

Environmental Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2004

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Environmental Steering Committee (ESC) was called to order at 1:05 pm (EST) on May 20, 2004 by James Biasco, Chair.

Present:

Steve Aoyama

James Biasco, Chair

Dan Carpenter

Roger DeRoos

Matthew Dixon

Gary Gefroh

Ken Harper

Gary McFarland

Peter Nachod, coordinator

NOTE: voting members are shown in bold type.

A. New Business

Membership

- Several Committee members will be retiring in the next year or two; several others have been members of the ESC for longer than 5 years.
- Current composition of the ESC does not conform with the Guidelines for the Environmental Remediation Funds Steering Committee (Technical Handbook Chapter 75-2) for minimum program representation, term limits and terms being staggered.
- **ACTION ITEM:** ESC Committee membership will be reviewed and a request to the facility managers and institutional health personnel will be made for nominations of new potential members.

Environmental Remediation Congressional Earmark Language

- FY 1993 Conference Report from the House specifically states *“The \$3 million increase above the budget request for maintenance and improvement projects should remain in the base for future budget requests and should be used to address potential environmental hazards, such as required asbestos removal at the old Sacaton hospital”*
- Language is pretty clear as the intent and use of this earmark.

- ESC Committee felt that with upcoming assessments being performed at each Area, their will most likely be a continuing need for this earmark and it shouldn't be pursued for other uses at this time.
- Energy projects cannot be supported from this function.

Funds Available

- Currently there is over \$6,000,000 in Environmental Remediation funds and approximately \$490,000 in Demolition funds available.

PSD Project Review and Prioritization

- A total of 12 Environmental Remediation and 6 Demolition projects were submitted, received and reviewed by the ESC.
- PSD Project Average scores ranged from 50.7 (Sisseton UST) to 19.3 (OK Area – CFC Replacement).
- Each PSD was reviewed by the ESC in detail.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC recommended funding the following Environmental Remediation Fund PSD proposals:
 - Aberdeen – Lower Brule H.C. Haz. Materials Remediation - \$45,000
 - Aberdeen – Sioux San Hospital Haz. Materials Remediation - \$200,000
 - Aberdeen – Sisseton UST – Tier II Assessment - \$59,000
 - Aberdeen – Wanblee H.C. Haz. Materials Remediation - \$145,000
 - Navajo – Kayenta building KY-10 Haz. Materials Remediation - \$100,000
 - Navajo – Rough Rock/Pinon Abatement - \$27,632
 - Phoenix – Whiteriver Hospital Asbestos Abatement - \$150,000
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC requested that clarification on the following Environmental Remediation Fund PSD proposals be provided by each respective Area:
 - Alaska – Y-K Regional Hospital – Asbestos Abatement - The ESC was not comfortable with the information being provided in this PSD. The ESC requested that Alaska Area provide clarification for the project in regards to the project details and funding for the Asbestos Remediation portion in specific. ESC was uncomfortable with the contract being for time and materials would rather see the contract at a set cost.
 - Albuquerque – AQ Indian Hospital Water Pipe Lead Abatement - The ESC felt that the cost was extremely high for a small segment of pipe which is not used. Perhaps this should be abandoned-in-place? ESC requested additional justification from the Albuquerque Area for the necessity of this project, subsequent testing reports and assessment.
 - Navajo – Old Shiprock Hospital bldg SR-2000 – The ESC recommended funding an assessment/survey instead of funding a complete remediation. The ESC felt that the environmental hazards need to be identified before an accurate cost of remediation could be made. The ESC requests additional clarification regarding the conditions of transfer of this building to the Tribe, the terms of the 638-contract between IHS and Tribe.

- Navajo – Tuba City HCC – The ESC felt that the estimate for the tile abatement was high. They request the Navajo Area to provide a detailed breakout of the cost estimate with a justification for the cost. The ESC unanimously agreed that funding should only be provided for the remediation portion of the project and not the flooring replacement portion of the project.
- Oklahoma – Area wide replacement of CFC equipment – The ESC felt this was an Energy project and not a remediation project. The ESC all agreed that this PSD was not eligible for remediation funds. They request the Oklahoma Area provide a further justification of why this PSD should receive environmental remediation funding.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC recommended funding the following Demolition Fund PSD proposals:
 - Aberdeen – Winnebago Medical Records Addition Demolition - \$5,000
 - Navajo – Rough Rock/Pinon Demolition - \$45,720
 - Phoenix – PIMC Trailer Demolition - \$40,000
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC requested that clarification on the following Demolition Fund PSD proposals be provided by each respective Area:
 - Navajo – Kayenta building KY-10 – The ESC felt that the estimate for demolition was high. They request additional information on the demolition estimate showing a more detailed breakout of cost.
 - Phoenix – Riverside Clinic – The ESC felt that the estimate for demolition was high. They request additional information on the demolition estimate showing a more detailed breakout of cost.
 - Tucson – Sells Hospital Quarters – The ESC questioned whether an assessment has been performed or not. They felt this is needed to ensure that there will be no issues or surprises once demolition is performed.

General

- The ESC agreed that the quality of the submitted documents with regards to the clarity of scope, cost, need, etc., was not to the level expected. There was some discussion on adding project information requirements so submitted project can be understood.
- The ESC will attempt to follow the Environmental Remediation Program Calendar as shown in Appendix A – Chapter 75.1 Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment & Remediation Activities Process of the Technical Handbook.

B. Agenda for Next Meeting

Items which will be addressed at the next Environmental Steering Committee meeting include:

- Membership – Follow-up on possible new members and terms as well as the existing membership makeup.
- Review each Area response to ESC request for clarification.
- Project Closeout documentation requirements for previously funded Environmental Remediation projects.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm (EST) by James Biasco. The ESC agreed to have the next general meeting at 1:00 pm (EST) on Thursday, June 24, 2004 via Conference Call. Peter Nachod will coordinate and send out meeting conference call agenda/dial-in information as well as all pertinent information which ESC members will need for the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Peter T. Nachod

Approved by: James R. Biasco