



PORTSMOUTH EM SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020, SSAB MEETING • 6:00 P.M.

Location: The Ohio State University Endeavor Center, Room 160, Piketon, Ohio

Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Members Present: Chair, Bob Berry; Vice-Chair, Carlton Cave; Lisa Bennett, Turman Helton, Jimmy Smalley, Judy Vollrath, Jody Crabtree, Cynthia Quillen, Beckie Thomas-Kent

SSAB Members Absent: Dr. Todd Burkitt, Carol Caudill, Dennis Foreman

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Contractors: Jeff Bettinger, Greg Simonton, Johnny Reising, DOE; Rick Greene, Joe Moore, RSI EnTech; Julie Galloway, Cindy Lewis, EHI Consultants (EHI); Jack Williams, Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth (FBP)

Liaisons: Sean Kubera, Ohio Department of Health (ODH); Shawn Cooper, Tom Schneider, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Facilitator: Eric Roberts, EHI

Public: Lee Blackburn, Pat Marida, Sierra Club; Vina Colley (PRESS/NNWS); Michaela Trenidad, Gordon Dover, Bechtel; Diana Cahall

Approved by Bob Berry, Board Chair

Bob Berry

Call to Order:

Berry: I would like to call the meeting to order.

Roberts: I would like to welcome everyone, and I will be facilitating the meeting. There will be a public comment period after the presentations. The board should stay within its defined scope and follow the meeting ground rules adopted.

January Agenda:

Roberts: Are there any modifications or proposed changes to the January agenda?

- **Bennett:** I make a motion to approve the January agenda.
- **Cave:** I second the motion.
 - **Motion carried, agenda approved**

June Minutes:

Roberts: Are there any modifications or proposed changes to the June minutes?

- **Helton:** I make a motion to approve the June minutes.
- **Kent:** I second the motion.
 - **Motion carried, minutes approved**

DDFO comments provided by Jeff Bettinger, Federal Project Coordinator:

- **D&D Project Schedule**
- **X-326 Pre-Demolition**
- **Waste Disposition**
- **X-333 Deactivation**
- **Other Accomplishments**
- **Educational Outreach**
- **Charitable Outreach**
- **Upcoming Outreach Events**

*A copy of the DDFO presentation is available on the SSAB web site
(www.ports-ssab.energy.gov)*

Federal Project Coordinator comments provided by Greg Simonton, Federal Project Coordinator:

Simonton: Parcel 2 property transfer Environmental Baseline Survey should be going to EPA next month. Starting on Parcel 3 field work in the spring. Science Bowl is March 6, 2020. It is an exciting day, if you can come down and see it, let the office know if you would like to volunteer.

<i>Question/Comment:</i>	<i>Answer:</i>
<p><i>Berry:</i> Where is Parcel 3 and how many acres?</p> <p>Is Parcel 3 flat land?</p>	<p><i>Simonton:</i> It is approximately 40 acres north of Parcel 2 and north of Parcel 1. With Parcel 2 and it there will be approximately 350 total acres.</p> <p>Yes.</p>

Liaison comments provided by Sean Kubera, ODH:

Kubera: None at this time.

Liaison comments provided by Shawn Cooper, OEPA:

Cooper: None at this time.

Administrative Issues:

Draft Recommendation 20-01-DOE Enhance Communication Efforts Related to Environmental Monitoring Information:

Bennett: I would like to make a motion that we proceed with a vote.

Kent: I would like to second the motion.

Public Comment on Recommendation:

<i>Question/Comment:</i>	<i>Answer:</i>
<p><i>Colley:</i> My concern is you can't trust DOE. We are concerned because we aren't holding public meetings with public comments from the public. We are also concerned that, according to the ASER report, 14 miles from this plant one of the monitors has already picked up americium so we are really concerned with the transfer of any property being turned over from this plant while we still have an issue here of site contamination. We already shut down one school and Ann White before she was dismissed knew about the monitors in Otway. In a closed door meeting they don't really let the public in. The only group that has been here for 38 years is PRESS and we have been locked out of all this decision-making that you are making on behalf of this community. So these ASER reports have</p>	

<p>told on DOE. I used to read them all the time and there is a lot of stuff in the reports that people just do not read. We are concerned that we have americium 14 miles from the site and nothing is being done about it. We also have a lawsuit that has been filed for this community because of all this off-site contamination. We need to take this seriously and quit playing around with this issue.</p>	
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Motion approved (9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

EM SSAB Chairs Draft Recommendation-Improving EM SSAB and Public Engagement in the DOE Environmental Management Budget Process:

Bennett: I would like to make a motion that we approve our Chair sign this recommendation.

Cave: I would like to second the motion.

Public Comment on Recommendation: None

Motion approved (9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

EM SSAB Chairs Draft Recommendation-Disposition and Transport of Nuclear Material:

Cave: I would like to make a motion that we approve our Chair sign this recommendation.

Crabtree: I would like to second the motion.

Public Comment on Recommendation:

Marida: Basically I would say the recommendation is good. My thought is it should not be where the disposition be abandoned, where they couldn't get to it. Now we are finding out all these are having to be moved. It could not be all cleaned up. WIPP only lasted 15 years instead of 1000 years like it was supposed to. Apparently, kitty litter got put into the waste and it caused the barrels to burst open. There are still barrels that could still explode. It just goes to show some of the problems you have when we generate toxic material that will be around forever. Go to the Southwest Info Center for more information.

