



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 2, 2022

Mr. Leon Shields
Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001, EM-942
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Shields:

Thank you for your June 30, 2022, letter, and recommendations regarding the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) public outreach activities. I support your recommendations. EM takes public outreach seriously and recognizes the importance of ongoing dialogue with a variety of stakeholders.

Your thorough research and documentation on site-specific outreach activities will help us better serve the communities near EM sites. I agree there are ways we can further enhance our efforts and I have asked my team to explore how your recommendations can be implemented across the EM complex. Below are several examples of your recommendations in action.

At Hanford, the site office is increasing efforts to engage and educate a wider and more diverse public. Starting in October, the Hanford Advisory Board will meet in the evening to be more accessible. Additionally, the site is creating opportunities for collaborative problem solving by working with the Hanford Advisory Board and regulators to improve internal advisory board processes.

In Idaho, the site has begun to "utilize existing digital media outlets to broadcast timely information about current events and upcoming activities at a site" and "create videos, animations, and diagrams to use at public presentations or posted on websites to present engaging content the public would be interested in." Idaho staff will also create opportunities for Headquarters senior leadership to visit informally with local site-specific advisory board (SSAB) members when they are in their communities.

In Nevada, the site debuted a new EM Exhibit, "Beyond the Manhattan Project: Cleaning up the Legacy of America's Nuclear Defense and Research Missions," at the Atomic Testing Museum. Additionally, the site is pursuing a partnership with the Atomic Testing Museum to update its *Operation Clean Desert* outreach materials with a stronger STEM focus.

EM's New Mexico sites developed an enhanced engagement strategy and identified additional stakeholder outreach opportunities, like the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Public Forums hosted throughout the state of New Mexico. The first WIPP Public Forum

was held in Santa Fe in early July. EM Los Alamos (EM-LA) has also worked to increase its stakeholder outreach, including EM-LA's engagement with the Santa Fe Indian School to help advance their Community Based Education curriculum and support STEM technologies for students. Furthermore, as part of its Justice40 efforts, EM-LA is in the process of expanding its support for cooperative agreements with the Accord Pueblos.

At Savannah River, the site plans to distribute news releases and social media posts to announce new SSAB members. Like Idaho, the staff at Savannah River will also try to schedule time for visiting Headquarters leadership to meet with SSAB members while at the site.

These are just a few of the outreach improvements; we will continue to explore further recommendations at Headquarters and in the field.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Kelly Snyder, the EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at (702) 918-6715 or kelly.snyder@em.doe.gov.

Sincerely,



William I. White
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management

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