

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
to the
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) Members:

Jack Craig, EMAB Vice-Chair
David Abelson
Amy Fitzgerald
Diahann Howard
Elliott Laws
Frazer Lockhart
Nicole Martinez
Tracye McDaniel
Josiah Pinkham
James Rispoli
Timothy Runyon
Shelly Wilson

U.S. Department of Energy Participants:

William “Ike” White, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
Jay Mullis, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs
Betsy Forinash, Director of Infrastructure Management and Disposition Policy
Doug Tonkay, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste and Materials Management
Kristen Ellis, Acting Director of Regulatory, Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Engagement
Aaron White, Director, Office of Regulatory Compliance
Joceline Nahigian, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs
Kelly Snyder, EMAB Designated Federal Officer
Alyssa Harris, EMAB Federal Coordinator
Michelle Hudson, Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs
Leisa Pope, Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs
Melinda Comfort, Office of Assistant General Counsel

Members of the Public:

Wayne Barber, Reporter, Weapons Complex Monitor
Janie Hill-Scott, Deputy Director, Georgia Women’s Action for New Direction
Kelsey Shank, Vice President, TheEDGE LLC
Laurel Smith, Business Planning Analyst, Huntington Ingalls Industries

LIST OF ACRONYMS

D&D – Deactivation and Decommissioning
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
DFLAW – Direct Feed Low Activity Waste
DFO – Dedicated Federal Officer
EM – (DOE) Office of Environmental Management
EMAB – Environmental Management Advisory Board
EMDF – EM Disposal Facility
EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FACA – Federal Advisory Committee Act
IWTU – Integrated Waste Treatment Unit
SRS –Savannah River Site (DOE)
TRU – Transuranic
WIPP – Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

MEETING MINUTES

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) met virtually on December 13, 2021. Participants included EMAB members, DOE staff, and members of the public. The meeting was open to the public and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The meeting was livestreamed on YouTube and the recording can be accessed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/nDVcz4zf2yc>

Opening Remarks

Mr. Jack Craig, EMAB Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. ET. He welcomed the attendees and reviewed the logistics of the virtual meeting. Mr. Craig told the attendees that in accordance with FACA, all discussions during the proceedings would be made available to the public in the minutes. He stated that members of the public were given the opportunity to submit written comments to be read into the record during the public comments section of the meeting. DOE staff did not receive any comments. He encouraged those interested in learning more about EMAB to visit their website at www.em.doe.gov/emab or contact EMAB Designated Federal Officer (DFO) Kelly Snyder at kelly.snyder@em.doe.gov. He reminded any members with a conflict of interest to announce their recusal for the record prior to the discussion.

The EMAB members voted to certify the spring 2021 EMAB meeting minutes.

Mr. Craig briefly reviewed the meeting agenda and then introduced the first speaker Mr. William "Ike" White, Senior Advisor for the Office of Environmental Management (EM).

Remarks by the Senior Advisor for EM

Mr. White thanked Mr. Craig for his leadership and thanked all of the EMAB board members for their dedication to public service.

Mr. White expressed that he continues to be impressed by EM's federal workforce and industry partners' successes during the pandemic. He gave his perspective on some of EM's accomplishments over the past year. He emphasized the importance of having alignment between the program, communities, and Tribal Nations surrounding each site. This alignment has a positive impact on the cleanup work.

Mr. White discussed his recent visit to the Savannah River Site (SRS) with the Deputy Secretary of Energy, David Turk. Significant progress is being made in the liquid waste program, and it is on track to process record amounts of liquid waste. Mr. White credited the success at the site to the alignment between DOE, the community, and state regulators.

Mr. White then discussed the Hanford site's progress. Hanford's Direct Feed Low Activity Waste (DFLAW) program continues to stay on track. The site completed construction and multiple major system tests. They are working to perform the last major system test to test the

heat up of the melter. He said Hanford is working to meet the milestone to begin tank waste treatment by the end of next year.

Mr. White stated that Idaho is also making good progress on tank waste at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) and he is very hopeful they can begin radioactive waste operations in 2022.

Mr. White stated that Oak Ridge continues to capitalize on their progress at East Tennessee Technology Park by pivoting the workforce successfully to deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) for the broader site. The site team was able to demolish Building 9207 at Y-12, which was done ahead of schedule and under budget.

Mr. White remarked on progress at Portsmouth including Building 236 and enrichment work. At Paducah, over the past year, more than one and a half million pounds of hazardous refrigerant have been disposed of. At the Energy Technology Engineering Center, they completed demolition of the final buildings that DOE owns on the campus and they are now working with the State on the soil cleanup.

Mr. White said Los Alamos over the course of the past year met their priority goal of at least 30 shipments of legacy transuranic (TRU) waste shipped to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). WIPP continues to make progress on their infrastructure work.

Mr. White discussed changes to headquarters and site management and briefly discussed challenges of slowly returning to the workplace. He also talked about the importance of the 10-year strategic vision, which is currently being updated and should be released early next year. Mr. White then opened the floor for questions.

Mr. James Rispoli asked why EM continues to have problems with WIPP's construction. Mr. White stated that WIPP is a complex challenge because you are dealing with a mining environment which has unique requirements, along with the nuclear side of operations that create a cumbersome process of government contracting.

