

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 2022

**La Fonda on the Plaza Hotel
100 E. San Francisco Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501**

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAB – Citizens Advisory Board
D&D – Deactivation & Decommissioning
DDFO – Deputy Designated Federal Officer
DOE – US Department of Energy
EM – (DOE) Office of Environmental Management
EM SSAB – Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board
EM-LA – (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office
FACA – Federal Advisory Committee Act
FY – Fiscal Year
Hanford – (DOE) Hanford Site
HAB – Hanford Advisory Board
HLW – High-Level Waste
HQ – Headquarters
ICP CAB – Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board
ISA – Idaho Settlement Agreement
IWTU – Integrated Waste Treatment Unit
MSIPP – Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program
NE – (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy
NSSAB – Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
NNMCAB – Northern New Mexico Citizens’ Advisory Board
NNSA – National Nuclear Security Administration
NNSS – (DOE) Nevada National Security Site
OMB – The Office of Management and Budget
OREM – (DOE) Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
ORNL – Oak Ridge National Laboratory
ORSSAB – Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board
Paducah CAB – Paducah Citizens Advisory Board
Portsmouth – (DOE) Portsmouth Site
PORTS SSAB – Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board
PPPO – Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
RH- TRU – Remote-handled Transuranic Waste
SRS – (DOE) Savannah River Site
SRS CAB – Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
SSAB – Site-Specific Advisory Board
STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TRU – Transuranic Waste
WIPP – Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

PARTICIPANTS

Hanford Advisory Board: Janice Catrell, Interim Chair; Susan Coleman, Interim Vice-Chair; Michael Berkenbile, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; Gary Younger, Federal Coordinator; Dana Crowley Staff (virtual)

Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board: John Sigler, Acting Chair; Deborah Farber, Acting Vice-Chair; Kelly Green, Staff

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board: Francis Bonesteel, Chair; Anthony Graham, Vice-Chair; Barbara Ulmer, Staff

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board: Cherylin Atcitty, Chair; Elena Fernandez, Vice-Chair; M. Lee Bishop, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; Michael Mikolanis, Manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office; Stephanie Gallagher, Public Affairs Specialist, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office; Menice Santistevan, Staff; Bridget Maestas, Staff

Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board: Leon Shields, Chair; Melyssa Noe, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; Shelley Kimmel, Staff (virtual), Amy Jones, Vice Chair (virtual)

Paducah Citizens Advisory Board: Michael Kemp, Acting Chair; Fran Johnson (virtual), Acting Vice-Chair; Eric Roberts, Meeting Facilitator; Robert "Buz" Smith, Federal Coordinator

Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board: Jody Crabtree, Chair; Herman Potter, Vice-Chair; Greg Simonton, Federal Coordinator; Julie Galloway, Staff

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board: Gregg Murray, Chair; Charles Hilton, Vice-Chair; Amy Boyette, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; de'Lisa Carrico, Federal Coordinator; James Tanner, Staff; Heather McWilliams, Staff

DOE Headquarters:

Candice Robertson, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary to Environmental Management (EM) (virtual).

Angela Watmore, Special Advisor for Acquisition

Kristen Ellis, Director, Office of Regulatory, Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Engagement

Joceline Nahigian, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs

Kelly Snyder, EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer

Alyssa Petit, EM SSAB Federal Coordinator

Michelle Hudson, Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs (virtual)

Stephen Clutter, EM Office of External Affairs

MEETING MINUTES

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs and Vice-Chairs met in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and virtually via WebEx on September 7, 2022. Participants included EM SSAB leadership, EM Headquarters (HQ) leadership and staff, EM SSAB contractor support staff, and presenters. The meeting was open to the public virtually and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Recordings of this meeting can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEhbDcCgcUc>

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Opening Remarks

Mr. Eric Roberts, contractor support for the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office and meeting facilitator, welcomed attendees and reviewed the ground rules and functionality of the hybrid platform for the meeting. Members and staff introduced themselves.

