



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

Full Board Meeting Molasky Corporate Center Las Vegas, Nevada

4:00 p.m. – September 9, 2026

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

Members Absent: Gary Elgort, Lori Olson-Arzaga

Liaisons Present: Andrew Bennett (Clark County), Kelsey Bynum (U.S. National Park Service), Scott Lewis, Frank Bonesteel and Patrick Lazenby (Nye County Emergency Management [NCEM]), Megan Labadie (Nye County Natural Resources and Federal Facilities Office [NRFFO]), Meghan Lyle (State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP]), Fred Perez, Esmeralda County Commission

Liaisons Absent: Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations [CGTO]), Bruce Jabbour (Nye County Commission), Janine Woodworth (Lincoln County Commission)

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

Government Contractors: **Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. (Navarro):** Ran Huo, Dona Murphy, Barbara Ulmer
Mission Support and Test Services, LLC (MSTS): Kevin Knapp

Members of Public: Kate Mason (Henderson, NV), Steve Rosenbaum (Las Vegas, NV)

Open Meeting/Announcements

Chair Mark Hilton requested a motion to approve the draft agenda. Member Kevin Trainor moved to approve the draft agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NSSAB Membership Package/NSSAB Operations Update

DDFO Robert Boehlecke shared that the EM Nevada Program has not received reappointment letters, but has received confirmation that review of the membership package is undergoing final approval. He recognized this delay affects NSSAB activities, and stated that staff will work through the downstream impacts as the need arises to address:

- A tour of Pahute Mesa well sites tentatively planned for October 21, 2026
- Two NSSAB members attending the Devils Hole & Beyond Research Symposium on November 6-7, 2026, in Beatty, NV
- Chair/Vice-Chair elections
- NSSAB representation at the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) National Chairs Meeting being held virtually on November 10, 2026

DDFO Boehlecke further stated that in alignment with completing public engagement commitments under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO), the Department has made the decision to sunset the NSSAB by September 30, 2027. He explained this decision will be reflected in the appointment letters sent to NSSAB members that state appointments are for a one-year term. On behalf of the Department and EM Nevada Program, DDFO Boehlecke recognized and expressed appreciation for the contributions made by the volunteer members of the NSSAB and the participation of liaisons in board activities. He also noted that NSSAB liaisons are invited to the Low-Level Waste (LLW) Stakeholders Forum meetings and those meetings will continue. DDFO Boehlecke also noted that public input has been essential in execution of DOE commitments under the FFACO and that the EM Nevada Program will continue offering other avenues for public involvement (e.g., LLW Stakeholders Forum). DDFO Boehlecke continued by stating the EM Nevada Program looks forward to working with the Board in the coming year and receiving its final recommendation on the monitoring network for the last remaining groundwater characterization area.

DDFO Boehlecke also explained that this decision was made in consideration of EM Nevada Program presenting to the NSSAB in 2027 the final remediation decision requesting public input, in accordance with the FFACO. He further noted that engagement with the NSSAB in fiscal year (FY) 2027 will also include a work plan item requesting feedback on public outreach, educational sessions, a budget briefing, and a tour to a groundwater monitoring well that will aid NSSAB members in providing an informed recommendation.

DDFO Boehlecke then opened up discussion during which the following questions were asked and answers provided:

- **Does this affect the other SSABs?** The decision to sunset the NSSAB at the end of FY 2027 does not affect the other seven SSABs chartered under the EM SSAB.
- **What are EM's remaining responsibilities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)?** EM Nevada Program will complete demolition of the non-concrete portion of the historical Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) facility, complete data analysis of groundwater well drilling data and groundwater models and obtain closure approval from the State of Nevada. During work plan development later in tonight's agenda, the EM Nevada Program will propose a work plan item to provide recommendations on the proposed monitoring network for the last groundwater characterization area at Pahute

Mesa. Long-term monitoring will be the responsibility of the NNSS landlord, the National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO).

