ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Virtual Meeting

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AI – Artificial Intelligence
AMC – Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative
CAB – Citizens Advisory Board
CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
D&D – Decontamination and Decommissioning
DDFO – Deputy Designated Federal Officer
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
EM – (DOE) Office of Environmental Management
EM SSAB – Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board
FACA – Federal Advisory Committee Act
FY – Fiscal Year
GAO – Government Accountability Office
HAB – Hanford Advisory Board
HQ – Headquarters
ICDF – Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility
ICP CAB – Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board
NNSA – National Nuclear Security Administration
NNMCAB – Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
NNSS – Nevada National Security Site
NSSAB – Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board
ORNL – Oak Ridge National Laboratory
ORSSAB – Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board
PAD CAB – Paducah Citizens Advisory Board
PFAS – Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PORTS SSAB – Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board
SRS – Savannah River Site
SRS CAB – Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
SSAB – Site-Specific Advisory Board
TRU – Transuranic Waste
WIPP – Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

PARTICIPANTS

Hanford Advisory Board: **Susan Coleman,** Chair; **Miya Burke,** Vice-Chair; **Jennifer Colborn,** Deputy Designated Federal Officer**; Meegan Tripp,** incoming Deputy Designated Federal Officer**; Laura Caulfield,** Staff; **MaryAnne Wuennecke**, Staff; **Joshua Patnaude**, Staff; **McKenzie DuBois-Killoy**, Staff; **Ryan Miller,** Washington State Department of Ecology Liaison; **Ben Prueitt**, Washington State Department of Ecology Liaison

Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board: **Robert Skinner**, Chair; **Deborah Farber,** Vice-Chair; **Danielle Miller**, Federal Coordinator

Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board: **Mark Hilton**, Chair; **Kevin Trainor,** Vice-Chair; **Robert Boehlecke**, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; **Tiffany Gamero**, Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer; **Kevin Knapp**, Staff; **Glenn Puit**, Staff; **Barbara Ulmer**, Staff; **Frank Bonesteel**, Nye County Liaison; **Kelsey Bynum**, National Park Service Liaison

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board: **Patricio Pacheco**, Chair; **Manuel L' Esperance**, Vice-Chair; **Mark Hayden**, Member; **Joseph Villegas**, Member; **Yolanda Valdez,** Staff; **Bridget Maestas**, Staff

Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board: **Amy Jones,** Chair; **Kris Bartholomew** Vice-Chair; **Laure Clark**, Member**; Otto Merz,** Member**; Melyssa Noe**, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, **Abby Hill**, Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer; **Roger Petrie**, Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer; **Leah Alexander**, Federal Coordinator; **Sara McManamy-Johnson,** Staff; **Shelley Kimel,** Staff; **Brian Begley**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; **Kristof Czartoryski**, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation Liaison

Paducah Citizens Advisory Board: **Ben Stinnett,** Chair; **Gaye Brewer,** Vice-Chair; **Robert "Buz" Smith,** Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer; **Eric Roberts**, Meeting Facilitator; **Zachary Boyarski**, Staff; **Hayly Wiggins**, Staff

Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board: **Donna Carson,** Chair; **Herman Potter,** Vice-Chair; **Greg Simonton,** Federal Coordinator; **Melissa Green**, Staff; **Julie Galloway**, Staff

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board: **Phyllis Britt,** Chair; **Hubert van Tuyll,** Vice-Chair; **James Tanner**, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; **Juanita Campbell**, Staff

Members of the Public: Derrek Asberry, Daniel Parker, Daniel Serres, Kelsey Shank, Dan Solitz

U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters: **Demitrous Blount**, EM Office of Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs; **Marianna Du Bosq**, Director, EM Budget and Planning; **Kristin Ellis**, EM Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs; **Michelle Hudson,** EM SSAB Staff; **Scott Hutchins,** NNSA Senior Advisor for External Engagement**; Dylan Kama,** NNSA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs; **April Kluever,** Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Lead, EM Office of Subsurface Closure**; Justin Marble,** Director, EM National Transuranic Program; **Virona Mehta,** EM SSAB Staff; **John Moon,** EM Chief Engineer; **Joceline Nahigian,** EM Director for Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs; **Kelly Snyder,** EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer; **Greg Sosson, EM** Associate Principal Deputy Assistant