Councilwoman Jamie Cassutt, Santa Fe District 5, welcomed all attendees to Santa Fe, and invited them to enjoy the local culture and cuisine. In addition to thanking everyone for their participation in this important work, she encouraged participants to have a productive meeting.

Mr. Michael Mikolanis, EM Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) Manager, welcomed attendees to Santa Fe and thanked the chairs and vice-chairs. He discussed the tour of the Los Alamos site held earlier in the week, which highlighted the importance of the EM and cultural work at the site. He also mentioned the Justice40 Initiative to be discussed later in the session.

Remarks from Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary to Environmental Management, Candice Robertson

Ms. Robertson thanked participants for their service on the EM SSAB. She emphasized that EM is privileged to be surrounded by unique Tribal Nations and communities who are engaged in advancing cleanup.

Ms. Robertson shared the ongoing progress at EM sites achieved by working with stakeholders. She mentioned that the local outreach activities by the EM SSAB are successful in ensuring that EM is engaging community representatives and bringing new voices to the table. She noted that the Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board does a televised broadcast on site issues. She acknowledged that it can be a challenge to engage community members that are interested but may not have the time to be Board members. She also recognized that the length of the membership appointment process has affected each local Board and EM Headquarters (HQ) continues to strive for more timely appointments.

Ms. Robertson noted that she is excited about the Justice40 initiative and is interested in hearing more from Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) about the impact that will have on cleanup and equity across the complex.

Ms. Robertson mentioned that she will share Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens' Advisory Board's (ICP CAB) thoughts regarding the importance of developing a complex-wide plan to move forward with identifying, funding, and opening a long-term high-level waste repository. She said EM has also considered their comments on the Idaho Settlement Agreement and remote-handled (RH) transuranic (TRU) waste.

Ms. Robertson emphasized that tank waste remains a top EM priority. Hanford is treating tank waste on a large scale through the Tank Side Cesium Removal system, which will begin transforming waste into glass by the end of next year. Savannah River Site (SRS) is processing record amounts of tank waste.

Ms. Robertson discussed another priority – working through the remaining inventories of legacy TRU waste at Los Alamos and other sites. This includes deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) of aging and contaminated facilities. Demolition of the Biology Complex at the Oak Ridge Y-12 facility will transfer 18-acres to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Ms. Elena Fernandez, Vice-Chair of the NNMCAB, asked how project acceleration will be achieved. Ms. Robertson shared that this depends on the annual funding, and a prioritized list will be documented.

Chairs Round Robin

Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB)

Ms. Cherylin Atcitty, Chair, said the NNMCAB was able to maintain quorum and held all meetings in a virtual or hybrid format. Hybrid meetings helped to make the board more accessible to the public. Everyone was still able to complete work plans. A site tour was completed in June 2022 for members. Members are planning to host an EM-LA Strategic Vision Planning Workshop in early October 2022.

Challenges getting membership nomination packages approved caused several individuals to have to step back from participating. Recruiting new members has been very difficult. High school graduates and young people are especially challenging to recruit because of time constraints for hourly jobs. The recent wildfires and subsequent floods have also impacted the public's ability to engage. Covid safe practices are still impacting processes and ability to engage with the public.

Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB)

Mr. Leon Shields, Chair, reported that members continue to increase board visibility and outreach to attract new members, particularly considering reduced activities in the last few years. There is a new partnership with EM's Oak Ridge Office to spotlight current board officers in videos that are

shared on its new television broadcast, called Energycast Oak Ridge (known locally as Energycast).

A primary goal of the board is to facilitate decision-making regarding future soil remediation and groundwater activities at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).

Challenges the site faces are completing the remediation of soils, groundwater, and other activities required to close ETTP, then transfer to Legacy Management for long-term stewardship or for public use where appropriate. The History Museum and ongoing land transfers are in the final stages of completion.

Another issue is ensuring sufficient waste disposal capacity to support future cleanup activities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12 National Security Complex. A new disposal facility is nearing the Record of Decision phase, with updates expected this winter.

