



*A U.S. Department of Energy
Site-Specific Advisory Board*

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February 28, 2020

Mr. Stephen Hoffman, Deputy Manager
Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2020-01 "Need for Detailed Funding Information from DOE EM-LA," which was approved by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board during its meeting on February 26, 2020.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this recommendation. We look forward to the response from the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

Max Baca
Chair, NNMCAB

Enclosure: a/s
Cc w/encl:
U. S. Senator Tom Udall
U. S. Senator Martin Heinrich
U. S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan
Secretary, James C. Kenney NMED
David Borak, DFO (via e-mail)
David Nickless, DDFO (via e-mail)
Gil L. Vigil, Executive Director Eight Northern Indian Pueblos
Menice B. Santistevan, NNMCAB Executive Director
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1 **NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD**
2 **Recommendation to the Department of Energy**
3 **No. 2020-01**
4 **Need for Detailed Funding Information from DOE EM-LA**
5 **Drafted by: Robert Hull**
6

7 **Background**

8 At the 2019 Fall EM SSAB Chairs Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho, a recommendation was proposed and
9 accepted unanimously by the Chairs at the meeting for “*Improving Public Involvement in the DOE*
10 *Environmental Management Budget Process.*” (Ref. #1)

11 “Each DOE Environmental Management (EM) site is unique in its stage of cleanup – some are
12 smaller, some are closer to the end of their cleanup and some have decades to go. Because of the
13 uniqueness, difference in size, complexity, Federal Facility Agreements and length of cleanup
14 the level of budget detail needed by each board may be different.

15 The eight citizen advisory boards that make up the EM SSAB that provide recommendations,
16 advice and public perspectives to their local DOE-EM management believe that it is important to
17 provide well-informed and timely recommendations, advice and comments regarding priorities at
18 their sites. **In order to do that they need to have an adequate level of budget and planning**
19 **detail provided in time to deliberate, develop and transmit recommendations to their**
20 **respective local DOE management.** Consideration of our recommendations while the local
21 DOE offices are developing their priorities and budget requests and prior to local offices
22 transmitting their budget to DOE HQ is in the spirit of transparency and collaboration.

23 The EM SSAB believes that the local DOE offices should have the authority to respond to
24 unplanned emerging issues requiring budget reprogramming to ensure timely response actions
25 are instituted.” **(bold added for emphasis)**

26 As reported in the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Update (February 14, 2020) the President’s FY
27 2021 budget request for the DOE Office of Environmental Management indicates a \$100M decrease in
28 funding for DOE Environmental Management-Los Alamos (EM-LA) from the last year’s \$220M (Ref.
29 #2). While it is not certain that funding will be at this \$120M level, the potential for significant cuts to
30 environmental cleanup funding further supports the need for the NNMCAB to quickly have access to the
31 funding request and budgeting details so that we can provide relevant and timely advice to DOE EM-LA
32 on the northern communities desires.

33 **The following three recommendations were approved by the Chairs at the Chair’s Meeting:**

