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Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

# EM NEWS FLASH

## **Last Stop for the CAB as the NSSAB Takes the Wheel!** *Advisory Board Gets New Members, a New Name, and a New Work Plan*

It's been a busy time of year for the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB), explained NSSAB Vice Chair, Kathy Bienenstein. "We developed our fiscal year Work Plan and worked on a name change, all while getting new members on board."

Over the past few months, the Board's primary order of business was developing a Work Plan for the 2011 fiscal year. This list of priorities, which is voted on annually, supports the Board's mission of providing independent, formal recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office on [environmental management](#) initiatives that relate to the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site).

*The NSSAB, which is composed of volunteer members, is federally-chartered under the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board national charter.*

Before reaching a consensus on this year's priorities, members considered a number of specific requests from Federal Sub-Project Directors in charge of Soils, Industrial Sites, Underground Test Area (i.e., groundwater characterization), and Waste Management activities. They also looked at specific items remaining from last year's Work Plan and any new ideas that arose during brainstorming sessions.

The final NSSAB 2011 [Work Plan](#) focuses on items such as: *baseline funding and prioritization for fiscal year 2013; a path forward for four radioactively contaminated train cars near the historic Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly facility; a closure strategy and related decision document for Frenchman Flat atmospheric sites; and determining whether the U.S. Department of Energy has the need for the Nevada Site Office to pursue obtaining a mixed waste treatment permit.*

The 2011 Work Plan also includes a membership initiative, which is a critical component of an effective advisory board, according to Public Involvement Manager, Kelly Snyder. "We look for

new members on a yearly basis,” she continued, “so new perspectives are generated that reflect the diversity of our community and the entire region.” In April 2010, NSSAB welcomed new members Donna Hruska, Greg Minden, Michael Moore, Harry Mortenson, and Michael Voegele to the team. [Applications](#) for the next membership drive are due February 2011, with interviews being held in February and March 2011.

The Board topped off its busy schedule with a name change. After years of being referred to as the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs, the Board recently voted to change its title to the *Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board*. The update was a necessary adjustment once the Nevada Test Site officially became the *Nevada National Security Site* (NNSS) on August 23, 2010. The name change, while required, remains significant, says Bienenstein, because “it reflects the Board’s willingness to evolve with the changing missions of the NNSS.”

Regular NSSAB meetings, which are always open to the public, are typically held the second Wednesday of every odd-numbered month. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 pm on November 10, 2010, at the Frank Rogers Auditorium (755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV). Agenda topics include an update on the groundwater activities associated with the Frenchman Flat area of the NNSS and a discussion on the potential need for mixed waste treatment capabilities at the NNSS.

For more information on scheduled meetings, the 2011 Work Plan, or volunteer opportunities, visit [www.nv.doe.gov/ntscab/](http://www.nv.doe.gov/ntscab/) or email [nssab@nv.doe.gov](mailto:nssab@nv.doe.gov).



*In 2009, the Nevada Site Office drilled an NSSAB-recommended groundwater well at the NNSS. The above photograph shows NSSAB members at the drilling location.*

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