- **Will there be opportunities for repurposing programs at the NNSS?** The NNSA/NFO is the NNSS landlord; so, in terms of new missions or activities, the EM Nevada Program does not have a role in those decisions. The EM Nevada Program will complete demolition of the non-concrete portion of the EMAD Facility with the Hot Bay remaining intact for potential reuse. The EM Nevada Program will continue to be involved with the waste disposal/acceptance mission.

DDFO Boehlecke concluded that he would be available for any additional comments/questions regarding this topic during his DOE EM Activities Update.

Public Comment

The following was oral public comment provided during the meeting:

“I'm Steve Rosenbaum, a former member of the board, former chair of the board as well. I actually came here to say farewell because I'm moving to Washington and wanted to urge you all to continue the good work as it really is good work. And I was caught a little left field, as you all were with the sunseting of this board, but rest assured your work matters and go forward with that. That was about it. Thank you.”

There was no written comment provided prior to the meeting or two business days after the meeting adjourned.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Hilton welcomed everyone to the last NSSAB meeting of FY 2026 (October 2025 – September 2026). He shared glad tidings on America's 250th anniversary, and with quiet sadness recognized another anniversary this coming Friday, September 11th.

Liaison Updates

Clark County (*Andrew Bennett*)

Liaison Andrew Bennett, Director of the Offices of Traffic Safety and Nuclear Waste, noted that NNSA/NFO hosted an NNSS tour for NSSAB liaisons on June 23, 2026. Commissioner April Becker, the county manager, fire chief, and director of Government Affairs from Clark County joined this tour. He greatly appreciated the hospitality and the experts who took the time to enlighten the group on various NNSS topics.

Esmeralda County Commission (*Fred Perez*)

Liaison Fred Perez stated that he also participated in the June 23rd NNSS tour and shared that it was very interesting and John Daniels, NNSA/NFO Federal Public Affairs Officer, did a great job organizing the itinerary. He reported that Esmeralda County Fire District, run by Chief Jeffrey Bushnell and Paul Melendres with Emergency Services, are doing a fantastic job while the county is faced with a tsunami of development that they are working to manage efficiently.

NCEM (*Scott Lewis, Patrick Lazenby, Frank Bonesteel*)

Liaison Scott Lewis thanked DDFO Boehlecke for providing communication on CAT-1 transports going through Nye County. This information provides the county with the ability to notify its neighbors and local stakeholders. NCEM hosted the LLW Stakeholders Forum meeting in Pahrump, NV, on July 22, 2026, and the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting on August 6, 2026. He announced that NCEM has received a second set of specialized F500 trailers that will increase its capacity to battle special hazards or radioactive materials fires along the US-95 corridor. He appreciates DOE's support with the funding to purchase these trailers.

NRFFO (*Megan Labadie*)

Liaison Megan Labadie had nothing new to report.

NDEP (*Meghan Lyle*)

Liaison Meghan Lyle, Bureau of Federal Facilities Chief, reported that her staff continues overseeing EM Nevada Program activities, issuing and conducting inspections for permits for NNSA/NFO, and undergoing field work at the NNSS.

NPS (*Kelsey Bynum*)

Liaison Kelsey Bynum had nothing new to report.

DOE EM Update (*Robert Boehlecke, DOE*)

DDFO Boehlecke provided updates on the following topics:

