

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford
Oak Ridge

Idaho
Paducah

Nevada
Portsmouth

Northern New Mexico
Savannah River

September 30, 2014

Mark Whitney
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Whitney:

Background

The Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs note the examples below that illustrate some of the positive benefits resulting from EM remediation efforts such as:

- Fernald, Ohio, where an operational uranium enrichment plant has been deconstructed and the area reconstituted as parkland;
- Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where the East Tennessee Technology Park now occupies the area previously dominated by the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant;
- Rocky Flats, Colorado, where a nuclear weapons production facility has been replaced by flourishing rangeland and now serves as a wildlife refuge; and
- Hanford in Washington State, where the B Reactor Preservation Project has been completed and is under consideration for national historic preservation.

In every case of EM site remediation, the environmental recovery constitutes a powerful example of how the joint efforts of the Department of Energy (DOE) and community leaders have resulted in a return to the local community and to society of areas or facilities previously exposed to and/or contaminated by nuclear activities.

Recommendation

With full recognition of the presence and value of formal public relations and outreach programs within each DOE facility, and building upon these capabilities, the EM SSAB Chairs recommend that DOE:

- Sponsor an independent examination of the remediation efforts of DOE EM, with the intent of producing video clips and/or lengthier documentaries suitable for

public viewing through a variety of platforms and for academic/scholastic purposes.

- Engage the various EM sites in developing and producing such materials (and referencing those that already exist), so that local resources (e.g. local television organizations and academic science programs) may make use of these materials to address local issues and specific concerns.

Such communication tools would help DOE EM to further capitalize on the presentation of past and emerging EM sites to inform the public about cleanup activities at former nuclear sites to maintain and improve support for environmental cleanup.



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Idaho National Laboratory
Site EM Citizens Advisory
Board



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Marolyn Parson, Chair
Savannah River Site
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cc: Kristen Ellis, EM-3.2
Dave Borak, EM-3.2