



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

September 18, 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 Low-Level Waste (LLW) Visual Verifications
(Work Plan Item #2)

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) visual verifications could be enhanced.

In support of the scope of this work plan item, Marilew Bartling, Navarro RWAP Manager, conducted a presentation and answered questions during the January 17, 2024, NSSAB Full Board Meeting. The briefing included a definition of a visual verification and its purpose. Her briefing also included frequency, documentation and personnel involved with a visual verification.

In March 2024, Member Gary Elgort observed first-hand visual verification activities at a processing facility in Oak Ridge, TN. During the July 17, 2024, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Member Elgort provided a detailed oral report on his observations regarding the visual verification.

In August 2024, Member Kevin Trainor observed first-hand visual verification activities at Test Cell C on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). During the September 11, 2024, NSSAB Full Board Meeting, Member Trainor provided an oral report on his observations of the NNSS crew preparing structural metal for disposal in a waste container and the required documentation. Ms. Bartling was available to answer questions for both visual verification visits and Full Board meetings.

After Board discussion, the NSSAB recommends the following:

- Visual verifications continue to be conducted by the RWAP Team and maintain its current high standards.
- If a prohibited item is found by the RWAP Team during real time radiography (RTR), the generator be subjected to increased visual verifications.

The Board thanks the EM Nevada Program for the opportunity to observe first-hand LLW visual verification activities and provide recommendations for enhancements.

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
M. Favil West
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, 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
Barbara Ulmer, Navarro
NSSAB Members and Liaisons
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