- **Underground Test Area (UGTA):** UGTA completed well development and testing of the new wells at the end of July 2026. The NSSAB will have the opportunity to visit these well sites during the work plan tour. In addition, UGTA is planning to present a status update on the Pahute Mesa Corrective Action Units (CAUs) during the Devils Hole & Beyond Research Symposia in Beatty, NV, on November 6-7, 2026.
- **EMAD:** In July 2026, the EMAD Cold Bay was strategically demolished so that the Hot Bay remains intact for potential reuse. In addition, the removal and disposal of all 3,821 galbestos panels were completed in July 2026. In August 2026, demolition began on the galleries adjacent to the Hot Bay and penetrations were isolated between the structures being demolished and the Hot Bay. Demolition and associated field activities are planned for completion by the end of this calendar year.
- **FFACO:** Transition planning is continuing and in August 2026 a meeting was held with FFACO signatories and support staff to review the long-term stewardship baseline plans. This meeting is part of a long-term collaboration to ensure that all parties involved are fully prepared for the transition.
- **Waste-Related Activities:**
 - The LLW Stakeholders Forum meeting was held on July 22, 2026, in Pahrump, NV. The guest speaker was Jared Franco with the State of Nevada Office of Emergency Management who discussed the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) grant.

- About two months prior to the event date, shipment routing blackout dates will be communicated to generators for the Formula-1 Las Vegas Grand Prix scheduled for November 19-21, 2026.
- **Strategic Updates:** DDFO Boehlecke will attend the National Cleanup Workshop in Arlington, VA, next week. A visit by DOE's EM Assistant Secretary Timothy J. Walsh (EM-1) is anticipated in the coming months.
- **Community Commitment STEM Grant:** In July 2026, Navarro announced the acceptance of applications for the 2027 Community Commitment Grant. The grant is designed to recognize and support excellence in teaching by providing funds for STEM projects or curricula. Grant eligibility is open to public, private, and charter schools in the counties of Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine in Nevada. As of August 25, 2026, Navarro received 16 applications for consideration. To date, only one application was received from a school outside the Las Vegas Valley. Staff reached out to contacts in Beatty, Tonopah, Esmeralda County, and Amargosa Valley, NV, to help spread the word. Members and liaisons with connections in the rural counties are asked to urge their educators to apply. The link to the STEM grant application is available [here](#).

Recognition of Outgoing Members

DDFO Boehlecke and Ms. Tiffany Gamero recognized Member Erik Anderson for his four years of service on the NSSAB from October 2022 – September 2026, during which he provided his perspectives on behalf of Henderson, NV, and the Las Vegas Valley. Member Anderson has asked very insightful questions to keep Board discussion going.

DDFO Boehlecke and Ms. Tiffany Gamero also recognized Chair Hilton who served three terms on the NSSAB from October 2020 – September 2026, providing perspectives for southern Nevada and on topics across the EM complex. It was noted that during his tenure, Chair Hilton traveled to West Valley with the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) team to observe a LLW surveillance that resulted in a recommendation to enhance the Program. He also attended the EM National Cleanup Workshop in 2023 and 2024 and five EM SSAB National Chairs Meetings. Most recently, he provided the round robin of accomplishments and issues/concerns on behalf of the NSSAB to EM HQs leadership at the Chairs meeting in Hanford, WA, this past April 2026. DDFO Boehlecke also shared that as the Vice-Chair of the Board in 2023 and 2024, and the Chair in 2025 and 2026, Chair Hilton's leadership and contributions have been considerable.

Member Anderson and Chair Hilton shared heartfelt appreciation to fellow members and liaisons and to EM Nevada Program staff for their time on the NSSAB. During the break, a cake and coffee were enjoyed by the Board in their honor.

FY 2026 Wrap Up and Planned Activities

Long-Term Monitoring FY 2026 Wrap Up and Planned Activities *(Tiffany Gamero, DOE EM Nevada Program)*

