

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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**Hanford**  
**Oak Ridge**

**Idaho**  
**Paducah**

**Nevada**  
**Portsmouth**

**Northern New Mexico**  
**Savannah River**

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September 19, 2011

David Huizenga  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Huizenga:

The Environmental Management (EM) Program across the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Complex follows prescribed processes for disposition of property that is no longer needed by the federal government but may be of use to external entities. However, there is no EM policy and funding mechanism in place for items that have cultural/historic value to outside organizations unable to fund the physical transfer of these items.

Through DOE orders and regulations, the current processes used for disposition of property associated with environmental restoration sites include:

- Prior to intrusive work, the site is evaluated in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the appropriate action is taken
- Any items released for reuse or donation must first be evaluated for hazards (e.g. radiation) in accordance with directives and local procedures
- Items identified as hazardous or radioactive waste are appropriately disposed
- Items identified as potentially reusable are made available through the excess property procedures and typically removed/transported by the receiving entity
- Items identified as having no value through reuse but having potential cultural or historic value are made available through donation to museums and typically removed/transported by the receiving entity

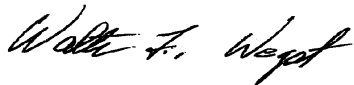
After these processes are complete, some items may remain. Typically, these items are disposed as sanitary waste or allowed to remain in place. In some instances, items may have cultural or historic value but the receiving entity may not have a means of paying for removal/transport.

The EM Site-Specific Advisory Board urges DOE to be proactive in supporting the removing/transporting of items having cultural/historic value to outside organizations that are unable to fund the activity.

It is recommended that DOE formally recognize that transfer of these cultural/historic items represent beneficial reuse (and hence disposition) and as such these transportation costs be considered disposition costs.



Susan Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board



Walter Wegst, Chair  
Nevada SSAB



Ralph Phelps, Chair  
Northern New Mexico  
Citizens' Advisory Board



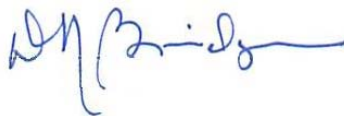
Margaret Owen, Chair  
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Judy Clayton, Chair  
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Advisory Board



Richard Snyder, Chair  
Portsmouth SSAB



Donald Bridges, Chair  
Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-42  
Catherine Alexander, EM-42