Secretary for Field Operations; **Steve Trischman**, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resource Management

MEETING MINUTES

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE or Department) Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs meeting was held virtually. Participants included board members, EM SSAB leadership and support staff, EM Headquarters (HQ) leadership and staff, and the public. The meeting was open to the public and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Kelly Snyder, Designated Federal Officer, welcomed attendees, expressing gratitude for their participation and volunteerism on the EM SSAB. She thanked everyone for taking the time to spend several hours discussing items relating to the EM program and participating in a meaningful dialogue with EM leadership.

Eric Roberts, the meeting facilitator, reviewed the agenda. He also covered some housekeeping items and guidelines for participating in an online virtual meeting. The chairs and vice-chairs of the eight local boards of the EM SSAB introduced themselves.

EM Update

Mr. Roberts introduced Greg Sosson, EM Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, to provide the DOE EM update.

Mr. Sosson began by expressing that he was honored to represent DOE EM during the meeting and will be personally sharing the discussion and feedback with Roger Jarrell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM, who was not feeling well.

Mr. Sosson highlighted the importance of EM activities and what it means for the communities that surround EM sites. At the heart of the EM mission are the men and women who put in the work on the ground day to day. The communities that the EM SSAB represents are educated about the EM mission, invested in cleanup, and engaged in building a strong future. Mr. Sosson continued that this is important because the EM mission is at a critical juncture and the EM SSAB communities are a huge part. He gave his appreciation for the service of the EM SSAB chairs and vice-chairs and their respective memberships.

Mr. Sosson noted that back in the 1940s, the communities of the EM SSAB are where it all began. The Manhattan Project leveraged the best of American industry, American science, and American ingenuity to harness nuclear energy for the security of our country, and the world. Under President Trump and DOE Secretary Chris Wright, DOE is launching an effort with a similar scale and scope. By ushering in a golden era of American energy dominance, the Department is creating affordable, reliable, American energy that will power our country and fuel the global artificial intelligence (AI) race.

Mr. Sosson continued that Secretary Wright has laid out an ambitious slate of priorities that include:

- Advancing American energy and adding energy sources,
- Driving innovation,
- Modernizing the U.S. nuclear stockpile,
- And unleashing commercial nuclear power.

As the Department works to achieve these goals, Mr. Sosson explained that EM is right there every step of the way...transforming liabilities into assets…bringing buildings down and building up opportunities for the American people. EM has a unique moment to contribute to this golden

era, while maintaining a steady record of safe performance and driving down risk. The EM mission is not a "nice to do." It is a moral and legal obligation to the EM SSAB communities that have done so much for the safety and prosperity of our country.

Mr. Sosson continued that the "why" is every bit as important as the "what." EM is not only addressing the legacy of the past, but is enabling U.S. energy, U.S. security, and U.S. jobs of today and tomorrow. It is ensuring EM SSAB communities can continue to play a role in our national strength and success for decades to come. EM SSAB communities are not only where it all began but are also where the EM mission will be completed. Communities of the EM SSAB will outlive the cleanup mission, and Mr. Sosson ensured that communities are empowered to create a thriving vision for the future.

Mr. Sosson provided updates on key accomplishments for sites across the EM Complex:

Oak Ridge:

- Level of diversification and success on what was once a massive gaseous diffusion plant used for nuclear weapons production dating back to the Manhattan Project is now a hub for the American advanced nuclear industry.
- EM enables U.S. jobs, U.S. energy, and U.S. security with what is being achieved at the Oak Ridge site.

Portsmouth:

- The Portsmouth site has a similar trajectory.
- Under the first Trump Administration, EM began transferring land to the local community for economic development.
- New companies are already interested in building, although EM is not finished yet.
- The first gaseous diffusion process building is already down, and the Portsmouth team is set to begin demolition of the second later this year. Last week, workers began removing the asbestos filled panels that cover the X-333 Process Building.
- EM is working to make even more land available for the people of Ohio to grow jobs, expand opportunities for private industry, and boost affordable American energy.

