ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford Idaho Nevada Northern New Mexico

Oak Ridge Paducah Portsmouth Savannah River

INSERT DATE

Mr. William "Ike" White
Senior Advisor
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM)
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. White:

BACKGROUND

According to the EM SSAB charter (Section 3), the EM SSAB provides EM senior management "with advice and recommendations concerning issues affecting the EM program." The EM SSAB has made at least 10 recommendations to DOE since 2018, often at the request of DOE. The recommendation process includes three parts: (1) the EM SSAB recommendation, (2) the DOE response to the recommendation, and (3) the final policy action or implementation of the recommendation by DOE. While parts (1) and (2) are well recognized (e.g., in public postings on the EM SSAB website and responses distributed to local Boards), it is part (3), implementation, that makes EM SSAB recommendations meaningful and the recommendation process an effective use of time and other resources, those of both EM SSAB members and DOE.

It is important to review the implementation of recommendations for several reasons:

1. Ensuring accountability: Recommendation implementation reviews help ensure that DOE is held accountable for the advice it requests and/or receives from its volunteer Board members. By examining whether recommendations have been implemented as written, EM SSAB can assess how its efforts are valued and identify areas where further deliberations and recommendations are needed.
2. Improving effectiveness: Recommendation reviews provide an opportunity to assess whether recommended activities are working as intended and identify areas for improvement. By examining the results of recommendation implementation, EM SSAB and DOE can make adjustments to recommended activities to ensure they achieve their intended goals.
3. Enhancing transparency: Reviews of recommendation implementation increase transparency by providing a clear understanding of how recommendations are being implemented

and the outcomes they are producing. This transparency is critical for building trust in DOE and ensuring that the public has confidence in DOE and its clean-up activities.

4. Promoting learning: Recommendation implementation reviews provide an opportunity for EM SSAB and DOE to learn from their experiences and identify best practices for making and implementing recommendations. By sharing these best practices, EM SSAB and DOE can promote more effective and efficient recommendation making and implementation in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

The EM SSAB recommends:

1. DOE provide clear and publicly accessible information regarding implementation of EM SSAB Chairs recommendations for the last five years. In addition to a clear statement about implementation status (e.g., "Implementation of the recommendation is complete (or "ongoing", "suspended", or "discontinued"), the information should include an explanation of any deviations from the DOE response to the recommendation.

2. DOE report to the EM SSAB at least annually a summary of the status of all EM SSAB Chairs recommendation items and any recommendation action item completed during the reporting period.

Who We Are

The EM SSAB is the DOE-EM's most effective vehicle for fostering two-way communication between DOE-EM and the communities it serves. The EM program is the world's largest environmental cleanup program, and the EM SSAB its only citizen advisory board. For more than 20 years, the volunteer citizens of the EM SSAB have partnered with EM officials at both the local and national levels to ensure that the public has a meaningful voice in cleanup decisions.

Public participation is required/recommended as part of a number of environmental regulations. It is also good business practice, resulting in better decisions that often result in improved cleanup. Over the past two decades, EM SSAB members have volunteered over 48,000 hours of their time and submitted to EM officials over 1500 recommendations, 88% of which have been fully or partially implemented, resulting in improved cleanup decisions.

The EM SSAB comprises approximately 200 people from communities in Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington. The Board is cumulatively representative of a stakeholder population totaling millions of people who are affected by generator sites, transportation routes and disposal sites. As we move forward, the EM SSAB welcomes the opportunity to highlight the value of this unique volunteer board and discuss its priorities during the months and years ahead.

Susan Coleman, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

Teri Ehresman, Chair
Idaho Cleanup Project CAB

Anthony Graham, Chair
Nevada SSAB

Cherylin Atcitty, Chair
Northern New Mexico CAB

Leon Shields, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB

Don Barger, Chair
Paducah CAB

Jody Crabtree, Chair
Portsmouth SSAB

Gregg Murray, Chair
Savannah River Site CAB

cc: Kelly Snyder, Designated Federal Officer, EM-4.32