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB)

Dr. Gregg Murray, Chair, reported that a presentation was cancelled that was planned for a SRS CAB meeting due to a non-DOE reviewer not approving its release. The presentation had been publicly announced and approved by DOE and was included in the Federal Register, as required. There was a last-minute request by the Office of Management and Budget for a new presentation to be added to the SRS CAB agenda. The SRS CAB has been repeatedly told that items cannot be added to a meeting agenda, particularly after the publication of the agenda in the Federal Register, yet this presentation was made on short notice and outside of normal SRS CAB procedure. The SRS CAB members believe all entities should follow established procedures.

SRS CAB is interested in knowing what happens to Board recommendations after they are accepted by DOE. Therefore, SRS CAB has compiled a list of past recommendations and is tracking their status. This has been documented monthly.

SRS CAB also would like to thank SRS for the quick and thorough responses to its requests for information.

Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB)

Mr. Jody Crabtree, Chair, shared that the communication of additional air monitoring data from around the site, verified by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Health, has improved stakeholder confidence and general knowledge of the site. One of the most significant victories encountered is the excavation of the permitted landfills and plumes on the site that were initially going to stay. X-740 has been exhumed and they are currently working on the 231a and 231b.

Mr. Herman Potter, the Vice-Chair, reported that the community wanted to see more site industrialization. The PORTS SSAB realizes that DOE is working under some limitations, and the SSAB is learning to work within these limitations, like turning over land and recycling issues.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB)

Ms. Janice Catrell, Interim Chair, shared the HAB's success with hybrid, virtual and in-person meetings.

The Board issued the following pieces of consensus advice, including:

- The term limits for long-time members have left vacancies and it has been a struggle to fill the vacancies with diversity that matches the tri-city area. This has also been an opportunity to engage with people from all walks of life. While the HAB has worked with the tribes, the Hispanic community has not been adequately included.
- The HAB has also been trying to transform its operational model to be more collaborative with the Tri-Party agencies and the public. One improvement is to hold the meetings in the evening to get more public involvement.
- The HAB is working with the Tri-Party agencies to update the foundational documents which are over 20 years old.

Paducah Citizens Advisory Board (Paducah CAB)

Dr. Mike Kemp, Chair, reported the bio-remediation project had recently started so there were no huge issues related to traditional activities. The gaseous diffusion plants produced close to 700,000 pounds of depleted uranium hexafluoride between Portsmouth and Paducah. The conversion plant ships up to 10 cars per day for off-site disposal. When the plant shut down, there were eight million pounds of R114 freon which were outlawed several years ago. In 2020, DOE identified an incinerator site that can accept the freon. Almost a third of the freon has already been disposed.

The Paducah CAB has several people that have worked on site, are active in the community in various ways, and that have met the demographic objectives.

Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board (ICP CAB)

Dr. John Sigler, Acting Chair, discussed the 2035 date to complete cleanup and removal of all Spent Nuclear Fuel from the Idaho National Laboratory site as required by the Idaho Settlement Agreement (ISA). The ICP CAB's focus on protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer is achieved by monitoring and tracking DOE's cleanup progress and milestones related to compliance with the ISA and other cleanup-related regulatory and legal agreements. ICP CAB goals revolve around urging timely decision-making and funding to support activities related to spent nuclear fuel repackaging and calcine retrieval and packaging to meet 2035 ISA milestones. They are encouraging the development of a complex-wide plan and process to move forward and establish certainty on identifying, funding, and opening a long-term high-level waste repository, and expediting decision-making related to the resumption of RH-TRU emplacement at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Dr. Sigler was asked why the ICP CAB currently only has two members. He stated it is challenging to meet the DOE's guidance that boards should mirror the demographics of the communities it is representing. There is no required number of people on a board, and while two is not ideal, it is fine.

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)

Mr. Francis Bonesteel, Chair, stated this was his final year serving on the NSSAB. The NSSAB is concerned with radioactive waste transportation routes to the Nevada National Security Site and noted cleanup efforts in Nevada are fast approaching an end, resulting in the NSSAB completing its mission. The NSSAB would like a plan to be in place to maintain communication with the public on any issues after the EM mission is complete.