- **Long-Term Monitoring Background**
 - Long-Term Monitoring sites include Corrective Action Sites (CASs) that are now closed under the FFACO and require some form of reporting, maintenance, monitoring, or inspections
 - Closed Soils Sites
 - Closed Industrial Sites
 - Closed UGTA Sites
- **Long-Term Monitoring FY 2026 Wrap Up**
 - Planned: Submit Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Post-Closure Inspection Report for closed non-Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) CAUs to NDEP
 - Status: No significant concerns identified during post-closure inspections – submitted May 2026
 - Planned: Conduct quarterly, biannual, and annual monitoring at closed sites
 - Status: All required monitoring was conducted in FY 2026
 - Planned: Continue path forward for CAU 111 revegetation
 - Status:
 - West Cover of the 92-Acre Area seeded in February 2026
 - Outplants installed on South-North Cover in March 2026
 - Planned: Conduct groundwater sampling for the Frenchman Flat, Yucca Flat/Climax Mine, and Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain CAUs
 - Status: All required sampling was conducted in FY 2026
 - Planned: Submit CY 2025 Annual Letter Report for Closed Groundwater CAUs
 - Status: Submitted May 2026 (Final)
 - Planned: Submit CY 2026 Frenchman Flat 6-Year Post-Closure Monitoring Report
 - Status: Submitted June 2026
 - Planned: Submit CY 2026 Yucca Flat/Climax Mine 6-Year Post-Closure Monitoring Report
 - Status: On track for submittal in Sept. 2026
 - Planned: Conduct UGTA annual water level monitoring
 - Status: Completed; results consistent with modeling; no concerns identified
 - Planned: Conduct post-closure inspections at locations in the monitoring network
 - Status: Completed
- **Long-Term Monitoring Planned Activities**
 - Submit Post-Closure Inspection Report for closed non-RCRA CAUs annually
 - Conduct post-closure inspections of closed FFACO surface sites as prescribed in the FFACO NNSS Use Restriction Management Plan
 - Conduct Tribal Revegetation Committee visit at 92-Acre Area in FY 2027
 - Conduct required groundwater sampling for the Frenchman Flat, Yucca Flat/Climax Mine, and Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain CAUs every 6 years (due in 2032)
 - Submit post-closure monitoring reports for each CAU every 6 years after completing sample collection
 - Submit Letter Report for Closed Groundwater CAUs annually
 - Conduct annual water level monitoring
 - Conduct annual inspections at locations in the monitoring network for each UGTA CAU

- Present results of periodic evaluations conducted every 12 years for all closed UGTA CAUs (first evaluation in 2033)

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

- The closed FFACO sites on the Tonopah Test Range and the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) were transitioned to DOE's Office of Legacy Management for long-term monitoring. These sites are located on U.S. Air Force or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and not on DOE-controlled land. The closed FFACO sites on the NNSS will transition to NNSA/NFO as the NNSS landlord when EM's mission is complete.
- RCRA was enacted in 1976 and identifies certain chemicals that require tracking from cradle to grave as a waste. RCRA sites on the NNSS are ones where waste was disposed of after RCRA was enacted. Non-RCRA sites are those in the FFACO that are not regulated by RCRA. The 12 NNSS sites regulated under the NNSS RCRA permit were remediated by the EM Nevada Program under the FFACO process and have transitioned to NNSA/NFO for long-term monitoring.
- After transition of the FFACO sites to NNSA/NFO, the NNSS Management and Operating contractor (M&O), MSTs, will conduct long-term monitoring of the closed FFACO sites, as required. The NNSS M&O has been involved with the EM Nevada Program for more than 25 years so a gap in institutional knowledge upon transition is not anticipated.
- NDEP issues the RCRA permit and conducts inspections required under the permit. NDEP receives the RCRA and Non-RCRA annual reports that are also accessible to the public on DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information website (OSTI.gov).
- At the NNSS, the FFACO was put into place in lieu of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, a federal law that authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up hazardous waste sites and hold responsible parties liable.