Paducah:

- Mr. Jarrell has had some great conversations with community leaders who are all in on nuclear and all in on building a strong future in Kentucky.
- EM is preparing for the first land transfer, and the local community is getting excited about future reuse possibilities.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):

- Later this year, EM will begin operating a massive new ventilation system.
- The construction of the system began in the first Trump Administration.

- It is a much-needed update to a facility that supports not only ongoing cleanup activities, but other DOE national security and scientific missions.

Los Alamos:

- Mr. Jarrell is scheduled to visit New Mexico next month to visit where EM is advancing transuranic (TRU) waste shipments as well as the groundwater mission.

Nevada National Security Site (NNSS):

- Groundwater is also a core part of EM work in Nevada, along with advancing key demolition projects.

Savannah River Site (SRS):

- After breaking ground on the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (AMC) during the first Trump Administration, EM will cut the ribbon to open it later this year.
- Once open, the AMC will serve as an economic driver – creating jobs, spurring innovation, and maximizing the reach of industry in South Carolina.

Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP):

- EM is addressing the remaining 900,000 gallons of radioactive tank waste.
- Waste has largely been pumped out of the first three tanks and the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit is coming out of a planned maintenance outage in June 2025.

Hanford:

- EM is set to begin immobilizing tank waste in glass for the first time, using facilities completed in the first Trump Administration. This will be a historic achievement, decades in the making.
- It is exciting that EM will begin turning low activity waste into glass this year but will also need to look at how the program will address the full scope of the tank waste mission. It is a mission that represents one of DOE's largest risks and cost drivers, as well as one of the greatest opportunities to drive innovation.

Mr. Sosson continued that this is not just a unique time for what the EM program does, but for how the work is done as well. The Trump Administration is laser focused on reinventing government across the board with an aim to make it leaner, more efficient, and ultimately more mission focused. Secretary Wright is looking to all of government to work smarter, faster, stronger...to deliver more in the mission and do it at a better value for American taxpayers. This shift is being seen in DOE and in EM. While it is having some impact on headcounts, it is also creating some welcome opportunities.

Mr. Sosson concluded that EM has been, and will always be, committed to continuous improvement and maximizing the use of every taxpayer's dollar with which EM is entrusted.

The entire leadership team is rolling up their sleeves and taking a good look at how EM can work smarter, work more strategically, and work more efficiently; all while maintaining EM's track record of safe performance.

Mr. Sosson thanked the EM SSAB local boards for their commitment to the EM mission. It is an exciting time to be a part of EM and to be part of the Department that is all in on cleanup and on the future of American energy.

Round Robin

Eric Roberts opened the round robin session, where each EM SSAB chair/vice-chair provided updates on their respective sites.

Oak Ridge Site-Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB)
Kris Bartholomew, Vice-Chair

Mr. Barthlomew noted some of the hot topics that the ORSSAB has offered recommendations on including excess contaminated facilities risk reduction activities at Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Another topic was infrastructure development in support of cleanup activities at Y-12 and ORNL that includes the Mercury Treatment Facility, that is currently under construction. Another topic of board focus was the new waste disposal facility that is in a review process for groundwater. The board is also focused on the disposition and processing of legacy transuranic debris and sludges.

Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board (ICP CAB)
Robert Skinner, Chair

Mr. Skinner stated that the ICP CAB had the opportunity to tour the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit to observe the safe removal of liquid sodium-bearing waste and the consolidation from three to two tanks. Approximately one-third of the waste has been treated. During the tour, the board also observed the S1W reactor vessel being disposed of at the Idaho Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Disposal Facility (ICDF). Naval Reactors staff are preparing for the demolition of the nuclear training prototypes A1W, S1W, and S5G that will be disposed of at the ICDF. Over the years, 44,000 sailors were trained in Idaho on how to operate a nuclear reactor on two submarines and one aircraft carrier.

Mr. Skinner continued that the ICP CAB has meetings three times a year. The board toured a facility at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex where staff are placing waste drums through a super-compactor to reduce 8-10 drums into one overpack. Since these overpacks are heavy, a new process was formulated to inspect each drum to ensure its integrity and to confirm that the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria is met. Mr. Skinner noted that the protection of the Eastern Idaho Snake River Plain Aquifer continues to be very important to the board as more people move to Idaho, increasing the need for irrigation and drinking water. The board continues to engage with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and during a combined tour they shared their history and heritage. The board is losing one of its Tribal members and is recruiting a replacement.

Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
Mark Hilton, Chair

Mr. Hilton provided an update on the NSSAB's accomplishments, including a successful board recruitment of new members from a variety of communities surrounding the NNSS. He also noted the board's concern about the lack of training opportunities and activities for members to attend and participate in to become knowledgeable to make valuable recommendations to the EM Program. Another board concern is transportation of low-level waste within Nevada with the limited availability of roads to the NNSS. Another concern is the protection of water resources with the growing population, especially in the Las Vegas valley that is projected to reach three and half million by 2050. Currently, Nevada is under federal drought management procedures.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB)
Susan Coleman, Chair

Ms. Coleman stated the HAB issued five pieces of advice last fiscal year and recently completed the annual cleanup priorities advice in time for the budget request. HAB members toured the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response Federal Training Center and the Maintenance and Storage Facility, a mock-up facility where workers can practice and train before performing at the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility. She noted that new and current members had the opportunity to participate in a tour of the Hanford site that included stops at various facilities. The focus over the past year was to improve board member engagement by conducting a survey and discussing the feedback received. As a result, the board organized social events, created a mentor list for new members, and instituted round robin questions during meetings so people could get to know one another better. She added that it is more challenging during this time of travel restrictions to engage members, and she hoped that the moratorium would be temporary.

Ms. Coleman noted the challenges and concerns that the HAB continues to closely follow are activities related to the Holistic Agreement, for example, the West Area Risk Management project, the shipment of radioactive waste to Texas and Utah, Direct-Feed High-Level Waste and cross-site transfer lines. Last September, the HAB held a regional meeting in Spokane, Washington. During public comment, the board heard from various Spokane residents, including Mayor Lisa Brown, who raised concerns about Test Bed Initiative shipments of radioactive liquid waste traveling from the Hanford site through Spokane enroute to disposal facilities in Andrews, Texas and Clive, Utah. Transportation is a big concern in the Pacific Northwest that requires more education for the community. The HAB continues to be concerned about changes implemented by DOE regarding alternate members of the HAB. This has resulted in a loss of institutional knowledge with a board that does not have the experience with the site and the Department that changes the dynamics and makes it more challenging to understand technical issues. HAB members have voiced concerns about recent changes, the Hanford cleanup budget, and federal employee layoffs. She encouraged EM HQ to continue its transparent communications with the EM SSAB and the public during this transitional period.

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB)
Patricio Pacheco, Chair

Mr. Pacheco thanked the members of the EM SSAB for the time spent volunteering for this important meeting. The NNMCAB hosted Dr. Inés Triay and members of her team from Florida International University to present on the Chromium Technical Report for an approach that EM Los Alamos and the New Mexico Environmental Department to restart cleanup of the chromium plumes. He touched on the challenges that DOE support has been very limited, and the effectiveness of the board has been challenging. Some of the challenges are the recent loss of the Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO) that resulted in the cancellation of the March meeting. The May meeting will be held virtually with Kelly Snyder presiding as the federal officer, and future meetings are questionable as a DDFO has yet to be appointed. Tours to the Los Alamos National Laboratory and WIPP are on hold. Mr. Pacheco concluded that the NNMCAB currently does not have a 2025 work plan and has submitted recommendations and have not yet received feedback.

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB)
Phyllis Britt, Chair

Ms. Britt shared board interests that include the "Climb to Nine" that is a pledge from the Savannah River Mission Completion, the main SRS subcontractor, to complete liquid waste management in 15 years. In January 2022, there were two million gallons of liquid waste processed per year with six million processed in December 2024. The goal is to process up to nine million gallons per year to meet the 2037 completion date. The subcontractor is working to optimize operations, and eight of 51 liquid waste tanks have been closed under the long-term closure plan. She provided an update on Lower Three Runs Remediation that was determined to be contaminated in 2009-2010. An effort to prevent further contamination by the removal of five million pounds of contaminated soil, installing miles and miles of fencing to keep out wildlife, and putting up two thousand warning signs has almost neared completion. Ms. Britt noted that the site is researching drone usage to inspect closed areas on the site.

