminar in Las Vegas.
- Develops interactive elements for public outreach events that involve other aspects of the EM Nevada Program mission, such as, Waste Management, Soils, and Industrial Sites.

Member Kevin Trainor made a motion that the potential recommendations listed above be approved and submitted to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration. The motion was seconded. After Board discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Puit thanked the NSSAB for its interest, consideration, and questions regarding work plan item #8. The NSSAB's input and recommendations are appreciated and important to the Program. The NSSAB Office will draft the NSSAB recommendation letter and submit it to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration and response.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Upcoming calendar of events:

- LLW Stakeholders Forum – Molasky Corporate Center, Las Vegas, NV at 1-3 p.m. (invite only) – August 15, 2024
- NSSAB Liaison Intergovernmental meeting – Molasky Corporate Center, Las Vegas, NV at 3 p.m. – September 11, 2024
- NSSAB Full Board meeting – Molasky Corporate Center, Las Vegas, NV at 4 p.m. – September 11, 2024
- EM National Cleanup Workshop – Arlington, VA – September 17-18, 2024
- EM SSAB Fall National Chairs' Meeting – Oak Ridge, TN – September 24-26, 2024
- NSSAB Annual Work Plan Tour of the NNSS – October 16, 2024

Member Janice Six made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.