

**WESTERN INTERSTATE ENERGY BOARD**  
**WORKPLAN**  
**July 2005 – June 2006**

**1. High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Committee**

State Regional Groups (SRG) will organize and staff a radioactive waste transportation committee composed of State/Governor's representatives of each member state. The committee and staff will facilitate communication, the timely flow of information, and provide a forum for the exchange of information, comments, and concerns from states regarding the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

The committee staff will solicit participation of other interested parties in the meetings, including other DOE programs, utilities, public service commissions, Native American officials and other non-governmental representatives as appropriate. Officials from DOE, including but not limited to the OCRWM Program Manager, and other federal agencies will be invited to participate in meetings as appropriate.

- 1.1 Staff to the Committee will organize, coordinate, facilitate, and direct the resources and activities necessary to fulfill this scope of work.
- 1.2 The Committees will meet at least twice each year. Meeting summary reports and a list of action items will be presented to the OCRWM Project Manager and circulated to members and other interested parties within 45 days after each meeting. Conference calls will also provide an opportunity for the members and staff to interact with each other and with OCRWM/DOE representatives.
- 1.3 The committee will establish subcommittees as necessary to complete work projects and to analyze specific transportation issues identified by the staff and committee members.
- 1.4 Committee members will communicate with staff and keep them apprised of developments regarding radioactive materials transportation within their own states, including the designation of alternative routes, introduction of legislation, promulgation of rules or regulations, and pertinent personnel changes.

**Deliverables:**

- A. Hold at least two Committee meetings per year
- B. Committee meeting notes and action items within 45 days of meetings
- C. Committee comments on DOE documents and initiatives, as well as on other transportation-related government initiatives

D. As necessary, meetings and/or conference calls with all four SRGs would be held with OCRWM staff to discuss major program issues of common interest

**Workplan:**

- The Committee will meet in the fall of 2005 and again in the spring of 2006.
- Draft meeting notes will be circulated shortly after a meeting and final meeting notes will be posted on the WIEB web site.
- Between meetings, the Committee will hold conference calls as needed to exchange information.
- The Committee will submit comments on documents relating to the implementation of Section 180(c), routing, and other materials as they become available.
- WIEB staff will hold regular (e.g., monthly) coordinating calls with the other regional groups and with OCRWM personnel as needed.

**Budget:** \$80,888

**2. Participation in other meetings:**

The Committee staff and states will participate in transportation-related DOE initiatives and activities as appropriate, including the Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG). The Committee shall nominate representatives to serve on any of the topic groups and to attend TEC or other DOE meetings. Staff is to disseminate information gathered at meetings to the larger Committee for review, comment and information in order to provide a coordinated view from the respective group.

- 2.1. The staff or a representative of the Committee will monitor the activities and attend meetings of other federal, state, regional, tribal, professional, and public interest groups involved in the transportation of radioactive materials.

**Deliverables:**

Trip reports within 45 days on other meetings attended by SRG staff or Committee members related to DOE/OCRWM transportation activities, with summary comments from Committee, if appropriate

**Workplan:**

- WIEB staff and several members of the HLW Committee will participate in the fall and spring meetings of the Transportation External Coordination Work Group. WIEB staff or Committee members will participate in all appropriate TEC/WG topic groups.

- WIEB staff or a member of the Committee will attend as many meetings of the other regional groups as feasible.
- WIEB staff or a member of the Committee will participate in meetings of related groups, such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, National Academy of Sciences, and others as needed.

**Budget:** \$21,598

### **3. Regional/State Transportation Routing**

Staff and Committee members will review and analyze potential routes for shipments from sites (DOE facilities, commercial power plants and other storage sites) in the respective region or traversing the region. This activity will require coordination with OCRWM and its contractors in order to develop a potential suite of routes to be considered for shipments. Each SRG will provide a list of state designated alternative highway routes to OCRWM to assist in the transportation planning process, as requested.

**Deliverables:**

- A. Update WIEB's *Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Primer*
- B. Comment on proposed routes

**Workplan:**

- Staff and the Committee will participate actively in the Routing Topic Group of the TEC/WG, to help address routing selection.
- Staff and the Committee will submit comments on proposed routes.
- Staff and the Committee will closely monitor activities by the other regions to identify suites of routes, and comment on how those routes affect routing choices in the West where waste shipments are funneled through a limited number of potential routes to Yucca Mountain.
- Staff and the Committee will update elements of the Transportation Primer, beginning with rail shipment issues.