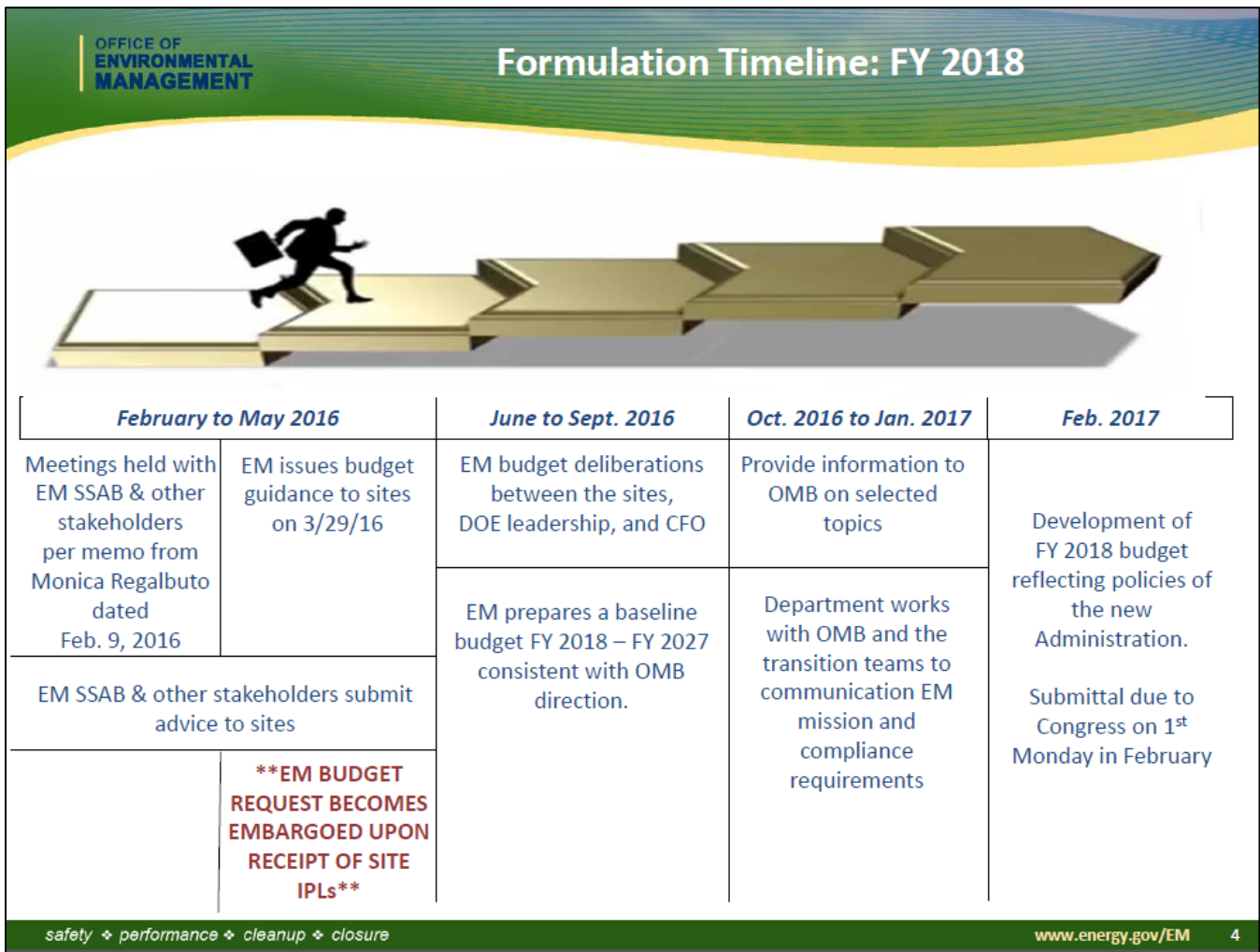
- 34 1. “DOE should begin to engage the local boards that make up the EM SSAB early enough in the
35 budget process to ensure adequate time for the boards to be able to provide informed
36 advice/recommendations for submittal to their local EM management for consideration as local
37 budget requests are being developed.
- 38 2. Local EM site offices should work with their advisory board early enough in the process to
39 identify the level of priority and budget detail that the Board needs in order to discuss and
40 develop informed advice/recommendations in time for DOE consideration as they develop their
41 budget request submittal to EM-HQ. For larger sites with multiple cleanup actions the detail
42 should include an integrated priority planning list that identifies those cleanup activities that

43 would be delayed if funding levels are not sufficient or if unplanned/emerging issues must be
44 addressed.

- 45 3. DOE-HQ should relay to their local EM offices whatever guidance is required early enough to
46 ensure that the information local advisory boards need in order to understand and develop
47 priorities and budget advice, recommendations and public comments are provided to local EM
48 management in time to meet their budget submittal to HQ deadlines.”

49 **Comments and Observations**

50 The NNMCAB Chair concurred on this “budget request” recommendation at the Fall Chairs Meeting
51 and the NNMCAB in this current recommendation wants to further elaborate on the Board’s need for
52 this information as soon as reasonably possible in line with the budgetary funding cycle. At the Chairs
53 Meetings someone from EM HQ provides an overview of the funding situation. At the September 2016
54 Chairs Meeting, Connie Flohr, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resource Management and Lois Jessup,
55 Director of Program Planning provided the following slide that demonstrates the budget formulation
56 timeline (Ref. #3) relevant to this discussion:



57
58 This information in this first figure highlights the need for detailed funding information in the February
59 to May timeframe in order for the SSAB’s to provide input.

60 At the Chairs Meeting discussions with some other EM SSAB's Chair and Vice-Chair's demonstrated
61 that they were receiving significantly more detailed information than that provided to the NNM CAB.
62 For example, at the SRS SSAB they are given an annual presentation by the Director, Office of
63 Integration and Planning at DOE SRS (obtained from the SRS SSAB website, Ref. #4) (see figure
64 below). This figure available from their website provides the project funding distribution with greater
65 granularity than is provided by their specific Program Budget Summary (PBS) (i.e., separated by the
66 blue lines on the figure). The NNM CAB Chair and Vice-Chair were told they are given even greater
67 detailed information in order to provide their yearly input to DOE EM SRS.