Mr. Anthony Graham, Vice-Chair, reported that in addition to the site cleanup, attention is paid to maintaining historic preservation of cultural sites and spaces.

Kelly Snyder, EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer (DFO), introduced Kristen Ellis, Director of Regulatory Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Engagement, and Joceline Nahigian, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs.

EM Justice40 Initiative Status

Ms. Nicole Nelson-Jean, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Field Operations, discussed the Justice40 Initiative.

The Justice40 Initiative:

- Establishes a goal that 40% of our overall benefits of certain federal investments will flow to disadvantaged communities.
- It is a Biden/Harris administration effort that is a requirement of Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*.
- On July 20, 2021, the *Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative* was issued
 - The guidance supports the Administration's comprehensive approach to advancing environmental justice.
 - To view the guidance: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>
- Federal agencies are directed to conduct robust stakeholder engagement and Tribal consultation as they implement the Justice40 Initiative.

There are multiple programs under the Justice40 Initiative,

- Climate change
- Clean and efficient energy
- Clean transit
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Training and workforce development
- Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- Development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure

There are 10 sites and programs covered under this initiative.

- Hanford site in Washington
- Idaho National Laboratory

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Los Alamos, New Mexico
- Moab, Utah
- Nevada National Security Site
- Sandia National Laboratory
- Savannah River Site
- Community Engagement Grants
 - Hanford: Tribal grants and States of Washington and Oregon grants.
 - INL: Shoshone Bannock Tribal DOE program grants;
 - SRS: Grants for Savannah State University, University of South Carolina, and SRS Community Reuse Organization EM-LA: Grants for the Santa Fe Indian School and four Accord Pueblos as part of the Los Alamos Pueblos Project
- Community Engagement Cooperative Agreements related to:
 - Energy Communities Alliance
 - EM Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program
 - Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation
 - Florida International University
 - National Conference of State Legislatures

An overview of these programs can be viewed at <https://www.energy.gov/em/justice40-initiative>.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed a BETA version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool found at: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>.

- This tool aims to help Federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

DOE's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity has developed a mapping tool intended to allow users to explore and produce reports on the census tracts DOE has categorized as disadvantaged communities found at: <https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/>.

Looking ahead:

- CEQ will issue a final version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
- OMB will issue updated Justice40 implementation guidance
- OMB will publish an Environmental Justice Scorecard, detailing agency environmental justice performance measures, including efforts to achieve the goals of the Justice40 Initiative and deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities

Mr. Michael Mikolanis, EM-LA Manager, presented an update on the Justice40 Initiative at Los Alamos. The Justice40 Initiative aligns with EM-LA's core mission:

- Safely, efficiently, and transparently complete the cleanup of legacy contamination and waste resulting from decades of nuclear defense research at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
- Commitment to invest in the communities that have been affected

EM-LA's legacy cleanup at LANL fits under the Federal Covered Program of "remediation and reduction of legacy pollution."

EM-LA has submitted all initial pilot program deliverables.

Recent successes with soil and groundwater remediation efforts:

- Preventing migration of hexavalent chromium plume beyond LANL boundary
- Installation of gaging station to monitor streamflow to Rio Grande
- Investigation/remediation of soil contamination in canyons surrounding LANL

Listening Sessions are key to regular engagement and meaningful discussion:

- Tribal Governments, including Pueblos in Northern New Mexico
- Natural Resources Damage Assessment Trustee Council
- Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board
- Environmental Management Cleanup Forum
- Los Alamos County
- Local community members
- Santa Fe Indian School

Leveraging "Thought Partners" to discuss the Justice40 Initiative in an open and transparent manner and to learn.