Portsmouth Site-Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB)
Donna Carson, Chair

Ms. Carson discussed that the board expresses its strong support for the ongoing site characterization efforts and ongoing decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) activities that are currently in progress. This collaborative approach aims to facilitate a smooth transfer of property while effectively addressing environmental and safety concerns. She encouraged continued coordination with the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative to ensure that valuable assets remain at the site for reindustrialization. These efforts are crucial in maximizing the site's potential and ensuring an energy dominant future. The board supports DOE's commitment to recycling materials, which is essential for effective cleanup and economic development. Additionally, Ms. Carson stated that transferring real and personal property is vital for reindustrialization efforts and contributes to community growth and revitalization.

Paducah Citizens Advisory Board (PAD CAB)
Ben Stinnett, Chair

Mr. Stinnett noted that the PAD CAB is interested in promoting American energy security by utilizing the inventory of Depleted Uranium located at Paducah to provide access to affordable, reliable, and abundant energy to the American people. The board in Paducah is also interested in reducing federal liabilities by accelerating the environmental remediation and deactivation and decommissioning and by expediting property transfer to facilitate the community's vision for an energy dominant reindustrialization of the Paducah site.

Office of Regulatory and Policy Affairs Update

Kristen Ellis, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, and Justin Marble, Director of the National Transuranic Program, delivered a comprehensive update on both regulatory and policy affairs. The presentation by Dr. Marble focused on DOE EM Waste Management.

Key Discussion Points from Dr. Marble:

The EM Mission is to complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear research. EM's priority is to ensure the safety and health of the public and drive down environmental risks while supporting U.S. jobs, U.S. energy and U.S. security.

DOE manages disposal for high level, transuranic, low-level, mixed low-level and Greater than Class C waste. There is currently not a disposal pathway for high-level waste. The disposal pathway for TRU is WIPP. There are multiple disposal options for low-level and mixed low-level waste, both DOE and commercial.

There is currently sufficient low-level waste and mixed low-level waste disposal capacity at DOE and commercial facilities to support the EM cleanup mission. For low-level waste, the DOE Waste Information Management System offers stakeholders the tools to understand current and future waste volumes and categories. On the commercial side, the Manifest Information Management System is the public source for data of non-DOE low-level waste shipped to commercial disposal facilities.

DOE waste management oversight is rigorous. Statutory and regulatory requirements are well-established. Decisions are made at the site level considering safety, compliance and the best interest of the government. There are opportunities for stakeholder input and waste disposition is considered throughout the entire life cycle.

Key Discussion Points from Ms. Ellis:

Ms. Ellis said there is currently high interest in beneficial reuse of certain waste streams and ongoing land transfers at various EM sites/national labs. Assets can be made available to other entities including industries interested in energy production or things like small modular reactors or potential projects like uranium enrichment.

Regarding beneficial reuse of certain waste streams, one example is nickel. There is storage of nickel at both Portsmouth and Paducah. Nickel is now considered a critical material and has many applications for things like electronic vehicle batteries, stainless steel super alloys, and it is advantageous because of its electro-magnetic protection capabilities. Portsmouth is now working with partners on extracting elemental nickel from the Portsmouth site. Another example of beneficial reuse is at Oak Ridge via a public/private partnership. It involves a radioisotope thermal electric generator that there was not a final disposal path for. A private entity proposed that they take the generator and extract materials from the device, then transform it into a battery source. EM also works closely with the DOE Office of Science Isotope Program on another project at Oak Ridge that is boosting isotope supply for cancer treatments.

Ms. Ellis said as EM is looking for ways to tackle long-term liabilities, there is a lot of interest in the new Administration to find efficiencies with our remaining work. Work also continues on a proposal to use DOE lands for potential energy projects and AI data centers. Having these at sites could increase power sources for national labs. In addition, the Cleanup to Clean Energy proposal was looking at solar projects at five different sites. There are some continuing conversations on this at the Hanford site. Savannah River has also been involved in some of these discussions.