68 We are currently awaiting what was previously referred to as the Life-Cycle Costing Estimate and now
69 the Project Execution Plan (PEP) that projects costs through something like 2036. The NNM CAB would
70 like to see that, but the year-to-year breakdown is more useful to the NNM CAB in the short term.

Budget Table

Savannah River Funding (\$K)		FY18	FY19	FY19	FY19	FY20
		EM Enacted	EM Request	EM Enacted	Req/Enact Delta	EM Request
SR-0011C	NM Stabilization & Disposition	323,482	351,331	332,947	(18,384)	342,958
SR-0013	Solid Waste	43,386	42,145	41,425	(720)	48,562
SR-0030	Soil and Water	81,199	83,110	73,612	(9,498)	62,618
SR-0041	S&M and Deactivation	20,699	25,815	28,390	2,575	26,324
SR-0042	Infrastructure & Land Mgt	14,194	15,035	13,086	(1,949)	10,151
18-D-402	EOC Replacement	500	1,259	1,259	0	6,792
19-D-701	SR Security System Replacement			10,000		
20-D-402	AMC					50,000
SR-0014C	Liquid Tank Waste	637,105	805,686	696,869	(108,817)	797,706
SWPF	Salt Waste Processing Facility	150,000	65,000	130,000	65,000	20,988
SDU#7	Saltstone Disposal Unit 7	30,000	41,243	41,243		40,034
SDU#8/9	Saltstone Disposal Unit 8/9	500	37,450	7,577	(29,873)	51,750
SDU#10-12	Saltstone Disposal Unit 10-12					500
SR-0100	Community and Regulatory	11,249	4,749	11,249	6,500	4,749
SR-020	Safeguards and Security	159,124	183,357	163,357	(20,000)	179,377
Total EM SRS		1,471,438	1,656,180	1,551,014	(105,166)	1,642,509

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC • WWW.SRS.GOV

71

72 **Recommendations**

73 The NNM CAB recommends:

- 74 1. That DOE EM-LA provide the NNM CAB detailed funding information comparable to what other
75 SSABs are given by campaign, Solid Waste Management Unit, Aggregate Area, Individual Permit,
76 and other such recognizable unit that DOE EM-LA is funding as early as possible within the

- 77 February to May timeframe each Calendar Year. Such information should be provided on a rolling
78 three year basis.
- 79 2. The NNMCAB be allowed and funded to hold a 2-day workshop with DOE EM-LA and/or N3B
80 subject matter experts to review the information and develop relevant advice to DOE EM-LA
81 concerning the NNMCAB's recommendations.

82 **Intent**

83 It is the intent of the NNMCAB to work as efficiently and effectively as possible given our all-volunteer
84 Board membership. Having detailed funding information for each Calendar Year will greatly enhance
85 the NNMCAB's effectiveness to provide solid and useful advice and recommendations to the DOE EM-
86 LA on how affected communities would like to see the work executed. These recommendations are
87 presented to further that goal.

88

89 **References**

- 90 1. EM SSAB Chairs Meeting, Recommendation, "Improving EM SSAB and Public Engagement in the
91 DOE Environmental Management Budget Process," [https://www.energy.gov/em/downloads/chairs-](https://www.energy.gov/em/downloads/chairs-meeting-october-2019)
92 [meeting-october-2019](https://www.energy.gov/em/downloads/chairs-meeting-october-2019) (Not yet posted)
- 93 2. ECA Update: ECA's takeaways from the FY21 budget request; Deputy Secretary of Energy
94 nominated, Energy Communities Alliance, ECA Update, February 14, 2020.
95 (<http://www.energyca.org/eca-updates/2020/2/13/ecas-takeaways-from-the-fy-2021-budget-request>)
- 96 3. EM SSAB Chairs Meeting, Connie Flohr, Deputy Secretary for Resource Management, and Lois
97 Jessup, Director of Program Planning, September 2016,
98 <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/09/f33/Budget%20and%20Strategic%20Comms.pdf>
- 99 4. Savannah River Site Presentation, John Lopez, May 14, 2019, Citizen's Advisory Board – Budget
100 Update, <https://cab.srs.gov/library/meetings/2019/slm/4-CAB-Budget-and-process-r2-May-2019.pdf>