**Budget:** \$29,578

### **4. States' Emergency Preparedness and Inspection Capabilities**

SRGs will create or use an already developed survey form to assess the constituent states' level of emergency preparedness, emergency response capabilities, and training and equipment needs for responding to OCRWM shipments. A similar survey would be conducted to determine rail/truck inspection capabilities and training/equipment needs. If

such surveys have already/recently been conducted, use the available information to perform the assessments.

**Deliverable:**

Staff and Committee input on the methodology to be used in assessing states' capabilities and needs without further burdening state and local emergency responders

**Workplan:**

- Staff will discuss with OCRWM the feasibility of using results from existing surveys, to include those directed by DHS/FEMA, to aid in determining needed levels of Section 180(c) funding without further burdening emergency responders.

**Budget:** \$9,060

**5. Implementation Approach for NWSA Section 180(c)**

Committee members will review and comment on proposed approaches for Section 180(c) implementation. Meetings and workshops will be convened to discuss consolidated comments from the states on emergency response and safe routine transportation issues. Other input and assistance will be provided to OCRWM as necessary.

**Deliverable:**

Committee reviews/input for OCRWM on Section 180(c) issues

**Workplan:**

- Staff and Committee representatives will participate actively in the TEC/WG 180(c) topic group, review all proposed 180(c) documents, and provide comments to OCRWM.
- Staff and Committee will provide formal comments on any *Federal Register* notices pertaining to Section 180(c).

**Budget:** \$20,532

**6. Transportation/Shipment Planning**

Committee members will participate with the committee staff in transportation planning activities related to the shipments. The committee staff and the committee members will work with OCRWM Project Manager to plan radioactive materials shipments through the respective region to the repository at Yucca Mountain. The committee staff and committee members from the potential transportation states will review and provide

comments on draft plans (e.g., transportation, communications, emergency management, and security) and public information materials; convene planning meetings; and observe shipments or preparations for shipments.

**Deliverables:**

- A. Committee input on OCRWM transportation/shipment planning issues
- B. Active participation by staff and Committee members in the TEC/WG, to include all relevant topic groups, in order to help identify all necessary elements for OCRWM's transportation plan
- C. Topical reports and comments on OCRWM documents, as determined by the staff and the Committee

**Workplan:**

- Staff and the Committee will refine the Committee's strategic plan, to prioritize the Committee's work to ensure that all planning activities for shipments are addressed in a systematic and timely manner that reflects the uncertainties in the NWPA transportation program.
- Topical reports will be prepared that reflect the Committee's priorities on planning activities given uncertainties in the development of the transportation program.

**Budget:** \$20,433

**7. Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual**

Committee staff will coordinate with DOE/OCRWM staff in the review and revision of the Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual (DOE M 460.2-1). Comments will be submitted on various issues, e.g. shipment prenotification, pre, en-route, and post inspection of rail shipments, tracking, safe parking, etc.

**Deliverable:**

*Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual* comments

**Workplan:**

Staff and Committee members will work closely with the other regions to identify recommended revisions to the *Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual*.

**Budget:** \$9,048

**8. Information and Communications**

Committee staff shall prepare and maintain a database of information to facilitate the exchange of information on transportation-related issues throughout the region and perform various information activities as part of the project.

- 8.1 Committee staff will maintain OCRWM program information on the regional group home page.
- 8.2 The Committee staff will prepare a Planning Guide (*or other term as defined by the SRG*) for use by the respective states for shipments of radioactive materials through the region and update the Guide every two years, or as needed.
- 8.3 The Committee and staff shall review and comment on various DOE public information products as appropriate or as determined by the committee and the OCRWM Project Manager.
- 8.4 The Committee and staff will produce information materials such as handbooks, brochures, articles, and other products for the purpose of informing elected officials, other government personnel, and the public in the respective region.
- 8.5 Committee staff will prepare and maintain a database of information on the states in their respective region. The following information will be housed in the database: state points of contact; laws, rules, and regulations; designated parking areas and alternative routes; key events and holidays; and other information, as appropriate.

