



Office of Environmental Management

High-Level Waste

Corporate Board

April 1, 2008



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What Are Corporate Issues?

- They usually occur at multiple sites
- They usually have an impact that exceeds their initial point of application. Thus, they impact:
 - Policies
 - Planning
 - Standards & Guidance
 - EM's relationship with other agencies both internal and external to DOE



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Current Corporate Issues

- Performance Assessment
- Quality Assurance
- Methods to Determine the Waste Inventory
- Chemical Processing
- Waste Forms
- Actual Disposition of Waste
- Waste Treatment



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HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Performance Assessments
 - Based on a rigorous and thorough analysis
 - Incorporates appropriate lessons learned
 - Standardized, little site-to-site variation in approach
- Quality Assurance Program
 - Based on safety culture being in place
 - Recognizes importance of adhering to NQA-1
 - Auditable procedures
 - Makes it clear what is important
 - Rigorous change control



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HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Methods to Determine the Waste Inventory
 - Methods need to be more consistent across the complex; results in fewer ad hoc decisions
 - Inventory must be known with high accuracy and reliability (poor data results in poor decisions)
 - Currently available data cannot be used to answer fundamental questions about the nature of the waste inventory
 - Reliable waste inventory data critical for the development of chemical processing methods
- Chemical Processing
 - Understanding the methods available is fundamental to moving forward
 - Must be based on sound science and engineering principles
 - Changes to methods must be demonstrable improvements; no change for the sake of change; Avoid the NIH syndrome



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HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Waste Forms
 - Need to maximize waste loading and throughput, minimize the volume disposed
 - Maintain environmental protection and health and safety of the public and workers
 - Should push back on some stakeholder demands (vitrifying low-level waste)
- Actual Disposition of Waste
 - Revisit the Performance Assessment Models
 - Show how what we do conforms to the model's design and predictions (meet prior commitments)



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HLW Corporate Board Precepts

- Waste Treatment
 - No more “monuments to waste management”
 - Use modular approach
 - Favored approaches should be “at-tank” or “in-tank”
 - Will need new test methods for these new treatment methods
 - Drivers will be science & engineering



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Marching Orders

The High-Level Waste Corporate Board should develop its own precepts starting with these just described.

In the future most meetings will be chaired by the Office of Science and Technology



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The Corporate Approach

- EM needs a process to address common HLW issues, to provide advice, and to counsel EM management on key decisions.
- A corporate approach helps provide a single voice on policies, strategy and issues and results in consistent decisions.
- It also:
 - Provides for cross-fertilization among sites.
 - Takes advantage of the lessons learned at various sites.



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Purpose of the HLW Board

- Identify the need for and develop policies, standards, planning, guidance and the integration necessary to implement an effective and efficient national HLW program.
- Evaluate the implications of HLW issues and their potential impact across the DOE complex and recommend solutions to senior EM management.



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Objectives

- The Board will consider the following types of issues:
 - Strategy for getting HLW into the repository.
 - Policy for interacting with RW, EPA, and NRC on HLW issues.
 - Technical reviews to support the project management process.
 - Waste determination technical issues.
 - Tank closure plans.
 - Achieving consistency in technology and technical issues reviews and in performance assessments.



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Board Meetings

- The Board will meet at least twice annually, or as necessary, to provide oversight and strategic direction for the HLW program.
- Board meetings will normally be open, and commercial firms offering services or technologies relevant to the issues before the Board may be invited by the Board to participate.
- The Chair will determine the need for closed meetings.
- Meeting agendas will be designed to encourage interactive discussion and minimize time spent for presentations.



Board Recommendations

- The Board will make consensus recommendations to the Chair (for Board purposes, consensus will mean two-thirds of the assigned voting Members for a regular meeting).
- The Chair will prepare and transmit actionable recommendations to Senior EM management in the form of memorandums and reports.



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In Order to Make Clear Recommendations, the Board Must Insist on:

- Rigorous, thorough, and disciplined work
- Standardized methodologies
- Implementation of lesson learned
- Information transfer



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