Industrial Sites FY 2026 Wrap Up and Planned Activities *(Jackie Petrello, DOE EM Nevada Program)*

- **Industrial Sites Background**

- Portions of the facilities and land at the NNSS and NTTR were used in direct support of nuclear testing
 - Facilities include such things as gas stations, motor pools, maintenance shops, and research buildings
- Activities resulted in releases of contaminants into the environment
- Industrial Sites have included facilities, leach fields, sumps, disposal wells, tanks, contaminated waste piles, ordnance sites, etc.
- Contaminants of concern may include hazardous chemicals, unexploded ordnance, and radionuclides
- Closure completed at 99.8% of FFACO Industrial Sites CASs; 1,972 of 1,975 total Industrial Sites have been completed

- **Industrial Sites FY 2026 Wrap Up**

- Planned: Continue cultural resource activities in conjunction with Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
 - Status: Activities completed in FY 2026
- Planned: Continue FFACO closure activities at EMAD Facility

- Galbestos removal, demolition of Ancillary Plant Facility and Areas (APFA) and galleries will begin in January 2026
 - Status: Planning and mobilization started in January 2026
- Key completion dates:
 - Removal of first galbestos panel by 3/15/26
 - ✓ Status: First panel was removed 2/9/26; last panel removed on 7/15/26 (total of 3,821 galbestos panels removed)
 - Complete Cold Bay demolition by 7/31/26
 - ✓ Status: Completed on 7/15/2026
 - Complete Operating Galleries Demolition by 12/31/26
 - ✓ Status On schedule
- Planned: Railcar Engine Installation Vehicle used fuel cylinder and remaining hazardous material abatement scheduled for mid-October 2025
 - Status: Completed October 2025
- Planned: Main Plant Processing Area (MPPA) Open Air Demolition Readiness activities are underway and will be completed by November 26, 2025
 - Status: MPPA Open Air Demolition Readiness completed in November 2025; retaining structure for potential reuse; preparing revised Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan that reflects the revised end state for EMAD
- **Industrial Sites Planned Activities**
 - Continue FFACO closure activities at EMAD
 - Demobilization – Spring/Summer 2027
 - Closure Report – Fall 2027

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

- The galbestos panels are not recyclable because they contain asbestos. Coordination with various parties is in progress to determine whether the lead from the EMAD facility can be recycled.
- NDEP and federal staff provide oversight of the demolition of the EMAD Facility, especially when hazardous materials were being removed. The current demolition work are more routine construction activities, although NDEP and federal staff continue to observe and provide oversight of waste operations.

UGTA FY 2026 Wrap Up and Planned Activities *(John Myers, DOE EM Nevada Program)*

- **UGTA Background**
 - 828 underground nuclear tests conducted at the NNSS from 1951 to 1992
 - Underground tests conducted at depths ranging from approximately 90 to 4,800 feet below the ground surface
 - One-third of these tests occurred near or below the water table
 - Radioactive contamination from testing not detected above the Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level in groundwater beyond federally controlled land
- **UGTA CAUs**
 - There are five CAUs determined by location and geologic conditions that make up the UGTA Activity
 - Frenchman Flat – 10 sites (CAU 98) – **COMPLETE** in closure/long-term monitoring

- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain – 66 sites (CAU 99) – **COMPLETE** in closure/long-term monitoring
- Yucca Flat/Climax Mine – 720 sites (CAU 97) – **COMPLETE** in closure/long-term monitoring
- Central and Western Pahute Mesa* – 82 sites (CAUs 101/102) –in Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) stage
**Central and Western Pahute Mesa are managed as one entity*
- **UGTA FY 2026 Wrap Up**
 - Pahute Mesa
 - Planned: Complete well completion reports for Wells ER-20-13-1, ER-20-13-2, and ER-20-1 (6/30/2026)
 – Status: Expect completion in September 2026
 - Planned: Complete development, testing, and sampling of Wells ER-20-13-1, ER-20-13-2, and ER-20-1 (9/30/2026)
 – Status: Completed 7/27/2026
 - Planned: Continue model evaluation activities (ongoing)
 – Status: Progress continues
 - Planned: Submit CY 2025 Annual Sampling Letter Report to NDEP (8/30/2026)
 – Status: Completed 8/19/2026
 - Planned: Model Evaluation Data Presentation #2 (9/29/2026)
 – Status: Completed 8/24/2026
 - Planned: Continue funding and support for Nye County Tritium Sampling and Monitoring Program (TSaMP)
 – Status: Extended through August 2027
- **UGTA Planned Activities**
 - Pahute Mesa
 - Complete well development and testing completion report (6/30/2027)
 - Submit to NDEP Annual Sampling Letter Reports for CY 2026 and CY 2027 (8/31/2027 and 8/31/2028)
 - Model Evaluation Data Presentation #3 (9/29/2027)
 - Model Evaluation Report to NDEP (7/31/2028)
 - Closure Report to NDEP (5/31/2029)
 - Continue funding and support for Nye County TSaMP

