

Citizens Advisory Board Committee Minutes



Committee: Clean/Close RWMC

Date: December 8, 2005 – 3:00 p.m. (MT)

Participants

Board Members: David Kipping, Chair

Willie Preacher

DOE-ID: Jeff Perry

Mary Willcox

Shannon Brennan

Support Staff: Lisa Aldrich

Lori Isenberg

Objective (s) for the Committee Call:

- Plan for presentations and facilitated discussions focused on the theme of the meeting “Cleanup and Closure of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC)” composed of topics including
 1. Status of the 6,000 cubic meter project
 2. Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project and the status of the contract to operate that facility
 3. Path forward for disposition of remote-handled transuranic waste
 4. Plans for development of documents (prepared in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) and related public involvement activities to support cleanup decisions related to the rest of the waste buried in the Subsurface Disposal Area (SDA) cleanup
 5. The Public Involvement Plan for the Comprehensive Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for Waste Area Group 7 (Radioactive Waste Management Complex) **(if the document is available to the public prior to the January meeting)**
 6. DOE’s proposed approach for ongoing management of low-level waste currently being disposed in the SDA
 7. The Alternatives to Incineration Project Plan, **(if the document is available to the public prior to the January meeting)**
- Review the Public Involvement Plan for the Comprehensive Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study for Waste Area Group 7 **(if the document is available)** and determine whether the CAB should develop a recommendation providing comments on the document
- Review the Alternatives to Incineration Project Plan **(if the document is available)** and determine whether the CAB should develop a recommendation providing comments on the document

Status Reports

None of the above-mentioned documents will be available by the January meeting.

Public Involvement Plan for the Comprehensive Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (WAG 7)

Jeff Perry (DOE-ID) requests that the CAB provide advice specific to stakeholder value statement (currently being prepared) in the January meeting. He proposes to present a 5 minute overview and then break out into three groups (perhaps with three facilitators) to brainstorm three to four questions. Similar to:

- How can DOE build a better relationship/trust with the public?
- How can DOE engage the public in the decision-making process?
- How can DOE be more effective with stakeholder involvement with the public?

The three breakout sessions will discuss each of the questions for approximately 10 minutes for a total of 40 minutes. Then the CAB will reconvene to report on each breakout session and to discuss the results. Plan to use 1 to 1 ½ hours total on the January agenda.

Perry suggested that this session be held in the afternoon (maybe on Wed) and the committee generally agreed with that.

The CAB requested DOE to provide feedback at the March meeting on how DOE interprets and uses their advice generated from these discussions.

Meeting Theme

The theme for the January meeting is Cleanup and Closure of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (see numbered objectives above):

- 1) Status of the 6,000 cubic meter project. Interested in knowing what is involved, where they are at, how the project is organized, stand down, progress, facility, how it is managed, shipping rates, lessons learned, the next milestone. It is anticipated that the presentation by DOE will take about 45 minutes, not counting Q &A, regulator reactions, etc.
- 2) Status of the AMWTP contract and operations. Due to the contract negotiations currently ongoing, it is anticipated that there is not much that DOE can say about this at the January meeting. This does not need to be a stand-alone presentation, but should be rolled into the presentation on the 6,000 meter project.
- 3) Path forward for disposition of remote-handled transuranic waste. The CAB has recently (September and November) received presentations on this topic. Status and any new information should be presented by Rick Provencher in his Environmental Management status report.
- 4A) Status, plan, and execution of excavation for buried waste. Jeff Perry will discuss the current status of Pit 4 and Pit 6, details of the excavation, lessons learned, and the path forward. This presentation will take about 30 minutes.
- 4B) Drum fire details and plan. Brian Anderson will discuss the drum fire and explosion at Pit 4, the shut down of operations, the ongoing analysis, and path forward. This presentation will take about 30 minutes. According to Shannon Brennan, the document describing this incident will not be available in the January time-frame.
- 5) Ongoing management of low-level waste. This agenda topic was inadvertently skipped during the call.

Discussion of the regulatory process for the excavation of buried waste. DOE is not prepared to discuss the details of this process at the January meeting. The CAB would like this to be a separate agenda item for CAB discussion. In particular, the CAB would like to discuss possible regulatory approaches: a separate Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for each remaining excavation, an integrated EE/CA for all remaining excavations, or a phased Record of Decision for all remaining excavations. No time was proposed for this discussion. Kipping offered to lead off the discussion.

Actions

- Jeff Perry to propose to DOE-ID Management that the CAB discuss and give thoughts on the different ways of integrating the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis and the regulatory process
- Portage staff to work out logistics for the three-group split for the January meeting (including flip charts).
- Shannon Brennan to work out placeholders for the agenda regarding the 6,000 cubic meter project and the other presentations: status of Pit 4 and 6 excavations, and drum fire presentation.
- Portage staff to develop and distribute committee conference call minutes.