



U.S. Department Of Energy Site Specific Advisory Boards



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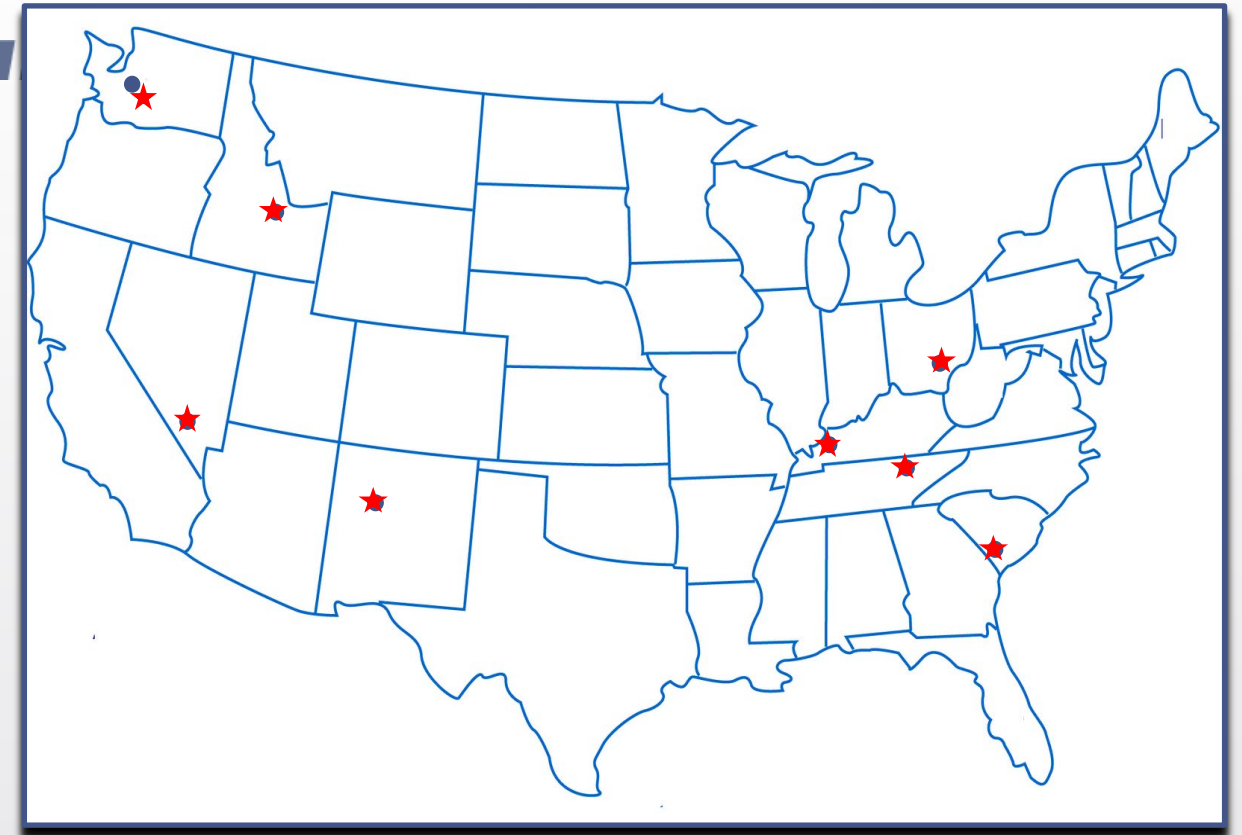


What is the EM SSAB?

Chartered in **1994** under FACA to involve local citizens more directly in DOE EM cleanup decisions

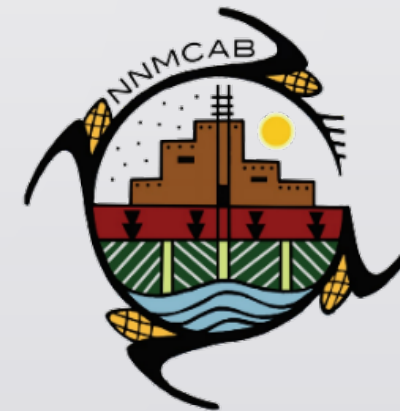
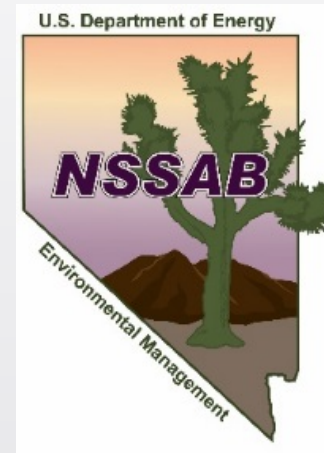
There is **one charter** for the EM SSAB – currently eight local boards organized under the EM SSAB umbrella charter

