

EM SSAB Chairs
Recommendation to the Department of Energy
Recommendation Regarding Site-Specific Advisory Board Involvement in Enhancing
Stakeholder/Public Engagement

Background

The Environmental Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) understands that successful completion of the DOE-EM mission must include community, public and stakeholder education and engagement. This engagement can be developed and implemented in any of several different forms that reflect the public interest in; stage of cleanup combined with the complexity and uniqueness of each of the cleanup sites managed by DOE-EM.

Because of the variety of sites and different cleanup schedules, we are presenting a suite of potential activities that can be implemented at varying levels at each of the sites but are applicable to all in some form. Individual site-specific advisory boards are in the perfect position to help develop and recommend implementation strategies on each of these activities. Advisory board involvement would help the site enhance its outreach by providing advice related to specific targeted areas based on feedback from actual communities and individuals who live near or are potentially impacted by site activities.

Potential Activities:

- Site managers and/or designees should work with their advisory board to determine the additional needs for public information exchange and opportunities for engagement. Specifically, this can be done using a Community Analysis or previously collected data from public meeting attendance, outreach efforts, etc. To determine the level of public interest, these activities may include a far reaching individual regional community analysis; polling selected public interest groups; polling advisory board members, etc. Include the site specific advisory board in developing questions for the community analysis if that method of obtaining information is chosen. Advisory Board members could provide specific recommendations to the site manager related to improving outreach efforts in particular affected communities.
- Prepare a one-page or three-fold handout of their site's information sources listed – with videos, speakers, topics, websites, tour information, etc. Send it to each applicable Chamber of Commerce with a request to further provide to local civic and service organizations, churches, veterans groups, senior centers and libraries with a suggested transmittal letter.
- Develop a virtual reality tour that includes clear, in-depth information that will help the public understand the depth and breadth of cleanup decisions and activities. Provide this to the public and local and regional educational institutions.
- Enhance educational outreach:
 - Develop a site-specific program educational exhibit booth(s) with handouts and educational tools that assist educators (from elementary school level through college) with the history and legacy of the site.

- Coordinate with local and regional school districts and college departments that teach environmental science to develop a relationship and inform them about the environmental educational sources and include a site tour for educators.
- Develop displays (could be 3D) located in public and educational libraries that provide in-depth information on one or more site subjects; i.e. upcoming cleanup decisions soliciting public comment; site successes/challenges, transportation routes; identifying websites for more info, etc. These should be updated regularly/quarterly – especially for time-sensitive information.

Recommendation

We recommend that the individual site managers/designees and their advisory boards work together to discuss and determine which activities best suit their circumstances and respond to public needs. The detail, depth, and implementation plan should result from this collaborative effort.

References

1. ***“Recommendation for Approval of Community Analysis Plan” Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board, January 17, 2018.***
https://www.nnss.gov/nssab/docs/Recommendations/R_FY18/NSSAB%20Recommendation%20for%20Approval%20of%20Community%20Analysis%20Plan%20FINAL%2001-17-18.pdf