



IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT

C I T I Z E N S A D V I S O R Y B O A R D

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

List of Acronyms

CAB	Citizens Advisory Board	ICP	Idaho Cleanup Project
D&D	Decontamination and Decommissioning	IEC	Idaho Environmental Coalition
DDFO	Deputy Designated Federal Officer	INL	Idaho National Laboratory
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	IWTU	Integrated Waste Treatment Unit
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy	NRF	Naval Reactors Facility
DOE-ID	U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
EM	DOE Office of Environmental Management	SSAB	Site Specific Advisory Board
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	TAN	Test Area North
FY	Fiscal Year	WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

The Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) held a meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023 virtually via Zoom. An audio recording of the meeting was created and may be reviewed by calling CAB Support Staff at 208-557-7857

Members Present

Jackie Agenbroad
Teri Ehresman
Debi Farber
Nate Francisco
Monica Hampton
Roger Hernandez
Dick Meservey
Mark Permann
John Sigler
Bob Skinner

Identified Shoshone Bannock

Tribes Representative

Ladd Edmo

Members Not Present

Talia Martin

Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Federal Coordinator, and Liaisons Present

Connie Flohr, DDFO, U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID)
Danielle Miller, Federal Coordinator, DOE-ID
Ty Blackford, President & CEO, Idaho Environmental Coalition, LLC (IEC)
Mark Clough, State of Idaho
Pete Johansen, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Benjamin Leake, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Others Present

Nicole Badrov, DOE-ID
Trent Neville, DOE-ID
Schyler Walker, DOE-ID
Tommy Thompson, DOE-ID
Eric Larsen, DOE-ID
George Lynch, ID Governor's Office
Richard Stover, ID Governor's Office
Brenna Garro, ID Governor's Office
Mark Hutchison, NRF
Wayne Barber, Exchange Monitor
Curtis Roth
Chris Henvit, NRF
Anna Bowers, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Dave Einan, EPA
Tim Smith, Government Strategies, Inc.
Clark Jones
Jordan Davies, ICP CAB Support Staff
Kelly Green, ICP CAB Support Staff
Mariah Porter, ICP CAB Support Staff

Mark Brown, DOE-ID
Doug Pruitt, DOE-ID
Maria Mitchell-Williams, DOE-ID
Jennifer Kate, DOE-ID
Jonathan Zobell, DOE-ID
Daphne Larsen, DOE-ID
Marissa Warren, ID Governor's Office
Emily Her, ID Governor's Office
Sara Kitts, Who Poo App
Sue Stiger, Bechtel
Tami Thatcher
Kelsey Shank, The EDGE, LLC
Fred Hughes, Fluor Idaho
Harrison Carter
Alan Carvo, INL
Erin McCullough, DNFSB
Hayley Price, ICP CAB Support Staff
Amber Fugal, ICP CAB Support Staff
Andrea Gumm, ICP CAB Support Staff

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Facilitator Andrea Gumm began the meeting at 9:00 a.m. She reminded everyone of the rules for Zoom and reviewed the agenda. She noted the times of the two public comment periods. She reminded attendees of the process for public comments during the meeting, time permitting.

Teri Ehresman (CAB Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. She encouraged the CAB members to ask questions. She said people have put in a lot of time preparing the agenda and she looked forward to listening to everything.

Connie Flohr (DOE-ID DDFO) welcomed new cab members and new presenters. She pointed out the new Justice 40 initiative. She said that Environmental Management's (EM) cleanup work under Justice 40 is mostly focused on soil and groundwater and the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) doesn't do a lot of soil and groundwater work relative to their budget. The Department of Energy (DOE) has issued new guidance and they will start implementing that and working through how it will impact them. She said they have made good progress on a lot of things. She continues to be impressed with the contractor team and is grateful for Ty Blackford. She said she looked forward to the presentations and encouraged CAB members to ask a lot of questions.

Mark Clough (Idaho National Laboratory [INL] Settlement Agreement Coordinator) stated he was looking forward to the meeting and the discussion. He hoped to hear from members of the public and the CAB. He welcomed new members and said he was looking forward to hearing about the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) and from the new spent nuclear fuel manager.

Pete Johansen (DEQ) said he was looking forward to today's meeting and all the interesting topics. He reminded CAB members to reach out at any time to DEQ with questions.