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

- Surface contamination from legacy aboveground nuclear weapons tests, including soil contamination, was addressed under the FFACO by the Soils Activity not the UGTA Activity. Except for a few sites where some contamination was removed (mostly on the Tonopah Test Range), the EM Nevada Program closed Soils sites in place (left the contamination in place with controls).
- The EM Nevada Program provides NDEP with draft UGTA reports to review. In response, NDEP provides comments or questions that may result in a meeting if requested to provide clarifications. The final report is revised accordingly, and NDEP's comments and EM Nevada Program's responses are included in an appendix to the report. The UGTA FFACO strategy outlines the formal process for the Program and NDEP to coordinate in making decisions to move or not to the next stage of the strategy.
- Once the UGTA mission is complete, it is NNSA/NFO's decision to continue the TSaMP.

- Under the FFACO, closed groundwater CAUs will undergo sampling to develop six-year monitoring reports. An evaluation will be conducted every 12 years to review the models. Both reports and evaluations will be documented and provided to NDEP and available to the public on the OSTI website.

Waste Management FY 2026 Wrap Up and Planned Activities (*Rob Boehlecke, DOE EM Nevada Program*)

- **Waste Management Background**
 - NNSS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) provides critical capacity to accept and dispose of classified waste and LLW and mixed low-level radioactive waste (MLLW) from approved DOE/NSA and Department of Defense (DoD) generators, including waste that cannot be disposed of at the site of generation or at commercial facilities
 - NNSS RWMC supports the DOE EM cleanup mission as well as ongoing national security and science missions
 - DOE Office of EM Nevada Program oversees acceptance of waste for safe and secure disposal at the NNSS
 - The NNSS was chosen due to its isolated location, security, and arid climate
 - Waste disposal ongoing since 1961
 - Independent oversight conducted by NDEP in accordance with the Agreement in Principle
- **Waste Management FY 2026 Wrap Up**
 - Planned: Safely dispose up to 750,000 cubic feet (ft³) of waste at the NNSS
 - Status: As of August 31, 2026, the NNSS safely disposed of 608,653 ft³ of waste
 - Forecast:
 - Preliminary Waste Forecast for FY 2026 was 695,673 ft³
 - Mid-year Update Forecast lowered the expected volume to 694,609 ft³ for FY 2026
 - Planned: Submit Annual Performance Assessment Summary Report to the LLW Federal Review Group
 - Status: Submitted in March 2026; the disposal sites continue to meet Performance Objectives included in DOE Order 435.1 *Radioactive Waste Management*
 - Planned: RWAP facility evaluations
 - Status: Conducted 24 facility evaluations (16 surveillances and 8 audits)
 - NDEP participated in 16 of these facility evaluations
 - Status: Conducted the following verifications:
 - 8 MLLW evolutions (25 containers)
 - 11 LLW real-time radiography (RTR) evolutions (46 containers)
 - 54 waste profiles recommended for approval by the Waste Acceptance Review Panel (as of 8/12/2026)
 - Planned: Continue funding and support for the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) grant
 - Status: Since FY 2000, provided over \$17 million in funding through the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine counties