EM is continuing to proceed with a test bed initiative pilot project at Hanford which seeks to accelerate cleanup of radioactive tank waste.

Q&A from Policy Affairs Update

1. **Future Shipments of Grouted Tank Waste**

    - Question (Miya Burke, Hanford): Supplemental analysis recently came out (at Hanford) with DOE looking at grouting from 32 million to 39 million of tank waste and shipping it to Texas or Utah, possibly filling capacity at some commercial sites. What are we doing with waste shipped to those facilities from other sites, and who takes over long-term stewardship of the facilities at capacity?
    - Response: Ms. Ellis indicates that there is going to be a balancing act between commercial and federal facilities on this front. If capacity were to be reached in Texas and Utah, waste streams beyond that amount would require some changes to their existing permits and licenses. Multiple regulators are also involved. Paths have not been figured out for everything in our inventory, and there are lots of things that need to be worked out. Dr. Marble added that EM continues to look for efficiencies in this work.

2. **Waste Products Research**

    - Question (Bob Skinner, Idaho): Very encouraging to hear about waste products that there is a new use for. Are there people who are doing research on the uses of things that we used to consider waste?
    - Response: Ms. Ellis said there is a lot of interest in depleted uranium, isotopes, and some other spent nuclear materials including plutonium 244. Dr. Marble added that DOE classifies things as materials until DOE determines there is no

longer a need for it, and then a disposal path is pursued. Just because DOE does not need it, however, does not mean other parties are not interested.

Budget Update

A comprehensive budget update was provided by Steve Trischman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resource Management, and Marianna Du Bosq, Director for Budget and Planning.

Key Discussion Points from Ms. Du Bosq:

The annual budget request versus EM's enacted budget has shown positive trends in recent years. The enacted amount has tended to be higher than the requested amount. It has been this way for the past ten years and we hope this continues.

There are six primary mission areas for EM: Special Nuclear Materials & Spent Nuclear Fuel; TRU & Solid Waste; Soil & Groundwater; Radioactive Tank Waste; Facility D&D; and Site Services. Forty percent of funding goes to address radioactive tank waste. The request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 was $8.229 billion.

Hanford FY 2025 request was $3.1 billion, representing a 2.3 percent increase from FY 2024 enacted. Work includes Tank Farm activities, Waste Treatment and Immobilization, Central Plateau Remediation, River Corridor, Richland community, regulatory support, construction and other cleanup operations.

Savannah River FY 2025 request was $1.6 billion which is a 10.8 percent decrease from FY 2024 enacted. Work includes Radioactive Liquid Tank Waste Stabilization and Disposition; the Savannah River Risk Management Operations, Construction, Savannah River National Laboratory Operation and Maintenance; the Savannah River Community and Regulatory Support; and Construction.

At Carlsbad/WIPP, the FY 2025 request was more than $436 million, representing an 8 percent decrease from FY 2024 enacted.

At Idaho, the FY 2025 request was $471 million, representing a 3.8 percent decrease from FY 2024 enacted. Work includes cleanup, construction, community and regulatory support.

At Los Alamos, the FY2025 request was $280 million. Work includes retrieval, size reduction and repackaging of below grade TRU waste; investigation and remediation in the Upper Water Watershed Campaign; completing retrieval of DOE TRU from below grade storage to an above grade facility in Texas; continuation of the Chromium Plume Control Interim Measure; installation of groundwater monitoring wells; and continuing deactivation and commissioning of a deactivated NNSA facility.

At Portsmouth, the FY 2025 request was nearly $600 million. Work includes deactivation and initiating demolition of the X-333 Process Building; continued construction of an on-site waste disposal facility; continued progress on 5-unit plume excavations; pension and community

regulatory support; operations of the DUF6 conversion facility and completion of a cylinder evacuation improvement project.

At Paducah, the FY 2025 request was more than $330 million, representing a 1.1 percent decrease over FY 2024 enacted. Work includes continued remediation of the C-333 process building; C-400 Complex remedial activities; disposition of R-114 refrigerant offsite; demolition of 8 balance of plant structures; continued development of the comprehensive cleanup strategy; pension and community regulatory support; and other work.

