

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



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

Origins and Membership

The NSSAB is one of the eight advisory boards located 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 NSSAB operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and receives funding from DOE for administrative and technical support, the NSSAB is autonomous when providing advice and recommendations to DOE.

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board hosts a web site at www.nv.energy.gov/nssab, which provides detailed information on meeting agendas and minutes, work plan items, and recommendations.

The NSSAB'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 NSSAB on issues of significant concern. Members provide views of the general public, offer scientific and technical expertise, and represent the interests and environmental concerns of rural communities.

In addition to the regular members, the NSSAB also includes non-voting liaison members. These liaisons represent Clark and Nye counties, the DOE, National Park Service, Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office, West Career and Technical Academy and the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Activities

In accordance with the federal charter, NSSAB activities and recommendations must focus solely on Environmental Management activities. As such, the NSSAB provides recommendations on budget, groundwater contamination, historic nuclear test area clean up, radioactive waste transportation and disposal activities at the Nevada National Security Site.



Definitions

Federal Advisory Committee Act: This 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 NSSAB meets on average six to seven times a year, which is based on a yearly work plan.

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

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Work Plan

Each fiscal year the NSSAB identifies specific objectives, which are developed into a work plan for review and approval by DOE. To better manage the NSSAB work plan, these objectives are addressed either by the full board as a committee of the whole, or by committees formed to target particular issues and topics.

Actions

Recommendations are presented, discussed and approved during full board meetings. All approved recommendations are submitted in writing to the DOE Nevada Site Office and/or other affected DOE Environmental Management offices.

Public Involvement

The NSSAB provides the public with first-hand information on current issues and facilitates public involvement in the decision-making process.

The NSSAB 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 attend all NSSAB meetings.

While the majority of NSSAB meetings are held in Las Vegas, they are occasionally held in other locations within southern Nevada.

Members of the public interested in joining the NSSAB should call 702-630-0522 or e-mail nssab@nv.doe.gov. Membership information, applications, and other information (including DOE Site-Specific Advisory Boards) are also available on the NSSAB web site at www.nv.energy.gov/nssab.



Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board members at an Underground Test Area well drilling site on the Nevada National Security Site

For more information, please contact:

**U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security
Administration
Nevada Site Office
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518
(702) 295-3521
envmgt@nv.doe.gov
www.nv.energy.gov**

**For information on all Nevada Site Office Environmental Management activities visit:
www.nv.doe.gov/envmgt**

