



A Community Based Advisory Board Chartered by the Department of Energy

Local Chapters:

Hanford · Idaho · Nevada · Northern New Mexico · Oak Ridge · Paducah · Portsmouth · Savannah River

August 31, 2026

Mr. Timothy Walsh
Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Walsh:

During the April 29, 2026, Spring Chairs meeting, the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) received a presentation about the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management's (DOE-EM) Reuse and Recycle Community of Practice (RR CoP). The RR CoP endeavors to collaborate between interested program offices and sites to reduce costs by facilitating the reuse and recycling of excess materials and equipment across the DOE complex.

Each DOE-EM site has its own unique mission, timeline, and budget. These sites may overlook collaboration when immediate material needs arise. The RR CoP aims to bridge this gap by providing a way for the sites to prioritize reuse and recycling among themselves.

The EM SSAB Chairs understand that the RR CoP was informally chartered in 2023 and is relatively new. It is encouraging to see how DOE-EM Office of Infrastructure and D&D is integrating current site activities to ensure the reuse of federal assets across the DOE complex. This effort may ultimately reduce expenses to procure equipment and materials. The EM SSAB Chairs commend DOE-EM's efforts to save taxpayer dollars through the integration of RR CoP.

The EM SSAB Chairs support the RR CoP initiative and recommend that DOE-EM continue to foster the integration of this practice across the complex by increasing the number of sites involved with the goal of improving communication and awareness.

Who We Are

The EM SSAB is the DOE-EM's most effective vehicle for fostering two-way communication between DOE-EM and the communities it serves. The EM program is the world's largest environmental cleanup program, and the EM SSAB is its only citizen advisory board. For more than 30 years, the volunteer citizens of the EM SSAB have partnered with EM officials at both the local and national levels to ensure that the public has a meaningful voice in cleanup decisions.

Public participation is required/recommended as part of a number of environmental regulations. It is also good business practice, resulting in better decisions that often result in improved cleanup. Over the past three decades, EM SSAB members have volunteered over 50,000 hours of their time and submitted to EM officials over 1,825 recommendations, of which 84% have been fully or partially implemented, resulting in improved cleanup decisions.

The EM SSAB comprises approximately 160 people from communities in Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington. The Board is cumulatively representative of a stakeholder population totaling millions of people who are affected by generator sites, transportation routes and disposal sites. As we move forward, the EM SSAB welcomes the opportunity to highlight the value of this unique volunteer board and discuss its priorities during the months and years ahead.



Susan Coleman, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board



Robert Skinner, Chair
Idaho Cleanup Project CAB



Mark Hilton, Chair
Nevada SSAB



Kris Bartholomew, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB



Benjamin Stinnett, Chair
Paducah CAB



Donna Carson, Chair
Portsmouth SSAB



Deborah Creech, Chair
Savannah River Site CAB

cc: Kelly Snyder, Designated Federal Officer, EM-2.33
Shannon Chester, DOE EM, EM-4.11