At Nevada, there is continued progress toward risk-informed closure of contaminated groundwater and industrial-type sites.

Q&A from Budget Update

1. **Budget Cuts Impact**

    - Question (Patricio Pacheco, Northern New Mexico): Will some of the budget cuts have an impact on EM cleanup, and will there be a bounce back in the coming year?
    - Response: Ms. Du Bosq indicates that when you see a decline there is often a reduction in scope, so the decline is often intentional. The value of the mission and work of EM continues to be validated through the budget process.

Public Comment

Facilitator Eric Roberts opened the floor for the public comment period.

Dan Solitz provided the following public comment:

I am Dan Solitz from Eugene, Oregon. I'm looking at and I've been following consent-based siting on DOE's website. I've always viewed that as a kind of a dress rehearsal for geologic disposal, and I haven't seen any activity on that website since the end of last year. I'm hoping that the program isn't dead in the water; and if it is, I hope you somehow can manage to take that back up, because we're making plans to double stack our high-level glass at Hanford, and I know you're already double stacking your high-level glass at Savannah. There is a deep need for deep geologic disposal and perhaps even considering not commingling commercial spent nuclear fuel with the high-level glass. Do you know if there's going to be more activity on that program or is it dead in the water? Thank you for your time.

PFAS Update

Dr. April Kluever from the DOE Office of EM offered a comprehensive presentation on Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and efforts to remediate it.

Dr. Kluever said Polyfluoroalkyl is considered a forever chemical that persists in humans and animals. They persist because they are full of carbon-fluorine bonds, which is the strongest bond in chemistry. As a result, they do not break down easily and can last decades. The biggest

contributor to PFAS contamination of soil and groundwater is the use of firefighter foams. In the Manhattan Project, PFAS was used during the enrichment of uranium.

DR. Kluever said DOE's PFAS goals are to protect human health and the environment by assessing and addressing PFAS at DOE sites while deploying scientific expertise.

Dr. Kluever said DOE anticipates releasing an updated PFAS Assessment Report in 2025. Meanwhile, national laboratories are particularly suited to contribute to critical data needs in the topics of advanced sampling and analytical methodologies, characterization of sources and exposure pathways, and removal, destruction and disposal.

Dr. Kluever said all EM sites have made progress on this issue. Notable accomplishments include a PFAS Screening Assessment Summary Report at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant; PFAS Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan for Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Area IV; and EM Los Alamos Groundwater Sampling and Monitoring Program. Oak Ridge also has plans to sample many different mediums on this front.

Q&A from PFAS Update

1. **PFAS Impact on Humans**
    - Question (Bob Skinner, Idaho): What is the effect on the body from exposure?
    - Response: Dr. Kluever indicates there are many different types of PFAS. Two of the most common have been associated with cancers and they have been associated with changes in the growth of the fetus during pregnancy. There is limited data on other types.

2. **How Can Local Boards Help with this Endeavor**
    - Question (Mark Hilton, Nevada): What could the chairs of the respective boards do to help?
    - Response: Dr. Kluever said there has been a lot of success in partnerships between sites and communities, working together on communications and open dialogue about the nature and extent of contamination. This is a problem the country has to solve together.

3. **Superfund and PFAS**
    - Question (Patricio Pacheco, Northern New Mexico): Have any of the PFAS sites become Superfund sites and become a priority for cleanup?
    - Response: Dr. Kluever indicates Superfunds are administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and we have CERCLA agreements that are related to Superfunds.

EM SSAB Update

Kelly Snyder provided an update on matters related to the EM SSAB that affect all local boards.

Ms. Snyder noted that the membership packages are currently on hold. The reason is that the template used to prepare the membership packages is currently being revised based on the transition to the new Administration. She is working with all the reviewers that are involved in the appointment process to ensure that there is a clear understanding as to what information the new and existing reviewers are looking for in the membership packages going forward. As soon as she receives agreement on the revised templates, membership packages will again resume the approval process. It is a priority of DOE, and the boards will be provided updates on the progress.

