

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

safe ❖ secure ❖ successful



Origins

Formed in 1994, the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) provides for citizen involvement and feedback to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on Environmental Management (EM) activities in Nevada. NSSAB meetings are open to the public and participation is encouraged by both the NSSAB and DOE. The NSSAB is one of eight advisory boards chartered under the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board and governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The NSSAB provides recommendations that focus primarily on EM activities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

Actions

The NSSAB is a federally appointed group of volunteers organized to provide informed recommendations to the DOE EM Nevada Program on EM activities. In order to make informed recommendations, education opportunities for members are provided, including:



- Orientation
- Guided tours of the NNSS
- Monthly reports
- Briefings from subject matter experts on EM activities
- Attendance at local workshops, forums, and national conferences
- Biannual meetings of the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board
- Meetings with other stakeholders

With the knowledge NSSAB members gain through their participation, the members function as an educational and informational link to their neighbors in their respective communities by sharing information on EM activities. These activities include budget prioritization; characterizing and monitoring the effects of historic nuclear testing on groundwater; environmental restoration of contaminated soils and excess facilities; radioactive waste management and transportation; long-term stewardship; NSSAB membership; and public outreach.

Fast Facts

EM Nevada Program: DOE program responsible for environmental remediation of legacy contamination resulting from historical nuclear testing, research, and development activities in Nevada, and for ensuring the safe disposal of radioactive and classified waste generated by cleanup in Nevada and across the Nation.

EM Site-Specific Advisory Board: A federally chartered advisory board created to involve stakeholders more directly in DOE EM cleanup decisions. Local advisory boards are established at Hanford (Washington), Idaho, Nevada, Northern New Mexico, Oak Ridge (Tennessee), Paducah (Kentucky), Portsmouth (Ohio), and Savannah River (South Carolina). Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the eight local boards meet biannually to exchange ideas and develop national cross-cutting recommendations.

Federal Advisory Committee Act: Law enacted in 1972 to ensure that the general public has access to advisory board deliberations and recommendations.

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Membership

NSSAB membership is carefully considered to include a diversity of viewpoints from the communities near the NNSS. Past and current NSSAB members have lived in and represented the Nevada communities of Alamo, Amargosa Valley, Beatty, Boulder City, Caliente, Goldfield, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite, North Las Vegas, Pahrump, Panaca, Rachel, and Tonopah, as well as communities near Death Valley and Shoshone in California.

Liaisons to the NSSAB are non-voting members who provide valuable information pertinent to EM activities and represent their organization's interests at meetings. Liaisons represent Clark County, Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations, Elko County Commission, Esmeralda County Commission, Lincoln County Commission, Nye County Commission, Nye County Emergency Management, Nye County Natural Resources and Federal Facilities Office, State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, U.S. National Park Service, and White Pine County Commission.



NSSAB Meetings

The NSSAB typically meets in the evenings approximately five or six times per year in Las Vegas with one or two meetings held in rural southern Nevada. The agenda for every NSSAB meeting includes up to 15 minutes for the public to provide verbal and written comments, which are included in the formal minutes.

Annually in September, the NSSAB considers and approves a list of work plan items that guide NSSAB activities for providing informed input and recommendations to the EM Nevada Program throughout the fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). Every recommendation submitted by the NSSAB is responded to by the EM Nevada Program.

Join the NSSAB

For further information, contact the NSSAB Office at 702-523-0894 or nssab@emcbc.doe.gov. You can also visit the NSSAB website at www.nnss.gov/NSSAB to find meeting dates and locations, agendas, minutes, NSSAB recommendations and DOE responses, a list of current members and liaisons, member and liaison responsibilities, work plans, and a membership application.



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