

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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**Hanford**  
**Oak Ridge**

**Idaho**  
**Paducah**

**Nevada**  
**Portsmouth**

**Northern New Mexico**  
**Savannah River**

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March 4, 2014

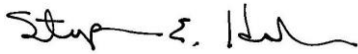
David Huizenga  
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Senior Advisor Huizenga:

The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) recommends that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) develop and make available to the public graphic representations of the current and planned EM legacy waste disposition paths. Some years ago the DOE created such maps in conjunction with the League of Women Voters and they were presented at two national Waste Disposition workshops. The maps were accompanied by large 3D displays using the map of the U.S. as the base, overlaid by stacks of colored plastic boxes representing types and relative quantities of nuclear waste that were placed in the locations where the waste would be generated or interim stored with an arrow stretched from that location to the final disposal site with dates for disposal inside the arrows. The 3D visuals were profound and easily understood, and paper, color-coded graphics were provided to the participants in the workshop to keep.

The EMSSAB requests that DOE resurrect or re-create these “disposition maps” and make them publicly available online. We realize that for security reasons certain wastes can’t be quantified but that is a small portion of the waste to be disposed. These maps would be incredibly beneficial to the EMSSAB and would increase the public’s ability to understand the waste types, quantities and plans for disposal so they can become more informed as opportunities for public engagement in decisions of waste disposal arise.

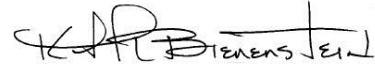
The EMSSAB volunteers to work with the DOE-EM on the development and/or updating of the maps and could be the first public reviewers of the graphics to help ensure the maps are easily understood by the public.



Steve Hudson, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board



Herb Bohrer, Chair  
Idaho National Laboratory  
Site EM Citizens Advisory  
Board



Kathleen Bienenstein, Chair  
Nevada SSAB



Carlos Valdez, Chair  
Northern New Mexico  
Citizens' Advisory Board



David Hemelright, Chair  
Oak Ridge SSAB



Ben Peterson, Chair  
Paducah Citizens  
Advisory Board



William Henderson, Chair  
Portsmouth SSAB



Marolyn Parson  
Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Candice Trummell, EM-3.2  
Dave Borak, EM-3.2



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 24, 2014

Dr. Marolyn J. Parson  
Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Dr. Parson:

Thank you for your March 4 letter recommending the Department of Energy (DOE) make publically available disposition path maps for the current and planned legacy disposition paths.

At the November 5, 2013, meeting, you were briefed by Ms. Christine Gelles, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, on the Department's tool for low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste planning. Florida International University Applied Research Center maintains the tool, called the Waste Information Management System (WIMS). WIMS identifies waste forecasts volumes, material classes, and disposition pathways. The system also enables waste managers to identify potential choke points and barriers to final disposition. The system generates waste disposition maps and pathway geographic information system maps. We believe this is an effective tool to track low-level and mixed low-level waste disposition. WIMS is publically accessible by creating a user name and password. Please visit <http://www.emwims.org/> to register and use WIMS.

While similar systems do not exist for transuranic and high-level waste disposition, the programs and strategies for these waste streams involve fewer variables. As you know, all defense-related transuranic waste is designated for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The disposition path for non-defense wastes is a matter pending ongoing National Environmental Policy Act review. While a small percentage of defense contact-handled transuranic waste may be shipped to an interim site for processing or certification prior to disposal at WIPP, these decisions are made based on a dynamic set of technical and financial factors. While a publically accessible interactive system is not needed to plan and communicate transuranic waste disposition plans, the Office of Environmental Management (EM) does have numerous informative maps that summarize and explain DOE's national transuranic waste program.


For high-level waste, only Idaho, Savannah River, and the Office of River Protection possess DOE-owned high-level waste. In the absence of a designated geological repository, interim storage at these sites is planned for the foreseeable future. Similar to transuranic waste, EM has summary, informational maps that detail the current high-level waste inventories at these sites.



Management and staff from EM Office of Waste Management are happy to discuss the capability of WIMS and other communication and planning tools with you and assist in generating reports that meet your needs. We look forward to a dialogue with you about ways EM might more effectively communicate our challenges and accomplishments regarding the disposition of legacy wastes.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Kristen Ellis, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Community Activities, at (202) 586-5810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Huizenga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Huizenga".

David Huizenga  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Environmental Management

cc: James Owendoff, EM-2 (Acting)  
Jack Craig, EM-2.1 (Acting)  
Candice Trummell, EM-3  
Kristen Ellis, EM-3.2  
Frank Marcinowski, EM-30