The Justice40 Initiative provides an opportunity to enhance the way EM-LA approaches legacy cleanup decisions:

- Cleanup values and priorities received from listening sessions will help guide strategic vision development
- Different engagement groups will participate from the ground up on input for remaining legacy cleanup at LANL
- Developing strategic vision with early input from community engagement is a means for delivering on environmental justice

EM-LA contractor N3B's increased workforce training and development efforts focus on job opportunities in disadvantaged communities in northern New Mexico:

- Apprenticeship Programs for Nuclear Operators and Waste Processing
- Radiological Control Technicians Boot Camp Program
- Workforce training program participants assured full-time positions
- Partnership between N3B and the University of New Mexico – Los Alamos
- Paid tuition expenses for participants earning college credits
- Job fairs

Los Alamos Pueblos' Project grants

- Building capacity at Accord Pueblos for more sampling and monitoring

New partnership with the University of New Mexico - Taos Hub of Internet-based Vocation and Education

- Build capacity for nontraditional students in northern NM to access education and support to pursue opportunities for digital careers

Santa Fe Indian School Community Based Education program

- Facilitates engagement between students and surrounding pueblos to address environmental

issues

- Exploring graduate cohort to learn technologies for solving community food, water, and energy security problems.

Mr. Frank Bonesteel asked where climate crisis issues lie in the Justice40 Initiative. Ms. Nicole Nelson-Jean responded that there is a new office in DOE whose purpose is to address climate changes, clean energy and energy efficiency. The Justice40 initiative is the only office to also address the climate crisis.

Office of Legacy Management Overview for EM SSAB

Mr. Jay Glascock, Legacy Management's Director of the Office of Site Operations, discussed the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) objectives. The office is responsible for the long-term care of more than 100 sites across the United States.

LM was created in December 2003, to be dedicated to post closure responsibilities. Since its inception, LM has become the permanent custodian of 101 sites that have come through various regulatory programs. The number of sites will nearly double LM's portfolio over time as more sites are remediated. The priorities are as follows:

- Priority 1: maintain and improve site safety and environmental remedies
- Priority 2: improve climate resilience and the long-term sustainability of environmental remedies
- Priority 3: improve cost effectiveness while reducing environmental liabilities and post-closure risks

LM Strategic Goals:

- Protect human health and the environment
- Preserve, protect, and share records and information
- Safeguard former contractor workers retirement benefits
- Sustainably manage and optimize the use of land and assets
- Sustain management excellence
- Engage the public, governments, and interested parties

Sites are coming in regularly, one soon and about 20 more over the next five years. The office engages with the Tribal Nations. The office is responsible for maintaining the continuity of stewardship while a legacy site transitions from clean up to long-term care, such as the Split Rock site coming from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to LM. Each site transitioning to LM is managed and planned in different ways depending on the site's needs.

The Office of Environmental Management (EM), as well as other cleanup organizations (or potentially responsible parties), as you know, spend a considerable amount of effort, time, and money to perform cleanup and establish long-term sustainable remedies that protect human health and the environment. LM protects those investments through active maintenance and surveillance activities, record-keeping activities, inspections, groundwater monitoring, ongoing pump and treat activities, cap repairs, and many others.

EM and LM have an inextricable relationship. The same can be said for each of the cleanup organizations with which LM partners. Each approaches the problem with differing viewpoints

because of our mission sets. On one hand, EM builds the remedy, and on the other hand, LM protects the remedy. EM may view the cleanup activity through a constructability lens, whereas LM would view it through the lens of long-term stewardship. In the end, we both want the same thing, we inform one another, and we have the shared interest to better protect human health and the environment.

LM manages disposal sites according to a long-term surveillance plan to ensure that the disposal cell systems continue to prevent the release of contaminants to the environment. LM conducts annual inspections of a site to evaluate the condition of surface features, perform site maintenance as necessary, and monitor groundwater to ensure the continued integrity of the disposal cell.

LM is working with Lawrence Berkley National Lab to evaluate how potential environmental changes may impact how LM approaches monitoring, inspection, and maintenance at our sites. There are many aspects, such as precipitation, that may impact the long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated sites.