- EM Nevada Program funds the grant based on \$.50 per cubic foot of classified waste, LLW and MLLW disposed at the NNSS
- Funding provided in accordance with approved grant application and oversight of funding use
- Priorities for grant funding include consideration for the needs of a county and the resource base available in that county
- Planned: Operationally close and construct disposal cells, as needed
 - Closure Status: None in FY 2026
 - Construction Status: None in FY 2026
- Planned: Implement the new RTR portal unit
 - Status: Portal system operational in October 2025
 - All staff training relevant to operating the machine has been completed
 - In FY 2026, the RTR portal unit has been used to assess shipping packages including:
 - Cargo containers/sealands
 - B-25 boxes
 - 55-gallon drums
 - Macro-packs
 - In early FY 2027, construction work will be completed, and staff will be added for Area 5 RWMC operations that will allow for more regular use of the portal system
- Planned: Begin procurement of a Design & Build Subcontract to construct the next MLLW cell (Cell 31) in FY 2029-2030
 - Status: Work continues to develop the request for proposal
- Planned: Operationally support disposal of demolition waste from EMAD Facility at the Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS) through FY 2027
 - Status: Navarro has completed the required planning to ship LLW from EMAD to Area 3 RWMS/Area 5 RWMC – disposal will be ongoing, as needed, through completion of planned EMAD demolition activities
- Planned: Disposal of repatriated radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG) from France scheduled for delivery in December 2025
 - Status: Received and disposed of RTG at the Area 5 RWMC in December 2025
- **Waste Management Planned Activities**
 - Safely disposal up to 750,000 ft³ of waste at NNSS radioactive waste disposal facilities
 - Submit Annual Performance Assessment Summary Report to the LLW Federal Review Group
 - Conduct RWAP facility evaluations
 - Continue funding and support for the EPWG grant
 - Operationally close and construct disposal cells, as needed
 - Continue use of RTR units
 - Continue procurement of a Design & Build Subcontract to construct the next MLLW cell (Cell 31) in FY 2029-2030
 - Dispose of demolition waste from EMAD at the Area 3 RWMS through FY 2027

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

- In the 1950s, the United States provided countries radiological materials as part of Atoms for Peace to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and reduce the threat of nuclear warfare. The RTGs from France were U.S. origin materials. NNSA has several programs to collect and properly dispose of radiological materials in a safe and secure disposal facility.

NNSA provided funding to dispose of these RTGs at a rate of approximately \$46 per ft³. The Department charges a disposal rate to cover the operational costs at the Area 5 RWMC, so the rate adjusts with costs.

- LLW cells at the Area 5 RWMC do not have a liner as there is no pathway to groundwater. NNSS groundwater at the Area 5 RWMC is approximately 700 feet deep and there is not enough recharge from precipitation to pass through the waste and reach the groundwater. The evapotranspiration rate is much higher than the precipitation rate.
- The MLLW liner consists of a geosynthetic material that is made of various liners with clay materials and poly with the seams welded together. The MLLW cell has a leachate collection system that has only captured rainfall when a MLLW cell is not capped. Once a cell is closed with an operational cover made of natural alluvial materials and revegetated, leachate has not been found in the sump. Moisture monitoring is conducted in these covers to ensure water is not reaching the waste.
- DOE owns the Area 5 RWMC but the remainder of the NNSS is under BLM land withdrawals for use by the Department for the original specific purpose of nuclear testing, not the disposal of waste. The 2013 Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the NNSS documents that DOE would be required to engage in detailed discussions with the State of Nevada to receive approval to disposal of non-Nevada waste at the Area 3 RWMS.
- The EM Nevada Program funds the EPWG grant based on \$.50 per ft³ of waste disposed of at the NNSS. This is administered by the Nevada Division of Emergency Management to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine counties and is based on need.
- The NNSS has the only federal disposal facility, Area 5 RWMC, that accepts waste from other DOE/DoD sites. Most of DOE waste is disposed of onsite at the various DOE sites across the country. There are DOE sites that have shallow water tables that are not conducive to dispose of waste onsite, therefore the decision is to either dispose of the waste at a commercial disposal facility or the Area 5 RWMC. This decision is made by the site manager and is based on the best interest of the government, considering factors, such as safety, cost, risk, future risk, etc.
- A formal letter requesting an increase in the \$.50 per ft³ for grant funding is in the process of being signed by the six EPWG counties. There are no plans to sunset the EPWG grant funding. The EPWG grant was recently approved for a three-year extension and is a federal grant that requires review and approval on a periodic basis, typically every five years.

