

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford

Idaho

Nevada

Northern New Mexico

Oak Ridge

Paducah

Portsmouth

Savannah River

August 26, 2019

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:

On May 8-9, 2019, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) passed the following recommendation concerning Improving EM’s Review of Cleanup Milestones. This recommendation was subsequently approved by all eight of the local boards of the EM SSAB.

Background:

On February 14, 2019, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published “DOE Should Take Actions to Improve Oversight of Cleanup Milestones” (GAO-19-207). The report found that DOE did not accurately track or report whether milestones were met, missed, or postponed. It also found that sites continually renegotiate milestones they are at risk of missing.

GAO recommended EM should update its policies and procedures to establish a standard definition of milestones, track original milestone dates as well as changes to its cleanup milestones, report annually to Congress on the status of its cleanup milestones, and conduct root cause analyses of missed or postponed milestones.

One of the ways that the local boards that make up the EM SSAB become informed about cleanup actions at their sites is tracking cleanup milestones. Milestone achievement, delays and change information should be shared with the local boards on a regular basis.

Recommendations:

1. The EM SSAB Chairs recommend EM create a complex-wide, consistently applied data dictionary for milestones terminology. The inconsistency in not applying the same criteria in DOE tracking of milestones results in confusion for the local boards and the

EM SSAB Chairs as they meet to discuss cleanup issues and contemplate recommendations.

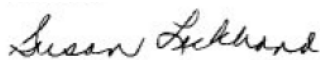
2. Local boards and the public should be able to access site-specific milestone information in a timely manner. Milestone information should contain the rationale for identifying the type based on the data dictionary of milestones and detailed information about why a milestone will be advanced/delayed/postponed.

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.



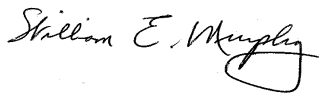
Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board



Frank Bonesteel, Chair
Nevada SSAB



Dennis Wilson, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB



William Murphy, Chair
Paducah CAB



Gil Allensworth, Chair
Savannah River Site CAB



Stanley Riveles, Chair
Northern New Mexico CAB

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Berry".

Bob Berry, Chair
Portsmouth SSAB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Branter".

Keith Branter, Chair
Idaho Cleanup Project CAB

cc: David Borak, Designated Federal Officer, EM-4.32