

Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



The Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Nevada Test Site Programs is a formal volunteer group of interested citizens and representatives who provide informed recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office Environmental Management Program. The CAB also provides a mechanism for participation by the general public through an ongoing exchange of information between the community and the Nevada Site Office Environmental Management Program. In fact, all CAB meetings are open to the public.

Origins and Membership

The CAB is one of the eight local advisory boards at DOE Environmental Management sites across the United States. These local boards were created in 1994 by the authority of the DOE National Site-Specific Advisory Board which is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Although the CAB is operated in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and receives funding from DOE for administrative and technical support, the CAB is autonomous when providing advice and recommendations to DOE.

The Community Advisory Board hosts a web site at www.ntscab.com which provides detailed information on meeting agendas and minutes, committees, and recommendations.

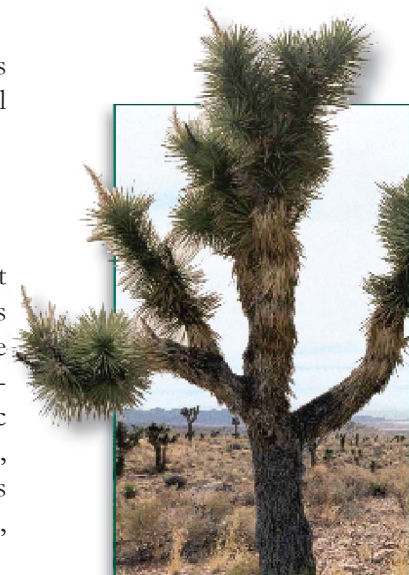
The CAB's federal charter and standard operating procedures provide for a maximum of 20 members, each serving a two-year term with an option to renew for two more terms (six years total). These members bring a variety of perspectives to the CAB on issues of significant concern. Members offer general public perspectives, scientific and technical expertise, as well as rural interests and environmental concerns.

In addition to the regular members, there are non-voting liaisons representing the DOE, Native Americans, National Park Service, State of Nevada, and affected Nevada counties.

To ensure all meetings accomplish the objectives set forth in the agendas, the CAB relies upon an experienced facilitator. The CAB also draws upon the expertise of a technical advisor from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Activities

In accordance with their federal charter, CAB activities and recommendations must focus solely on Environmental Management activities. As such, the CAB reviews the strategies and plans for the Environmental Management sub-projects which are Industrial Sites, Soils, the Underground Test Area (UGTA), Transuranic Waste, and Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste. Areas of interest to CAB members include site-specific cleanup criteria and risk assessment, land use, priority setting, management effectiveness, cost versus benefit analyses, and radioactive waste disposal activities and facilities. Topics previously reviewed by the CAB include: equity issues related to environmental restoration,



Definitions

Federal Advisory Committee Act: The Federal Advisory Committee Act became law in 1972 and provides standards and uniform procedures that govern the establishment, administration, operation, and duration of any federal advisory committee.

Full Board Meeting: A public meeting of the entire Community Advisory Board which is typically held on the second Wednesday of every other month, beginning in January.

Site-Specific Advisory Board: A federally-chartered advisory board comprised of eight local boards which were developed to involve stakeholders more directly in U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management cleanup decisions. Local advisory boards are established at Hanford (state of Washington), Idaho, Nevada, Northern New Mexico, Oak Ridge (Tennessee), Paducah (Kentucky), Portsmouth (Ohio), and Savannah River (Georgia).

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waste management, and energy technologies funding; low-level radioactive waste management, acceptance, and transportation; and budget planning and prioritizing. Annually, the CAB identifies specific objectives which are developed into work plans for review and approval by DOE.

Committees

To better manage CAB work plans, committees are formed to target issues and topics. Current committees consist of the Environmental Management Public Information Review Effort (EMPIRE), UGTA, Membership, Budget, and Transportation and Waste. These committees are chaired by CAB members, but the public may serve on the committees. Recommendations made by these committees are presented to the entire CAB for consideration and action at the full board meetings.

Actions

Recommendations presented during full board meetings are discussed and the CAB strives for approval via consensus. All recommendations approved by the CAB are submitted in writing to the DOE Nevada Site Office and/or other affected DOE Environmental Management offices.



Community Advisory Board members tour an Underground Test Area well drilling site on the Nevada Test Site.

These recommendations and other feedback from the CAB may be initiated in a variety of ways. The DOE may request that the CAB review issues of concern or the CAB may independently initiate topics for review.

Public Involvement

The CAB researches and provides the public with first-hand information on current issues and facilitates public involvement in the decision-making process. The CAB also functions as an educational and informational link to the community by providing the public an opportunity to ask questions or comment on issues. Members of the public are invited to participate in the bimonthly full board meetings and are encouraged to ask questions and provide comments. Members of the public interested in joining the CAB should call 702-657-9088 or e-mail ntscab@nv.doe.gov. Membership information, applications, and other information (including DOE Site-Specific Advisory Boards) is also available on the CAB web site at www.ntscab.com.

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