LM communicates and engages with local community's state and local governments and Tribal Nations in person, in digital medias, through such things as public meetings, conferences, outreach events, fact sheets, and brochures. A specific example of this is LM working with the Navajo Nation and participating in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics event where thousands of ninth through twelve grade science students learn about disposal sites near their communities.

Public Comment

No written comments were received.

Mr. Steven Cutter, EM Director of External Affairs, suggested Boards reach out to National Public Radio (NPR) to make public service announcements as another means of getting new members.

Contracting Update

Ms. Angela Watmore, Special Advisor on Acquisition, discussed EM's contracting efforts. There are 15 remaining legacy sites that are in the process of being remediated; each has at least one cleanup contract.

Ms. Watmore explained the current effort to align contracts with the EM vision and what it will take to reach the end-states. She discussed the end-state contracting model. The first end-state contracts were awarded at Hanford and Nevada in 2019. EM now has six end-state contracts.

This contract approach allows for chunking of the contracted work into definable pieces; helping ensure the contracted work is more visible for federal oversight. This allows for federal and contractor staff to work collectively as a team to drive to an end-state. The Department is able to identify incremental performance objectives with the appropriate contractor fee to drive performance. It also allows the Department to make changes in the middle of the contract if things are not going in the right direction. This contract model allows for flexibility to ensure federal dollars are spent efficiently. It also allows for planning with the contractor in increments. Historically contracts were written that combined many tasks into one large contract. These contracts had risk and fee evaluations were released once the entire work was complete rather than

incrementally.

EM Headquarters (EM HQ) Office of Packaging and Transportation

Ms. Julia Shenk, Director of Packaging and Transportation, stated that all mandatory programs and policies apply to all agencies, not just EM. All shipments follow the same policies and programs. Shipping assessments are conducted internally, and her office also assists field sites on their assessments. The main areas are the compliance and safety programs, which include the Packaging Certification Program.

EM has several software programs for facilitating safe and efficient transportation activities by the DOE sites.

EM promotes responsible and safe transport of DOE radioactive and hazardous materials. The Motor Carrier Evaluation Program (MCEP) performed 13 carrier evaluations. MCEP provides a transparent, technically defensible basis for DOE and its contractors to exercise due diligence in selecting and hiring services of for-hire carriers.

Through the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum, state and regional groups and the Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee participated in a review period concurrent to DOE's internal process. This allowed EM to provide an overview of key changes and topics of interest to stakeholders via a webinar.

EM publishes a bi-annual report, known as the Prospective Shipment Report. The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program provides tools for planning, training, and exercises, and technical assistance to state and Tribal authorities to prepare for transportation incidents involving DOE radioactive material shipments.

Discussion included a recommendation to hold public outreach programs to understand what and how shipments are going through and to sites.

Open Discussion

Mr. Bonesteel stated that hybrid meetings do not work. This is the consensus of the NSSAB. There is much less engagement with people on a monitor than in-person presenters. The in-person attendance was more effective than virtual. Personal interactions have been very productive in speaking to people directly. The lack of in-person DOE attendance conveys the impression that the boards are undervalued.

Another issue with virtual/hybrid meetings is the internet is very expensive in rural areas, and fiber optic is unavailable. Disadvantaged communities are most impacted by the lack of resources.

Dr. Murray asked if there is anything that the SRS CAB or any other SSAB should be doing regarding the Justice40 Initiative. Ms. Ellis asked that participants share the information presented during the meeting. She reiterated that EM-LA is the only pilot at this time, but updates will be provided as the initiative evolves.

Ms. Atcitty asked for an update on streamlining of the membership package process. Ms. Snyder has been getting preapproval of membership, which has helped streamline the process. Also,

communicating deadlines on when things are due and when approval is expected has helped all entities involved in the membership process to be on the same page. She provided an overview of the process.

The participants shared their various experiences when they were new members. Site tours have been very beneficial to some of the participants.

Ms. Snyder adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM MDT.