Ben Leake (EPA) said he will now be the primary Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) point of contact. He is glad to be working with DOE and the state to move the cleanup forward.

Ty Blackford (IEC) thanked everyone for attending today. He said the cleanup activities are already paying dividends and they have an excellent partner in Connie and her team. He looked forward to the discussions and the update.

Connie Flohr added that Joel Case retired at the end of December, and they are in the process of hiring someone new.

Recent Public Outreach

Danielle Miller (DOE-ID) reviewed recent public outreach activities. The document is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

ICP Overview

Connie Flohr, Jonathan Zobell, Mark Brown, Daphne Larsen, Doug Pruitt, and Nicole Badrov (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on the status of cleanup at the Idaho site. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Monica Hampton asked about what it means to overpack waste. Flohr said that certain waste requires certain types of packaging. The arc waste has to go in a 10 drum overpack made of steel which has to be fabricated and there is only one company that makes them. Other waste gets put in a standard waste box that looks like a figure 8. The overpack type is driven by the size of the drum the waste is put in from the start. It's a secondary level of containment outside of the drums in case a drum is breached. They had some issues last year with pucks wearing through the bottom of the drum, so they had to put that inside of an

overpack. It's like a Russian doll, nesting a drum inside of another drum. Doug Pruitt added that it's like buying a 12 pack of soda, the box itself would be the overpack but in this case the overpack is more robust than that. They use the overpack as a safety and compliance measure to make sure the waste is safe and compliant for transport and for the receiving facility. Flohr said overpacks take up more space in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and they are more expensive. Based on estimates they need thousands of the overpack vessels. The longer the waste sits here the greater the number of overpacks needed because waste becomes more vulnerable the longer it sits. She said the current estimate is 85 million dollars just to buy the overpack vessels. If there's a way, they can avoid having to overpack everything, they want to do that. But they can't send waste to WIPP if it's not fully contained. Mark Clough added that, as he understood it, they are having troubles procuring enough overpacks, they have enough for the current period, but supply chains have affected everything. Flohr said that based on current inventory they have 43-49 weeks of shippable waste. There is a lot of waste that's certified but not enough overpacks. The next shipment of overpacks isn't until September. Pruitt said they've reached out to sister sites to try to get any immediate stock and would replace those with future orders. He said the team is doing a good job of identifying what they can ship without overpack in a safe and compliant manner. They are constantly looking at how they can maintain the 55% of shipments allocated from WIPP. It's an ongoing challenge. He said he appreciates the collaboration with the Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC) and other sites. Flohr said they are working the problem from both the federal side and the contractor side with the Bechtel team in Carlsbad, but it's a pretty vertical wall right now.

Andrea Gumm asked if any shipments are going to WIPP right now. Flohr confirmed that shipments are going to WIPP, but they've had a bad winter. Nine segments per week are scheduled right now but they don't always get them out. They monitor the entire route to WIPP and if there is going to be a problem, they have the trucks pull over in very safe places. They have about 43 to 45 weeks that they can keep shipping.

Hampton asked if the injury rates are higher or lower than last year. Blackford said they are about the same from the time they took over the contract. The rates were going down, but they had 3 individuals who decided not to wear PPE for routine work activities and sustained some cuts to their hands. They're currently a little bit lower, about 0.7 as of January. He expects numbers to go down again.

Teri Ehresman asked about the particles flying around in the video of binset 1. Mark Brown said it was dirt and dust kicked up by the drone. Clough asked to clarify that they found no contamination. Brown said that was correct, they found no surficial contamination, but the radiation dose rate is very high. They don't ever send people in the bin sets.

Hampton asked about the waste shipment process. She asked, if 55% of shipments are from ID, are they not accepting waste from other places or are other places not sending waste? Larson said they have an agreement with the state that at least 55% of waste shipped to the WIPP has to be prioritized from Idaho to ensure Idaho continues to ship transuranic waste out of the state. Flohr said they have about 40k drums of waste sitting out there that need to go. Hanford has a ton of waste, but none has been certified or properly packaged. They're going to be years before they're ready to ship. She said that of shippable waste, Idaho has, by far, the majority of that waste. Therefore, Idaho has the predominant amount of volume so they should have the predominant amount of shipping.