Ms. Snyder reported that DOE Order 515.1 was issued in January 2025 that guides advisory boards and committee management. Before that time, it was a manual that was outdated and since has been updated by the DOE Office of Boards and Councils and Secretary's Offices. Based on the new DOE Order, the next step is for the EM SSAB Policies Desk Reference to be updated. This document will undergo a review process before it is issued. Once the EM SSAB Policies Desk Reference is issued, Ms. Snyder continued that then the local bylaws will be reviewed to ensure compliance with all overarching DOE documents.

Ms. Snyder discussed recent parameters on travel and reminded the Board that if funding is not available then the members cannot travel and any travel restrictions in place must be followed by the local boards. EM resources must be considered for the best interests of taxpayers. With eight local advisory boards, EM wants to ensure that there is consistency among the program as a whole, and there are fair and equitable operations.

Ms. Snyder stated that the materials from the meeting will be posted on the EM SSAB website in the next couple of weeks. Minutes will be drafted that summarize the meeting and will be posted as soon as finalized.

Lastly, Ms. Snyder provided details on the upcoming Fall Chairs Meeting that is scheduled for October 28-30, 2025, at Hanford. She currently does not have firm direction if this meeting will be held in-person, virtual, or hybrid. As she is provided with additional information, she will share with the boards.

Q&A from EM SSAB Update

1. **Membership Packages**

   - Question (Susan Coleman, Hanford): Since the HAB membership package expires on September 30 and everything is currently on hold, is there a concern that it will not be approved?
   - Response: Ms. Snyder is optimistic that the proposed template updates for the reviewers will be well received, but she cannot commit at this time if the proposed appointments will be completed by September 30. The membership packages will be approved in the order that the appointments expire, and she will keep the boards informed on the progress.

   -

2. EM HQ Review of Agendas

- Question (Susan Coleman**,** Hanford): Will there be relief in having EM HQ review and approve board agendas?
- Response: Ms. Snyder noted that she makes sure that both the local and HQ personnel understand what is taking place. With any Administration change, it does take time for new employees to become aware of the activities of the EM program and reviewing the materials is a great way to get up to speed. She anticipates that with time the need for review of materials will go back closer to the way it was previously, although she does not know when that will happen. There has been progress made with a fewer number of reviewers.

3. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audit on EM Stakeholder and Intergovernmental Activities

Three GAO Recommendations:
(1) Develop and implement a national framework for stakeholder and intergovernmental engagement across the EM complex.
(2) Create site-specific or regional engagement plans at the local/regional level.
(3) Conduct an objective evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of the EM SSAB, with a focus on recruitment, appointment, representation, attendance, and member turnover.

- Question (Susan Coleman**,** Hanford): What is the status of the three GAO recommendations?
- Response: Ms. Snyder commented on the recommendation that relates specifically to the EM SSAB (3). A meeting was recently held to discuss the scope of this recommendation and what work could be completed within the current environment. Joceline Nahigian, EM Director for Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Programs, added that the program is working to be responsive to all GAO audits ongoing in the EM organization, although currently observing a pause for a response to the recommendations for a national engagement strategy (1) and site-specific engagement plans (2) while a government-wide review is conducted of all EM operations for effectiveness and for the streamlining of activities. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Board Business

Ms. Snyder explained that for the past several transitions for an incoming Assistant Secretary of EM (EM-1), the EM SSAB has sent a welcome letter to the new leader to ensure that the person is aware of what the Board does and its importance. As such, PAD CAB provided a draft of a welcome letter. Ms. Snyder continued that this letter does not require the same level of approval as a letter of advice or recommendation but is more administrative and could go forward without a vote from each of the boards at individual local meetings.

The President nominated Timothy Walsh from Colorado to serve in the role of EM-1. His nomination has been received in the Senate and the next step is joint approval from the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Natural Resources. A timeline for the appointment for EM-1 has not been set, although it could happen soon. During the meeting, the chairs and the vice-chairs reviewed the welcome letter and revised the language until it met everyone's approval. The HQ EM SSAB office will submit the welcome letter to EM-1 upon confirmation and appointment by the President.

Wrap Up

Each attendee shared their thanks and thoughts regarding the meeting. Ms. Snyder adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.