



*Hanford Advisory Board  
Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board  
Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
Paducah Citizens Advisory Board  
Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board*

October 29, 2025

Mr. Timothy J. Walsh  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Walsh:

The eight local boards that comprise the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB or Board) welcome you to your new position as Assistant Secretary for EM. For more than 30 years, the EM SSAB has had a positive, collaborative working relationship with the DOE on site-specific and national levels. We look forward to continuing our positive relationship as the EM program demonstrates successful cleanup strategies for future land use and stewardship of each site.

Each local board provides advice on clean-up activities and environmental restoration; waste and nuclear materials management and disposition; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship. The Board may also be asked to provide advice and recommendations on any EM program components, such as risk assessments, communications, and funding priorities. We are committed to providing DOE EM with clear, concise advice that reflects the values of the communities we represent. All eight sites that have boards have legal requirements/agreements in place that require public participation. DOE has consistently used the presence and functioning of the EM SSAB to fulfill many of the requirements outlined in NEPA, CERCLA, RCRA, Federal Facility Agreements, Consent Orders, Consent Decrees, and Settlement Agreements. We are a sounding board for the public policy necessary to support sustainable remediation decisions, foster understanding and trust, and produce cost-effective cleanup actions.

We encourage DOE to continue aggressively remediating historic nuclear defense technology development, production and testing locations and requesting sufficient funding from Congress to achieve these functions:

- Protect worker health and safety.
- Protect groundwater and stop further groundwater contamination.

- Protect the environment – do no harm while performing a structured and robust cleanup.
- Continue public participation commitments.
- Seek accelerated funding to gain efficiencies.
- Maintain the integrity of the state regulatory agreements.
- Develop and deploy new technology, without impeding cleanup.
- Incorporate long-term stewardship needs in current and future cleanup decisions.
- Maintain and continue to pursue a trained and competent workforce to accomplish cleanup activities.

We, the members of the EM SSAB, firmly believe that public involvement and community investment are critical elements in achieving successful DOE EM site cleanup. We encourage you to continue DOE's strong commitment to transparency and providing opportunities for communities to participate actively in cleanup activities and future land use decisions. The ongoing exchange of ideas and values through the EM SSAB has had a positive impact on both DOE and our communities for decades and should continue.

## Who We Are

The EM SSAB is DOE EM's most effective vehicle for fostering two-way communication between DOE EM and the communities it serves. The EM program is the world's most extensive environmental cleanup program, and the EM SSAB is the primary mechanism for public participation and is required as part of several environmental regulations. For more than 30 years, the volunteer members of the EM SSAB have partnered with EM officials at both the local and national levels to ensure that the public has a meaningful voice in cleanup decisions.

Public participation is a good business practice that results in better decisions that often improve cleanup. Over the past three decades, EM SSAB members have submitted more than 1,825 recommendations to EM officials, 84% of which have been fully or partially implemented, resulting in improved cleanup decisions.

The EM SSAB is comprised of approximately 200 volunteers from communities near the following DOE sites: Hanford in Washington State, Idaho, Northern New Mexico, Nevada, Oak Ridge in Tennessee, Paducah in Kentucky, Portsmouth in Ohio, and Savannah River in South Carolina. The Board is cumulatively representative of a stakeholder population totaling millions of people affected by cleanup sites, transportation routes, and disposal sites. As we move forward, the EM SSAB welcomes the opportunity to highlight the value of this unique community board and discuss its priorities during the months and years ahead.



Susan Coleman, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board



Robert Skinner, Chair  
Idaho Cleanup Project CAB



Mark Hilton, Chair  
Nevada SSAB



Beverly Martin, Chair  
Northern New Mexico CAB



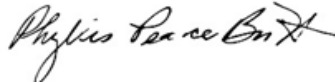
Amy Jones, Chair  
Oak Ridge SSAB



Benjamin Stinnett, Chair  
Paducah CAB



Donna Carson, Chair  
Portsmouth SSAB



Phyllis Britt, Chair  
Savannah River Site CAB

cc: Kelly Snyder, Designated Federal Officer, EM-2.33