

# ***INL Site EM Citizens Advisory Board: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***



**INL Site Environmental Management**  
C I T I Z E N S   A D V I S O R Y   B O A R D

**Rick Provencher**  
**Manager, Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office**  
**November 19, 2014**



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# ***CAB: The Beginning***

- DOE EM Office established in 1989
  - Clean up legacy waste from nuclear weapons production
  - 108 contaminated sites around the DOE Complex
- EM created an advisory board (EM SSAB) to seek citizen involvement in EM cleanup
- DOE recognized importance of national and local public debate as critical to cleanup efforts addressing:
  - Treatment and disposal processes
  - Environmental protection and remediation
  - Acceptable strategies for dealing with various waste streams



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

---

“Dealing with the environmental legacy of the Cold War is in many ways as big a challenge for us today as the building of the atomic bomb was for the Manhattan Project pioneers in the 1940s. Our challenges are political and social as well as technical, and we are meeting those challenges.”



*Thomas P. Grumbly,  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental  
Management, 1996*



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

# ***INL Site EM CAB History***

---

- Organizing began in 1993
- CAB applicants sought from local governments, universities, Tribal Nations, industry, environmental and civic groups, labor organizations, and other interested citizens
- By 1994, 150 applicants for first 15 person-board at the Idaho site
- The CAB evolved into a team approach:
  - DOE
  - CAB/Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Rep.
  - Regulators
  - Public



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Challenges

- Meetings are labor-intensive and complex (technically and politically)
- INL's large land area (890 square miles) and multiple waste sites
- Members review large quantities of technical information



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance




cleanup



closure

# CAB Responsibilities

- Attend meetings and review documents
  - Prepare letters and recommendations to DOE-EM (Idaho Cleanup Project and DOE-HQ EM)
    - Buried waste – new agreement with the State
    - WAG 1 Proposed Plan greatly improved based on CAB recommendation
    - CAB recommendation influenced DOE decision to transfer responsibility for RH TRU disposition from NE to EM
    - Many letters to DOE regarding contractor safety performance and maintaining appropriate manpower levels
  - Represent diverse community views during discussions
- 
- Provide input on key issues, upcoming decisions, and recommendations
  - Share opinions with public



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure



# ***DOE's Commitment***

---

- Keep the CAB informed about key issues and upcoming decisions
- Consider CAB input and factor into decision-making process
- Consider and respond to all CAB recommendations
- Provide funding for administrative and technical support



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

# ***INL EM CAB is One of Eight Active National Boards***

- Members represent diverse views and background
- Provide valuable input on environmental restoration, waste management, technology development, and budget priorities
- Biannual public meetings of respective board chairs, HQ-EM SSAB, DOE managers, are held to discuss common issues and concerns



*Other active boards near DOE sites include Hanford (WA), Northern New Mexico, Nevada, Oak Ridge (TN) Paducah (KY), Portsmouth (OH), and Savannah River (SC).*



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure



# ***INL EM CAB Support***

---

- 150 recommendations to date on topics such as:
  - Cleanup standards and environmental restoration
  - Environmental documentation (NEPA, CERCLA, RCRA, and other regulatory frameworks)
  - Waste management and disposition
  - Decontamination and decommissioning
  - Future land use and long-term stewardship
  - Cleanup science and technology activities
  - DOE budget process
  - Support workforce safety initiatives
  - Environmental stewardship



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

# **Key Accomplishments: Cleanup Decisions**

Highlights include:

- Idaho High Level Waste & Facilities Disposition EIS
- Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS
- Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project EIS
- Proposed Production of Pu-238 for Use in ARP Systems for Future Space Missions EIS
- Transfer of HS/RTG Assembly & Test Operations EIS
- EIS for Electrometallurgical Treatment of Sodium-Bonded SNF in FCF at ANL-West
- EIS for a Geologic Repository for SNF & HLW, Nye County, Nevada (Yucca Mountain)
- EIS for Greater Than Class-C Waste
- Waste Management PEIS



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

# **Key Accomplishments: Regulatory Determinations**

Highlights include:

- Draft Site Treatment Plan
- DOE Idaho FY 1995 Workforce Restructuring Plan
- INEL Comprehensive Facility and Land Use Plan
- INEL Ten-Year Plan
- Proposed plans for each INL waste area group
- Idaho Hazardous Waste Management Act/RCRA Closure Plan for INTEC Tanks WM-182 and WM-183
- EM Performance Management Plan for Accelerating Cleanup of the INEEL Laboratory
- Community Relations Plan
- INTEC Tank Farm Closure and Sodium-Bearing Waste Treatment Facility ROD



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

## **Key Accomplishments: Budget Input**

- Provided multiple recommendations and input to annual budget allocations
- CAB letters and recommendations helped secure additional D&D funding
- Submitted a letter advocating increasing budget for ARP work
- CAB support for DOE-ID's objectives helped address changing budget appropriations



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

# ***CAB Meetings and Public Awareness***

- Increases public awareness of cleanup activities at INL site
- Provides a forum for the general public and media to learn more about the status of INL cleanup work
- Provides an opportunity for the general public to express opinions and comment publicly on plans, documents, and activities



***EM*** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure

# ***CAB Chairs: Past and Present***

---

- Joy Myers
- Chuck Rice
- Monte Wilson
- Stan Hobson
- David Kipping
- Bill Flanery
- RD Maynard
- Richard Buxton
- Willie Preacher
- Herb Bohrer





# ***CAB is a valuable asset***

- CAB is a critical part of the DOE cleanup process
- CAB input played a key role in helping DOE-ID scope the approach to cleanup
- CAB recommendations have been utilized by DOE in other public meetings
- Helped influence and improve readability of DOE documents
- DOE places a high value on CAB input



- CAB involvement directly contributed to improved trust and confidence between DOE, regulators, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and citizens of Idaho



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety



performance



cleanup



closure