FY 2027 Work Plan Development

FY 2027 DOE Proposed Work Plan:

The EM Nevada Program proposed the following three work plan items/topics related to EM activities planned for FY 2027 for the NSSAB's consideration. EM Nevada Program staff explained and answered Board questions for each of the proposed work plan items/topics.

1. Presented by Robert Boehlecke: *The EM Nevada Program will provide an update on the President's FY 2028 and the FY 2029 baseline.* (informational)

2. Presented by John Myers: *From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations on the proposed monitoring network for Pahute Mesa.* (actionable)
3. Presented by Tiffany Gamero: *From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations on future EM Nevada Program public outreach activities in support of continued awareness of the NNSS waste disposal mission. Recommendations should consider previous recommendations and limited federal/contractor resources in alignment with the reduced EM Nevada mission.* (actionable)

NSSAB Proposed Work Plan Input

Chair Hilton initiated a discussion with the Board, and NSSAB members did not have additional work plan items to bring forward.

NSSAB Work Plan Discussion and Voting

Member Trainor made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2027 work plan including the three work plan items/topics presented and to submit to the EM Nevada Program for its consideration. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Final Work Plan and Recommendation Letter to DOE

The NSSAB Office will submit the proposed FY 2027 Work Plan to the EM Nevada Program for its review, approval, and response to the NSSAB.

FY 2027 Proposed NSSAB Schedule*

A proposed schedule was provided based on the timing of briefings and due dates for recommendations included in the FY 2027 Work Plan.

The Full Board meeting scheduled for FY 2027 is as follows:

- Wednesday, October 21, 2026 – annual NSSAB Work Plan Tour of the NNSS focused on Pahute Mesa Groundwater CAUs (NSSAB members only)
- Wednesday, February 17, 2027 – NSSAB Full Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV
- Wednesday, April 21, 2027 – NSSAB Full Board Meeting – location TBD
- Wednesday, June 16, 2027 – NSSAB Full Board Meeting – location TBD

Once the membership package is approved and the appointment letters are sent out, the NSSAB Office will provide additional information to NSSAB members on FY 2027 chair/vice-chair elections, annual NSSAB Work Plan Tour, Devils Hole & Beyond Research Symposia, and FY 2027 LLW Stakeholders Forum representative(s) for the NSSAB. Results of the chair/vice-chair elections will determine attendance at the EM SSAB National Chairs Meeting. Intergovernmental Meetings for NSSAB liaisons will be prior to each NSSAB Full Board Meeting. The meeting locations will be finalized by the NSSAB Office and the Board notified.

Other NSSAB Business *(Mark Hilton, Chair)*

EM SSAB National Chairs Meeting – Development of Round Robin

The EM SSAB National Chairs Meeting will be held virtually on November 10, 2026. 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 resulting in following the round robin topics:

Board Accomplishments:

- Providing DOE recommendations since 1994 (NSSAB requested an approximate number)
- Highlight NSSAB recommendations that have been adopted (NSSAB requested examples)

Board Concerns:

- What will be the mechanism to provide the public information after the NSSAB is sunset?
- How will intergovernmental relationships be maintained?
- How will the current grants (such as TSaMP) be funded in the future for longer timeframes?

Board Comment:

- 30+ years of appreciation with accommodation of the Board's efforts

Member 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

Members Lisa Blandi and Robert Blackstock shared items of interest from their attendance at the LLW Stakeholders Forum held in Pahrump, NV, on July 22, 2026.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment

After Chair Hilton's closing remarks, Member Trainor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

*Dates, times, and topics are tentative and subject to change.