



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

August 5, 2024

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 #4)

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 January 17, 2024, 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 May 14, 2024, Members Lisa Blandi and Gary Elgort observed first-hand RTR activities at the Area 5 RWMC on the NNSS. During the July 17, 2024, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Members Blandi and Elgort provided a very informational and detailed oral report on the RTR process and their observations during their visit. Marilew Bartling, Navarro RWAP Manager, and Mr. Smith were available to answer questions during both the RTR visit and the Full Board meetings.

After Board discussion, the NSSAB recommends the following:

- 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.

The NSSAB thanks Mr. Smith and Ms. Bartling for answering questions about the RTR during the visit and during the meetings. The Board thanks the EM Nevada Program for the opportunity to observe RTR activities and looks forward to observing the new drive-through truck portal and learning more about its capabilities to compliment the current RTR unit.

Sincerely,

Anthony Graham, Chair

Members

Erik Anderson
Joycelyn Austin-Mabe
Lisa Blandi
John Cole
Gary Elgort
Anthony Graham (Chair)
Mark Hilton (Vice-Chair)
Bruce Jabbour
Dan Peterson
Janice Six
Kevin Trainor
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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, Alternate DDFO,
U.S. Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program
Barbara Ulmer, Administrator
Navarro, Contractor for the U.S.
Department of Energy,
EM Nevada Program

cc: Kelly Snyder, DOE/HQ (EM-2.33)
Michelle Hudson, DOE/HQ (EM-2.33)
Marilew Bartling, Navarro
Glenn Puit, Navarro
Byron Smith, Navarro
Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
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