



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

September 30, 2025

DDFO Robert Boehlecke
U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program
100 N. City Parkway, Suite 1750
Las Vegas, NV 89106

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Real Time Radiography (RTR) Operations at the
Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC)
(Work Plan Item #5)

Dear DDFO Boehlecke,

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) was asked to provide a recommendation, from a community perspective, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for how the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) RTR operations could be enhanced.

In support of the scope of this work plan item, Byron Smith, Navarro RTR Verification Technician, conducted a presentation and answered questions during the April 16, 2025, NSSAB Full Board Meeting. The briefing included a definition of RTR and its purpose. His briefing also included how the current RTR unit is used at the Area 5 RWMC on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), and the process that is followed if an indeterminate item is found.

On July 29, 2025, Members Eddie Williams and Doug Blackstock visited the NNSS to observe RTR activities at the Area 5 RWMC, although the machine malfunctioned that day. Another opportunity on September 4, 2025, was made available and Members Williams and Blackstock observed first-hand RTR activities. Mr. Smith was available to answer questions during the first onsite RTR visit and Mr. Deron Linkenheil from the Navarro RWAP Team and Jackie Petrello from the EM Nevada Program were available during the second RTR onsite visit.

During the September 10, 2025, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Members Williams and Blackstock provided a very informational and detailed oral report on the RTR process and their observations during their visit. Along with Mr. Linkenheil and Ms. Petrello, Reed Poderis, Missions Support and Test Services Director of Environmental Management and Compliance Group, were available to answer any additional questions during the September 2025 meeting to support the Board in formulating recommendations.

After Board discussion, the NSSAB recommends 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.

The NSSAB thanks the EM Nevada Program for answering questions about the RTR during the visits and the meetings. The members commented that the staff was professional and that it was a great experience. The Board thanks the EM Nevada Program for the opportunity to observe RTR activities and looks forward

Members

Erik Anderson
Joycelyn Austin-Mabe
Robert Blackstock
Lisa Blandi
John Cole
Gary Elgort
Thomas Fisher
Pam Handor
Mark Hilton (Chair)
Tammi Odegard
Lori Olson-Arzaga
Anntoinette Rivera
Brandon Schmidt
Kevin Trainor (Vice-Chair)
Eddie Williams

Liaisons

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
White Pine County Commission

Administration

Robert Boehlecke, Deputy
Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)
U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program
Tiffany Gamero, and John Myers,
Alternate DDFOs
U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program
Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro, Contractor for the U.S.
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in the future to observe the new drive-through truck portal and learning more about its capabilities to complement the current RTR unit.

Sincerely,

Mark Hilton, Chair

cc: Kelly Snyder, DOE/HQ (EM-2.33)
Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-2.33)
Jeff Jarry, Navarro
Deron Linkenheil, Navarro
Glenn Puit, Navarro
Byron Smith, Navarro
Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
Tiffany Gamero, EM
Catherine Hampton, EM
John Myers, EM
Jackie Petrello, EM