Mr. Frazer Lockhart asked how Mr. White felt EM is doing with community interactions during this time when in-person meetings are difficult. Mr. White responded it's been one of the challenges of the last couple of years, but that he believes EM has done well with substituting virtual meetings and discussions, which actually had a broader participation.

Mr. David Abelson asked to hear more about the end state agreements between the communities, states and Congress. Mr. White responded that with good alignment, all of the energy and effort can be focused on making progress toward the goal everyone is aligned with. He used SRS as an example of how good alignment supported the progress made at the site. Having this alignment ensures everyone understands the goals and program mission which helps to keep things moving forward and being funded.

Ms. Amy Fitzgerald asked how communication could be improved within DOE to create new opportunities for industrialization for other missions, as well. Mr. White responded that it's

about communication with key stakeholders whether you're dealing with local communities, state regulators, Tribal Nations, or Congress members, he has an obligation to ensure EM communicates their perspective and prepares for a different economic future once the cleanup program is complete.

Ms. Shelly Wilson applauded EM for the tremendous strides being made under challenging circumstances. She then asked what Mr. White sees is the advantage of investment in early alignment before a renegotiation. Mr. White responded the most important thing about early alignment is the concept of trust. When you come upon a challenge, you approach it with trust in everyone's motives and willingness to work together towards a constructive outcome. That trust continues to build.

Mr. Craig thanked Mr. White for his time and recognized the progress made under his leadership. He agreed with Mr. White that alignment is building trust and it is helpful when tough decisions arise. He also commented that he felt movement of staff between headquarters and the field is important and gives individuals a better perspective of the whole program.

Regulatory and Policy Affairs Update

Mr. Jay Mullis, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, thanked the board for volunteering their time.

Mr. Mullis elaborated on recent accomplishments at the sites. At Hanford they continue success toward start-up of DFLAW, Proposed Test Bed Initiative Demonstration and the completion of the Tank-Side Cesium Removal system.

At Idaho, a two-year outage of IWTU concluded, which is a major milestone toward treatment of the remaining 900,000 gallons of liquid radioactive waste and associated tank closures. They continue calcine retrieval demonstration efforts and readiness.

Mr. Mullis continued with recent accomplishments at SRS including commencement of treatment at the newly constructed Salt Waste Processing Facility and the construction of Saltstone Disposal Unit 7. SRS transferred over 19.7 million gallons of material, including salt solution, to the Saltstone Production Facility, resulting in more than 27.65 million gallons of saltstone produced.

Mr. Mullis reviewed WIPP's recent accomplishments, which included the mining of eight TRU waste disposal panels, completion of foundation for the 55,000 square foot filter building, successful testing of the 700-C fan to increase air flow to workers, receiving a Class 3 Permit Modification for excavation of the new shaft and connecting drifts, and receiving about 13,000 shipments of defense TRU waste.

Mr. Mullis continued, stating that Moab successfully relocated another million tons of uranium mill tailings away from the Colorado River to the Crescent Junction disposal cell. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory successfully completed processing and disposing the low-dose inventory of uranium-233, ending a two-year effort that has eliminated a portion of the site's

legacy nuclear material and provided rare nuclear isotopes for next-generation cancer treatment research. The Los Alamos National Laboratory established a new more efficient processing line to process and repackage drums of low-level nuclear waste at Technical Area 54 for disposal offsite.

Mr. Mullis then introduced his team: Betsy Forinash, Director of Infrastructure Management and Disposition Policy; Doug Tonkay, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste and Materials Management; and Kristen Ellis, Acting Director of Regulatory, Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Engagement. They each briefly described their office activities.

Mr. Craig opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Frazer Lockhart asked how EM is trying to improve regulatory relationships that are the most challenging. Ms. Kristen Ellis responded saying one example would be Oak Ridge and trying to get a record of decision in place for the EM disposal facility (EMDF). For this, EM built an enhanced stakeholder strategy for future conversations on the EMDF and worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional headquarters and community engagement staff to build expertise. They are now working to reach an agreement among the three parties. She said there are other challenges that exist across the complex and EM is always looking at ways to build on successful relationships.

Ms. Wilson had a question for Mr. Doug Tonkay on the current National Defense Authorization Act. She asked if he's seen any language that might restrict the use of the high level waste interpretation and associated funding. Mr. Tonkay replied that he knows the language is being marked up and there is not a final bill yet. He said it is an evolving situation.

Mr. Abelson asked what is meant by the term "enhanced stakeholder engagements", which came up in today's meeting and at the National Cleanup Workshop the week before. Ms. Ellis responded that the term encompasses more than one way of communicating information. She said they attempt to break down technical information in a way that's understandable to a number of audiences. For example, they translate to other languages or convert information for social media. They learned from EPA and their community involvement best practices, as well as this administration's expectations for how to address stakeholders moving forward. Mr. Abelson then asked if she sees that enhanced stakeholder engagement and alignments with the key parties to be part of the same process. Ms. Ellis replied that they have similar issues communicating with their stakeholders to get a baseline level of understanding and agreement, which is key to alignment and support.

Mr. Craig thanked the speakers for their information and adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm. The EMAB members remained on the line to receive an annual ethics briefing from Melinda Comfort, Office of Assistant General Counsel.