Mark Permann asked for more information about how the shipping routes are chosen. Pruitt said there is an agreement between the states of approved routes. The route goes down on I-15 through Utah, Wyoming and then to New Mexico. Emergency responders are trained on what response would be necessary for an event that would involve any of the waste that happens to be shipped. State police are kept in the loop so they can do the inspections when the transports come into their ports of entry. There's a lot of coordination that goes into the routes. The routes try to avoid interaction with a large number of people.

Clough said that the 55% was a negotiated amount but Idaho does have over half the nation's weapons production transuranic waste here. So that number does make a practical common-sense value and they've

done a good job of certifying it for shipment. Pruitt said they are quickly working that percentage off. The large percentage of the Cold War transuranic waste was located here because of the decision by the department in the fifties and sixties to utilize the space, but now they have a final repository. They are working on mitigating the risk over the Snake River Plain Aquifer and they're proud of the work they've done over the years to reduce the risk. Clough said the buried transuranic waste excavation project is a golden star among the states. Exhuming that kind of waste on that scale just hadn't been done. Brown confirmed that Idaho has the largest percentage of shippable waste for WIPP, and they are working that off as quickly as they can.

IWTU Update

Mark Brown (DOE-ID) provided an update on the IWTU. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Teri Ehresman asked about the length of the confirmatory run and how long the next run will be. Brown said the run lasted 88 days processing simulants, so not including the startup, heat up or cool down. He said for this operation they don't plan on shutting down until the facility makes them shutdown or they complete processing the first tank of waste.

Public Comment Session #1

Tami Thatcher from Idaho Falls said it's been a while since we had a meeting because the last two meetings were cancelled last year and was pleased the meeting was being held today. She said, regarding the IWTU, the presenter mentioned 16 canisters of product. She read that originally there were supposed to be 37 vaults and that has been changed to 78. She asked for more clarity in the future on the total number of canisters when the IWTU would complete treatment on all the liquid waste. She has noticed that often there are extended outages of the air monitors, that are not explained. She would give the environmental monitoring contractor and DEQ a reminder to try to have the environmental monitors online and working when IWTU runs hot, because its emissions standards sampling will be based on limited testing and not actual full-time monitoring.

Thatcher said the problems regarding the shipments to WIPP last year were being reported in the news by April, she was dismayed that the CAB meetings weren't mentioning the problems and keeping the problems out of the news didn't minimize the problems. She said there were problems and discussion of pinhole leaks occurring in different sets of drums and it doesn't seem like the public was being kept up to date on what was going on and where the liquid was coming from since the waste shipped to WIPP is required to not have liquid. It is supposed to have enough absorbent that there would not be liquid leaks out of the drums. Idaho Environmental Coalition does have a public affairs number which they do not answer, and they do not return calls. She said the news that they post online is only good news and nothing about any problems occurring so there has been a lack of transparency. She said she is glad to see a little more transparency happening and is sorry about all the problems they're having.

She also said the Mackay dam is a dam upstream of the INL and the DOE had an assessment that it could survive 1000-year flooding. Anything that can flood with a greater than 100-year likelihood is something that's supposed to be addressed in Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permits by the state. She said that a couple years ago as they were looking at how they might try to rehabilitate the Mackay dam, they realized that it would not survive a 100-year flood, so it is a RCRA permit violation. Thatcher said DOE knew and had representatives at those Mackay Dam meetings, so it wasn't a secret to them. She said the RCRA permit is highly flawed when it doesn't consider that massive flooding potential.

ICP End State Contract – 10 Year Task Order Plan Update

Maria Mitchell-Williams (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on the ICP end state contract. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Ehresman asked where safety fit into the contract. Mitchell-Williams said there is a separate clause in the contract called the performance management incentive. There are 7 areas under the performance management incentive and the goal is to make sure that it covers any active task order. The first element under performance management incentive is safety. She said they are evaluating them on safety separately and they do a quarterly evaluation. It's also identified in the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System evaluation that they do at the end of the year. Flohr said there's no possible way for them to earn all the fee on the table at the expense of safety.

EM SSAB Meeting Update

John Sigler and Debi Farber (CAB Members) provided an update on the last EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting.