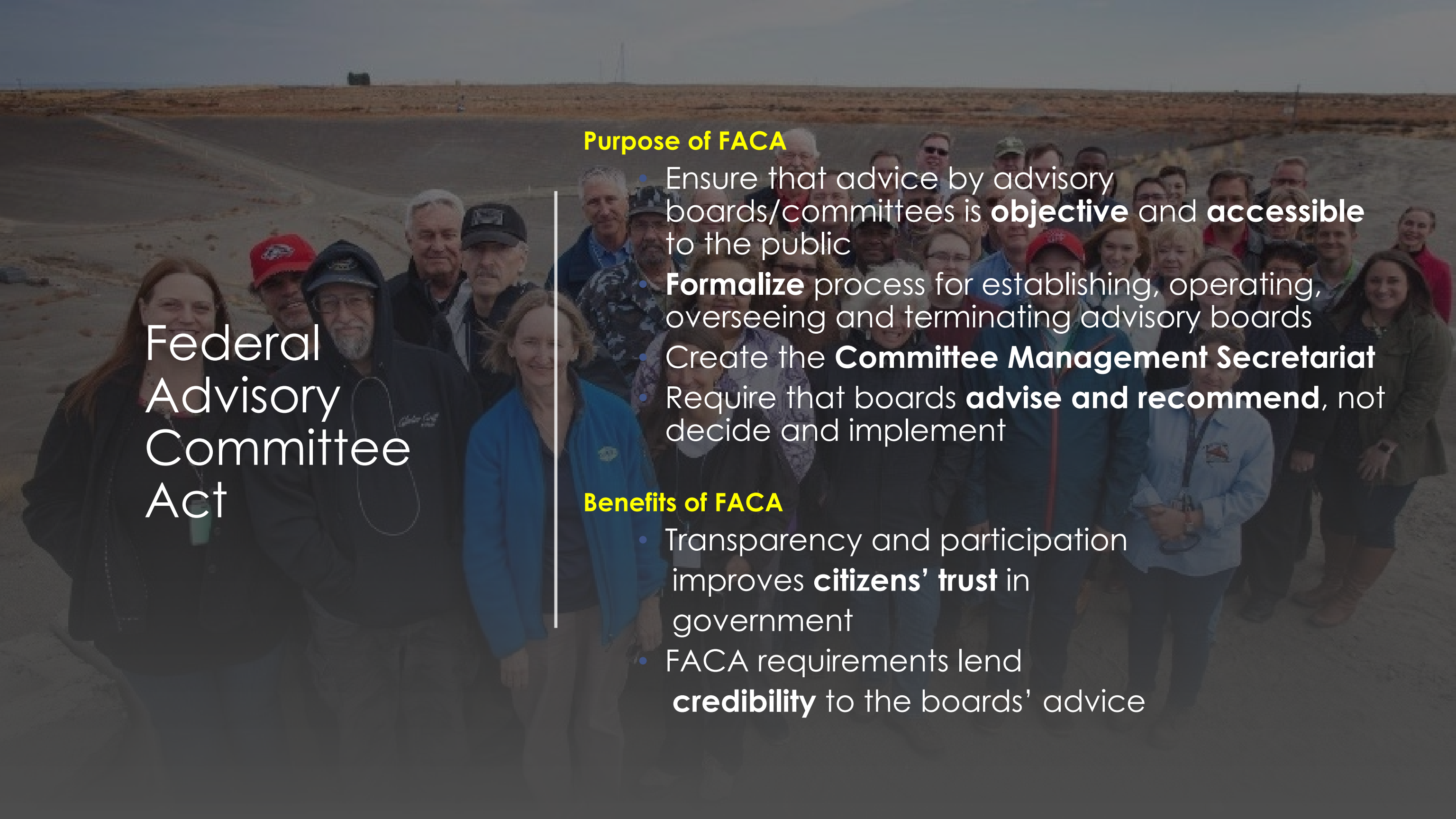
These eight local boards are brought together routinely at the EM SSAB **Chairs meetings**, where the EM SSAB is able to speak in one voice



- Made up of **representative** members, not necessarily experts
- Focus on **stakeholder values**
- DOE receives **independent input** and focuses on **transparency** to **build trust**

8 local advisory boards





Federal Advisory Committee Act

Purpose of FACA

- Ensure that advice by advisory boards/committees is **objective** and **accessible** to the public
- **Formalize** process for establishing, operating, overseeing and terminating advisory boards
- Create the **Committee Management Secretariat**
- Require that boards **advise and recommend**, not decide and implement