**Deliverables:**

- A. Topical reports and development of appropriate regional transportation information material, as determined by the staff and the Committee
- B. Update the SRG web page, as needed

**Workplan:**

- The Committee and staff will review and comment on DOE public information products, as appropriate.
- The WIEB HLW Committee web page, with links to the OCRWM program and other sources of information, will be maintained and updated at <http://www.westgov.org/wieb/site/subpages/hlwpge/index.htm>.
- Updated elements of the Committee's transportation primer and strategic plan will be added to the web site. The information will be organized to enable the user to drill down on a desired topic as deeply as desired.

- The Committee will focus the production of materials on items that are presented on its web site. Any hard copy materials produced by the Committee will build on such materials developed by other regions.
- The web site will contain information on each state's law and regulations affecting transportation under the NWPA, and a current list of state contacts.

**Budget:** \$58,915

## **9. Special Projects**

The Committee shall develop and prioritize special projects. These projects may have regional significance and/or transferability to other regions. Special project proposals will be submitted to the OCRWM Project Manager for review and approval prior to award of funding. Other SRGs may participate in these projects depending on their level of interest, in order to exchange information.

### **9.1 Sandia Logistics Model Scoping Paper**

The Committee has carried over \$20,000 from a previous cooperative agreement between WIEB and OCRWM for the purpose of developing a scoping paper on the applicability of the Sandia logistics model to the Committee's effort to upgrade its strategic plan. The scoping paper will build on OCRWM's July 6, 2004 introductory web cast briefings on the Sandia (and Traxis) model. WIEB's Contractor is currently awaiting data from Sandia in order to complete this study.

**Budget:** \$20,000 (previously awarded)

### **9.2 Sandia Logistics Model Integration Project**

Assuming that the scoping paper on the Sandia model indicates the model has value in the Committee's strategic planning work, we would seek funds for a follow-up special to integrate the Sandia model's capabilities into the Committee's strategic plan, in order to better enable the Committee to address "what if" questions. This project has received verbal approval from OCRWM, but funding has not yet been awarded. Work on this project cannot begin until the scoping paper (9.1) is completed.

#### **Deliverables:**

To be determined, based on the results of the scoping paper

**Budget:** \$90,000

### 9.3 Needs Assessment Prototype Project

#### 9.3 Prototype Assessment Project

The purpose of this project would be to scope out how best to conduct route-specific assessments for NWPA shipments and undertake planning of activities necessary to prepare for shipments. Two Western corridor states – one urban and one rural – would be selected to conduct assessments along potential shipping routes. The goal of the assessments would be to determine what actions are needed to prepare for NWPA shipments, how best to implement those actions, and what level of funding will be needed to do so. The project would also determine how best to conduct a thorough assessment without overburdening state and local responders. Throughout the project, a task force of the HLW Committee would review the prototype states' efforts, and garner lessons learned to develop recommendations on the best way to conduct future assessments.

DOE has recently announced plans to conduct a 180(c) pilot project to determine the best way to implement Section 180(c). This project proposal is intended to dovetail with that pilot project.

#### **Deliverables:**

- A. Needs assessments from prototype states, including reports on how the assessments and planning activities were conducted and recommendations for future assessments
- B. Topical report from the Committee task force, detailing recommendations on how to apply lessons learned from the pilot project to overall NWPA transportation in the Western States

#### **Workplan:**

The HLW Committee would form a task force to monitor the work of the prototype states and would develop, in conjunction with the prototype states, recommendations on how future assessment work should be conducted. The Committee task force would be responsible for the following tasks:

- Select the prototype states and identify the routes on which the assessments will be conducted
- Review and comment on the prototype states' plans for conducting assessments, including observations on the applicability of the elements of the plans to conditions in other states and regions
- Monitor the prototype states' progress and provide assistance if needed
- Review the prototype states' experience and develop a report on how such an assessment process might apply in other states and regions

Two Western states would volunteer to be the prototype states to conduct assessments on potential shipping routes to Yucca Mountain. The prototype states would be responsible for the following tasks:

- Develop assessment plans, using whatever process they deem necessary within the available budget
- Conduct the assessments along the identified routes, and periodically report their progress to the HLW Committee task force
- Develop reports on how the assessments were conducted, strengths and weakness in the conduct of the assessments, and recommendations for improvements in future assessments

**Budget:** A detailed budget proposal will be developed. At present, a rough estimate of the cost of this special project would be \$200,000 per prototype state and \$75,000 for operation of the HLW Committee task force that would monitor and advise the prototype states.