Board Comments on Recommendation:

Berry: I would like to make one comment on the WIPP. It was designed to cave in, they have these rooms and the waste is sealed in a room, over time the ceiling will cave in and the salt will encase it.

Motion approved (9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Eric Roberts, EHI:

Roberts: Any nominations for board chair.

- **Cave:** I nominate Bob Berry for board chair.
- **Helton:** I second the nomination.

Roberts: Bob are you willing to serve as board chair?

Berry: Yes, I am willing to serve as board chair.

Roberts: Any other nominations for board chair? Seeing none, please show of hands, all in favor of Bob Berry serving as chair.

Nomination carried (9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

Roberts: Any nominations for vice chair?

- **Helton:** I would like to nominate Carlton Cave as vice chair.
- **Kent:** I second the nomination.

Roberts: Carlton are you willing to serve as vice board chair?

Carlton: Yes, I am willing to serve as board vice chair.

Roberts: Any other nominations for board vice chair? Seeing none, please show of hands, all in favor of Carlton Cave serving as vice chair

Nomination carried (9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

Adoption of FY 2020 Work Plan:

Bennett: I would like to make a motion that we proceed with the FY 2020 work plan.

Cave: I would like to second the motion.

FY 2020 work plan approved (9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused)

Subcommittee Updates:

Environmental Monitoring Update:

The EM Subcommittee met on October 8, 2019, with an introduction to the DOE EM program by Jeff Bettinger. The subcommittee also met on November 12, 2019, with

a presentation on radiation dose and risk – a conversation by Kathryn Higley, Oregon State University College of Engineering.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee Update:

The Outreach and Education Subcommittee met on October 8, 2019, with a discussion on the DOE stakeholder outreach program and Open House Enhancement by Jack Williams, Fluor-BWXT.

Public Comments:

Colley: We would like to have public meetings held with public comments. I would really like to see this board to start asking questions. Find out why we have americium 14 miles off site. Four schools are in the path of that Otway air monitor. There has been one school already closed. There was a fire truck out here cleaning filters. It is my understanding that the EPA wants to hold a meeting on this because it increases the amount of contamination that already affects the creek that goes into the Scioto River. You have to remember we have the largest aquifer in the Midwest right underneath this site and a lot of people depend on water from the Ohio River. They are digging up a huge ditch, I was just told that they have had problems with some kind of leakage. If this is true, we never hear anything about this, that is very concerning. What kind of vapors are coming out over by the 326? We are concerned about all the digging and the air pollution that is going around here. We are concerned about all this land you want to give to the public. This board needs to ask more questions. We are concerned because we already have a school shut down and maybe four more schools that should be shut down. The commissioners and the health department are aware of it. Anyone that read that ASER report has to be aware of it. We have a lot of concerns that are not being told out in the community because you quit having public meetings and quit having meetings where the public can ask you questions.

Cahall: Waiting on EPA to notify for the public meeting on the NPDES permit. Has any decision been made on that? Can we expect communication in the near future? My understanding is the cylinders that they are now working to convert are in the most need. In other words, the ones with problems are cutting to the head of the line. That leaves those cylinders empty now on-site. I would assume that they would not be repackaged. Where do the damaged cylinders go? Thank you very much.

Roberts: I do not know the answer to that. I will try to find out.

Marida: Please add the letter I handed out to the minutes. As you probably know Centrus has this contract for 160 million dollars to develop a uranium enrichment site. The public pays for almost everything that is nuclear, so why isn't private industry paying for this? They won't because it isn't a good investment, it is not a money-making thing. They want to make this high assay and low enriched uranium which is enriched to 19.75% of uranium 235, supposedly for nuclear power, but at 20% it is classified as weapons usable. So, this is a political decision. 19.75% could

actually be used to make certain kinds of weapons. The United States House Oversight committee kind of made fun of this contract by quoting the three different dates for completion of this project. They are saying that domestically-owned enrichment must be used related to weapons, so the committee has read the contract and doesn't find where it says that enrichment for weapons must be owned domestically. We would like to ask the DOE if they know where this is actually said. Back in July the HALEU can produce it at a lower price than the expensive Centrus facility. They were concerned about the overlap of military use of this.

Blackburn: Understand there is only one site in the U.S. that enriches uranium. It is down in New Mexico. Enriching right now 3 to 5%. We are talking about 20% enrichment on-site. We are talking about the potentially contaminated buildings with uranium in the future that will need to be dismantled and buried. I hope you have enough room in the on-site disposal cell for it. Just keep in mind that on this site may see enrichment to a level that occurs no where else in this country.

Final Comments from the board:

Smalley: Thin wall cylinders, 1960 we had to transfer some of them. Hopefully they are replacing the valves. Sometimes you must stay after them. I wanted to ask, we still have several people out there wanting to be board members. One I know who works out at the plant keeps asking when he will get called about it.

Roberts: We are in the middle of a submission process. We are waiting on headquarters.

Simonton: It does take a long time, we have talked about this before. It takes a lot of effort to make sure we have a diverse board. Headquarters makes all the decisions.

Helton: How many names have been submitted?

Simonton: I don't remember. I think five new ones, but I am not sure.

Kent: How many members can we have?

Roberts: Up to 20 members, we do not have to have that many. We currently have 12.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2020

Action Items:

- EHI to deliver information on the NPDES permit.

Attachment # 1