Benefits of FACA

- Transparency and participation improves **citizens' trust** in government
- FACA requirements lend **credibility** to the boards' advice

Roles and Responsibilities



DOE

- Keeping the Board **informed about key issues** and upcoming decisions
- **Requesting advice** well in advance of DOE deadlines
- **Considering and responding** in a timely manner to all Board recommendations
- Providing adequate funding for **administrative and technical support**

Local Board

- Submitting **advice and recommendations** to EM on site-specific issues
- Representing and communicating **the diversity of community views** in their discussions
- **Keeping the public informed** on key issues, upcoming decisions and board recommendations

Board Membership

- **Most Boards consist of 12-25 members**
- **2-year terms, totaling 6 years**
- **Defined Geographic radius**
- **Board Diversity/ demographics reflect recent census data: age, race, proximity, education, gender, etc.**
- **Noted Interests**

Community	Civic groups
Governmental (including Tribal Nations)	Labor
Environmental	Education
Public health	Local businesses
	Economic development





EM SSAB Scope

- At the request of the Assistant Secretary or the Field Managers, the Board may provide advice and recommendations concerning the following EM site-specific issues:
- **Clean-up Standards** and **Environmental Restoration**
- **Waste Management** and **Disposition**
- **Stabilization and Disposition** of Non-Stockpile Nuclear Materials
- **Future Land Use** and **Long-Term Stewardship**
- **Risk Assessment** and **Management**
- **Clean-up Science** and **Technology Activities**
- **Other EM projects or issues**, at the direction of the Assistant Secretary, Site Manager(s), and/or other designated DOE official(s)

What Makes an Advisory Board Successful?

- “The success [of an advisory committee] is linked to **a precise, unambiguous knowledge of objectives and purpose of the particular committee** (i.e., knowing exactly what needs to be accomplished and how to accomplish it)...and is **judged in terms of contributions toward decision making.**”

Advisory Committee Engagement Survey (ACES)
Best Practices Report
GSA/Gallup 2005




Highlights of Board Work

EM SSAB Chairs Charge #1 – Advisory Board and Site Outreach

Develop a best practices white paper that the Department could use as a guide to augment existing outreach programs and set expectations for future outreach activities

EM SSAB Chairs Charge #2 – SSAB Guiding Principles for DOE 10-Year Vision

Identify SSAB 10-year expectations and guiding principles that could be used as a complex-wide framework for DOE EM's interaction with stakeholders/communities



EM SSAB Chairs Charge #1 White Paper Best Practices

Advisory Board and Site Outreach

1. Develop an optimal design and platform for virtual/ hybrid meetings. Utilize social media to quickly disseminate important information to stakeholders.
2. Maintain efforts for in-person outreach including site tours and local museums and virtual museums
3. Seek to increase (1) the general public's awareness and understanding of DOE-EM activities and (2) actionable feedback from the general public. Share how public input has shaped cleanup decisions.
4. Utilize digital media outlets. Create videos, animations, and diagrams to engage the public
5. Educate/inform stakeholders on the purpose and responsibilities of the SSAB in each community
6. Facilitate and support cross-site sharing of activities and public outreach resources. Periodically review outreach efforts by recognized experts in the field of government public outreach



EM SSAB Chairs Charge #2 White Paper Best Practices

10 Year-Strategic Plan Development

1. Host **annual Strategic Vision meetings**, at each site, to share next iteration of programmatic goals
2. **Reduce jargon**, define terms and **explain how priorities are established**
3. **Utilize the SSAB's** experience and longevity to help facilitate public meeting design and details
4. **Intentional engagement of local SSABs** even in period of limited decision making
5. Embrace **institutional knowledge and transparency** in all aspects of cleanup
6. **Promote STEM program development** in schools and colleges with curriculum development including **curriculum for trade-focused students**
7. SSAB **membership should be reflective of local communities** (age, gender, education, proximity, race, and cultural diversity)
8. **In-person meetings should be prioritized**, with hybrid meetings as needed
9. Explain how **risk assessments affect priorities**. This will require public training efforts.



Secretary Jennifer
M. Granholm

- “Our Environmental Management Program has made incredible progress in these efforts at inclusion over its history and today there are advisory boards at eight of our cleanup sites which help DOE make the best decisions for Americans and the environment. These and other outreach and inclusive efforts have **led to safer and faster cleanup and stronger relationships** with the local communities and tribal nations. Now we’re going to go even further to make sure that **the benefits of these investments reach those who have been hit the hardest by the damage.** We’re going to **take this collaborative and inclusive approach to all of DOE’s missions.** We are going to learn from you.”

- Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm
 - U.S. Department of Energy
- Address to the Waste Management Symposium, March 11, 2021