



June 20, 2011

Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

Nevada Hosts National Advisory Board Meeting

On June 15 and 16, 2011, representatives from community advisory boards across the nation convened in North Las Vegas, Nevada for the biannual *Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs Meeting*. More than 50 SSAB members, staff, and speakers from eight sites throughout the country came together for the event to share important updates on environmental restoration, waste disposal, and budget activities relating to cleanup projects around the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Complex.



Chairs of EM Site-Specific Advisory Boards across the U.S. meet twice a year.

While the eight local Boards—composed of stakeholders from their respective communities—meet regularly at their home sites to form recommendations concerning cleanup, the national body (EM SSAB) assembles twice a year at one chosen SSAB location (DOE Headquarters in Washington D.C. is included in this rotation). The purpose of the meeting is to bring individual site concerns to the table and develop Complex-wide recommendations that cross cut DOE's EM Program, which maintains oversight at these cleanup sites.

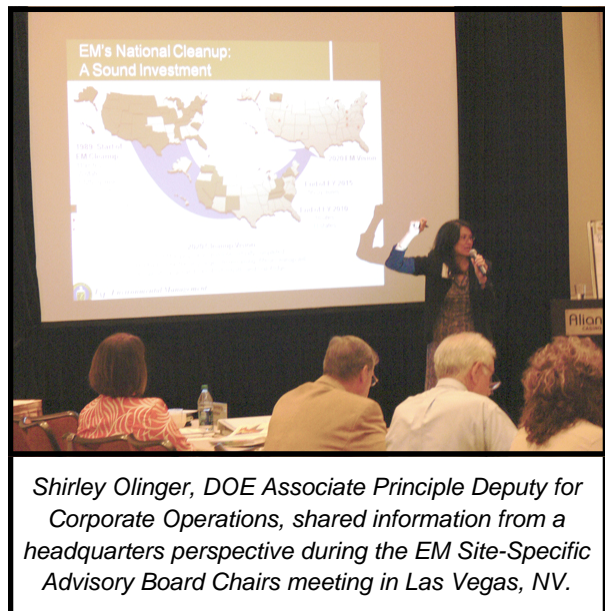
“The boards represent the interests of their communities,” said Catherine Alexander Brennan, Designated Federal Officer for the EM SSAB. “These meetings give the Chairs of the local Boards the opportunity to share their perspectives and concerns with EM leadership, and to provide recommendations to them.”

Holding the biannual Chairs meeting at different EM locations gives SSAB members the opportunity to learn how unique factors, such as the size of facilities, complexity of contamination issues, and future land-use scenarios, are playing into decisions relating to

cleanup at each site. Rotating the location of the meeting, which is open to the public, also allows citizens living near the various EM sites to become acquainted with the SSAB process and provide feedback.

The day prior to the Chairs meeting, SSAB members took a guided tour of the sprawling [Nevada National Security Site](#) (formerly the Nevada Test Site), 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. During the all-day tour, the group visited a number of historic project areas that pertain to the [Nevada SSAB's](#) work scope. The group also toured the site's Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex, which permanently houses *low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste**—much of which originated from environmental cleanup activities across the DOE Complex.

Agenda items over the next two days focused on topics that affect SSABs on a national scale, including: EM plans to adjust to Federal budget cuts; waste disposal and the role of recycling; and advances in monitoring and computer modeling and how they impact groundwater investigations. Based on discussions at the meeting, the EM SSAB began developing recommendations to share with DOE. Once completed, these recommendations will be posted (along with past recommendations) at: www.em.doe.gov/stakepages/ssabchairs.aspx



The Fall *EM SSAB Chairs Meeting* is scheduled to be held in Paducah, KY. Visit www.em.doe.gov/Pages/ssab.aspx for a complete schedule of upcoming activities.

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