

Topics:

- White Metal Box Corrective Action Plan
- Nevada Test Site Intermodal Transport Study

Attendees:

CAB members:	Marvin Clawson
	Lisa Crawford
	Doug Sarno
	Bob Tabor
	Gene Willeke
DOE:	Dave Rast
Fluor Daniel Fernald:	Tisha Patton
	Keith Sparks

Results:

- Graphic outlining the future events of the Corrective Action Plan
- Letter to DOE concerning intermodal transport to NTS, the WCS Injunction, and the Nuclear Materials Disposition
- Future briefing on waste disposal issues for politicians

Meeting Summary:

Corrective Action Plan

The Corrective Action Plan has three drivers, one of which is the root cause analysis determined from the Type B Investigation. The overall plan actually encompasses two basic plans: 16 actions that need to be performed by DOE-Fernald and 50 actions that need to be performed by Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF). Some of these actions are small and independent, but others can be grouped together under an umbrella action. There are basically five groups of umbrella actions: waste container integrity, waste characterization, waste program oversight, and waste shipping support teams. In order to resume shipping, all five groups of actions need to be completed. The waste container failure is what actually led to the suspension of shipments to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). In order to correct this failure, specific engineering evaluations are being performed on the boxes. FDF is also evaluating its storage areas and alternative storage options. All of these measures will result in a new systems engineering approach to the procurement of waste containers. The problems with waste characterization go hand-in-hand with the problems with the waste container integrity. Currently, FDF is testing the waste using a variety of absorbants. Most absorbants will not work when they are vibrated and put through a freeze/thaw cycle. Thus, FDF may need to consider other stabilization/treatment options to remove moisture from the waste. Lisa Crawford was under the impression that NTS would not accept material with more than a 5% moisture content. NTS does not have a moisture content requirement but there must not be more than 1% free liquid by volume. FDF hopes to lower the moisture content of this material from 60-70% to about 25%. FDF may be able to ship dry waste in June or July since the moisture content issue is not relevant with these wastes. DOE is increasing its oversight of the waste disposal process. Quality Assurance personnel will have a more autonomous role. FDF will revamp its procedures and retrain personnel to work in this new system. DOE has an effective emergency response team, but, since there were no radio-nuclides released the incident in Kingman, AZ, there was not an emergency. Thus, the incident was the responsibility of the trucking company and the shipper. Lisa was concerned that the drivers do not know what kind of material they are transporting. Drivers are notified and provided

with the necessary paperwork. Lisa also wanted it made clear at the Monthly Progress Briefing that the incident was not considered an emergency.

The Corrective Action Plan has been approved by DOE-Fernald and the Ohio Field Office. The plan is now at DOE Headquarters and must be signed by Acting Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management Owendorf. DOE Headquarters approval is necessary because former Assistant Secretary Alm had issued the letter that stopped all waste shipments from Fernald. After the plan is signed, DOE-Nevada will need to perform an audit and give approval to resume shipping wastes. Doug suggested that the committee write a letter if shipments are not resumed by the May meeting and requested a visual outlining the future events for the plan. Gene Willeke agreed with Doug's ideas.

Lisa was concerned about the fate of the remaining CGR white metal boxes that cannot be used for shipment. FDF has approximately 500 of them and is looking for ways to reuse them. Lisa felt that CGR should take enough responsibility to recall those boxes that have not been used.

Intermodal Transport Study

Currently DOE is in the process of developing an environmental impact assessment for intermodal transport to Nevada. However, DOE-Nevada will not issue such an assessment until the Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement is issued. Thus, at the present time, there is no chance of intermodal transport. Also, many towns in the southwest including North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Flagstaff, and Yellow Springs have passed ordinances preventing the transport of radioactive waste through their communities. Lisa had heard that Caliente, NV, was in favor of using the town as an intermodal transfer station. Unfortunately, Caliente currently does not have the facilities and would need to have new track laid. Transportation to Caliente would also require that the waste go through tribal lands, which presents a problem. Lisa feels that all of Nevada is on "red alert" because Yucca Mountain is about to open and high level waste will be transported into the state. Gene feels that problems with Nevada and the WCS injunction necessitate that DOE consider alternative waste disposal plans. DOE has been looking at a complex wide contingency plan that considers Hanford as a viable disposal option. The committee felt that someone familiar with this complex wide plan should attend a future CAB meeting. Doug suggested that they write a letter to the Ohio Field Office asking that they consider alternative options for waste disposal. The committee also felt that this issue should also be brought before local, state, and federal politicians and they suggested having a briefing for them. Bob Tabor felt this briefing should be held before July when Glenn leaves office.

Gene also felt the committee should make it clear to DOE that it wants the nuclear material on site moved or declared waste. He asked if DOE has considered moving the nuclear material to an interim site until it can be sold. DOE has not considered such an option. This issue was added to the letter to Leah Dever. A draft of this letter will be presented to the full Board at the May 16th meeting.

Tisha Patton provided the committee with an update of the WCS injunction. WCS has tried to get a supplemental injunction to stop DOE waste from being disposed through the Corps of Engineers. The court has put this matter on hold pending the outcome of the appeal on the first injunction. The Amicus Brief written by the states in support of DOE's position has been denied by the court. The reason for the denial is unknown. Tisha also provided the committee with a written update on the Silos Project.



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