Public Comment session #2

There were no public comments

Budget update- FY23 appropriation and FY25 budget priorities

Schyler Walker (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget appropriation and FY 2025 budget priorities. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Ehresman asked if the budget list items are rated in order of priority or random. Walker said he didn't know if they have ever talked about the prioritization, but they are all priorities to them. Ehresman said her priority is the aquifer. Flohr said that everything they do is in protection of the aquifer. When you look at each item, everything has an overarching goal of protecting the aquifer. She said the list is typically written in order of general priority. Some of it is based on risk, some of it is based on how much the environmental liability is tied up in these various things.

Dick Meservey asked about the shuffling that must happen when you get money added or taken away from the budget. Walker said they always try to capture all sorts of scenarios and it does get a little complicated at times when you are trying to gauge 3 years at a time. But it's part of the process and part of how they do business. Meservey said that it really paid off for them to have additional plans in place before the budget came in so that when they got additional money they could start working on those projects.

John Sigler asked if the issues with plumes moving within the groundwater from a couple of decades ago have been resolved. Flohr said there is one plume that is still active up at TAN (Test Area North), Nicole has briefed them a couple of times on the status. They've done some recent injections into that area to try and contain that. There is still work ongoing. Brown said they've done some treatment in the new well to try to address that plume. It is a trichloromethane plume. He said they're at the point where they need to do some sampling to determine if they are effectively treating the plume with the new well. Badrov added that they are implementing bioremediation and slowly getting it under control. The plume is declining just as their modeling predicted. They should be able to meet the remedial action objectives probably sooner than expected.

Mark Permann asked about how the Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) efforts for the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF) are being funded and if that is something the CAB needs to consider in its recommendations. Flohr said that NRF pays for all the work that's being done at their facilities on the D&D so it's not necessarily something that would be taken into consideration for the EM funding priorities. She said that doesn't mean the CAB can't make a comment about it, it just doesn't get factored into the funding that has to be parsed out on the EM side.

Sigler asked what they would do if DOE called up and said here's another 10 million dollars, go do something? Flohr said they would probably focus in on something or maybe several somethings. She said they have an integrated priority list that is about \$17.5 million worth of work. The point of that list is to have things ready to go that they can work on. A lot of it is related to infrastructure. Some facilities, even though they have already been operational for 50 years, will potentially need to continue to be operational for 30 years. So, infrastructure would always be a place to utilize funding. However, she said there are only so many things they could do, there's only so much dirt you can move, so many people you can hire, etc. Sometimes money doesn't necessarily buy more things.

Budget Recommendation Discussion

The CAB discussed the proposed budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2025 and reached consensus on their recommendation.

Idaho Naval Reactors Facility Prototype D&D Plan Update

Eric Larsen (DOE-ID) and Chris Henvit (Idaho Branch Office-Naval Reactors) provided a presentation on Idaho naval reactors facility prototype D&D plan update. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Ehresman asked how long the D&D shown in the video took. Henvit said it took about two weeks. Larson said there was a lot of preparatory work involved before the demolition.

Meservey asked if there was a way that something associated with these nuclear reactors could be set up at the EBRI area and added to what the public can see on the tour. Henvit said they had thought about that but currently there is no room to put up a display. There has been some discussion with the INL about tentative plans to maybe expand EBRI, which could potentially accommodate that type of display.

Idaho Integrated Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Plan

Tommy Thompson (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on Idaho integrated spent nuclear fuel management. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Clough asked why they selected the shipping port fuel as a test batch. Henvit said they were looking at what was technically feasible and possible to do in the near term. This shipping port commercial reactor was designed by the naval reactors program. The first core was a carrier design that they never used in the fleet, but they designed the fuel and when that fuel was removed from the shipping port it was brought to the NRF, put into the water pool, and then subsequently shipped to INTEC although some of that fuel is still in the water pool. So, it's a known quantity, they would be relatively comfortable with that fuel, they've already handled it in their facility. But there's still a lot of work that needs to be done before they can determine they are able to move forward with this. He said one of the most important considerations is the national security mission of supporting the Navy. Under the proposal, IEC would package this fuel at INTEC using the process that they've used in the past to bring naval fuel back from INTEC to the NRF so that they can package it in their facility without making any modifications to the current facility, possibly using the NRF workforce. He said they need to look carefully as to whether they could fit that work in without having adverse impacts on their mission.

Conclusion

Flohr said how proud she was of her team and that she appreciated everybody's questions and engagement during the meeting.

Andrea Gumm concluded the public portion of the meeting.