1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman George Ross called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. from the Las Vegas location. The meeting was conducted via videoconference with locations in Las Vegas, at the Nevada Department of Transportation Building, 123 E. Washington Ave., Building B and in Carson City at the Nevada Department of Transportation Building, 1301 Old Hot Springs Rd., Main Training Room. #121

A. **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**
   - Vice-Chairman George Ross, Representative of petroleum refiners
   - Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
   - Maureen Tappan, Representative of the general public
   - Michael Cox, Representative of the independent retailers of petroleum
   - Wayne Seidel, Department of Motor Vehicles
   - Peter Mulvihill, State Fire Marshal

B. **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**
   - Chairman John Haycock, Representative of independent petroleum dealers

C. **OTHERS PRESENT**
   - Rose Marie Reynolds, State Attorney General’s Office – Las Vegas
   - Jeff Collins, Steve Fischenich, Valerie King, Victoria Joncas, Don Warner, Johnathan McRae, Sandi Gotta, Rex Heppe, Todd Croft, Christa Smaling, Chad Schoop – Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)
   - George Hagan – McGinley & Associates
   - George Goodspeed – Bently Enterprises LLC
   - Carlo Luri – Bently Enterprises LLC
   - Keith Stewart – Stewart Environmental Inc.
   - Brandon Reiff – Broadbent & Associates, Inc.
   - Stephanie Holst – Broadbent & Associates, Inc.
   - Scott Edwards – The Westmark Group
   - Eric Atman – High Desert Petroleum

2. **PUBLIC FORUM**

   There were no requests to speak.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   Mr. Seidel moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Cripps seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MINUTES**

Dr. Cripps stated there were two typos in the minutes. She identified them and Ms. King stated they would be corrected in the finalized minutes.

Ms. Tappan moved to approve the minutes with the changes. Mr. Mulvihill seconded the motion.

5. **STATUS OF THE FUND**

Ms. King reported on the status of the State of Nevada Petroleum Fund (Fund). The balance forward for fiscal year 2014 was approximately $7.5 million. Approximately $400,000 had been collected for storage tank enrollment. Approximately $3.4 million was collected from the ¾ cent per gallon fee. The total cumulative revenue was $11,318,952.71.

Ms. King stated the NDEP expenditures were approximately $863,000.00. She stated that value is more than normal because we are paying the contractor who is developing the Fund database. The reimbursement for claims was approximately $3 million.

Ms. King then reported the “Estimated Liabilities” are the projected expenditures. The anticipated transfer to the highway fund is $5 million. The transfer to NDEP is approximately $1.1 million and the transfer to DMV to administer the Petroleum fee is approximately $13,000. The estimated Remaining Obligations are just over $6.1 million. The actual funding available is the cumulative revenue minus the cumulative expenditures, resulting in $7,451,520.11.

6. **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EXISTING SITE SPECIFIC BOARD DETERMINATION. NDEP RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD IF IT SHOULD RECONSIDER AN EXISTING DETERMINATION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

A. Request for Reconsideration of Existing Site Specific Board Determination (SSBD)
   Village Shop #2, 4620 S. Boulder Hwy., Las Vegas, NV
   Petroleum Fund No. 2013000010, Facility ID No. 8-001827, SSBD No. 2013-01

   Mr. Fischenich presented this SSBD and recommended that the Board upholds its original decision to provide reduced coverage for the Village Shop #2 cleanup.

   **Mr. Fischenich stated the following:**

   On October 24, 2014, NDEP received, on behalf of Village Shop #2, a request for the Board to reconsider its decision to provide coverage with a 20% reduction (Attachment A in the Board Packet). The request provided subsequent groundwater monitoring data and referenced Resolution No. 2012-06 as justification to present this case to the Board. Resolution 2012-06 allowed NDEP to recommend that the Board hear an appeal of coverage if relevant new information is available or a Corrective Action Plan has been implemented for five years without any major compliance issues.

   He stated the site owned by Slots Unlimited Inc. and identified as Village Shop #2 is located at 4620 South Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, Nevada.
On December 21, 2012, NDEP received an Application for Coverage for a petroleum release that occurred in the piping from one underground storage tank system located at Village Shop #2. The application included groundwater monitoring data, which indicated a relatively low concentration of petroleum constituents. (Benzene at 258 ppb)

During the March 14, 2013 Board meeting, the Fund staff recommended a 40% reduction to the Board pursuant to Policy Resolution 94-023 for failure to investigate and confirm a release as required by federal regulations. Village Shop #2 did not investigate its suspected release for five months despite numerous letters from SNHD. During deliberation, the Board was made aware of the relatively low concentrations of petroleum constituents in groundwater. The Board decided to grant coverage with a reduction of 20% rather than the recommended 40% with a copayment of 10%.

The subsequent groundwater monitoring results provided for this Board meeting do not constitute new information associated with the release that would have changed NDEP’s original recommendation. Had NDEP been provided the subsequent monitoring data with the original application, the recommendation to the Board would have been identical, a 40% reduction. The violation which triggered the recommended reduction pursuant to Board Resolution 94-023 remains the same.

He stated there are three additional points. First, Resolution 94-23 states that delays in the remediation of contamination may not be proximate cause of a release but may still result in increased costs for site remediation. At the December 2012 Board meeting, Fund staff pointed out that the five month delay may have led to increased costs. Fund staff still believes that this is the case. He provided an example: If the operator responded timely and excavated the impacted soil prior to the gasoline migrating to groundwater, the groundwater investigation could have been eliminated, maybe saving the Fund over $40,000. However, we will never know if this could have happened because the owner was noncompliant.

The second point is that Resolution 94-23 is not set up to collect a onetime penalty for noncompliance, for example $100,000, which would unfairly hurt operators with small, low-dollar cost releases like this case. Instead, it is set up as a percentage, so a small release like that which occurred at Village Shop should pay a relatively smaller amount than an operator with a much larger release.

Finally, if the reduction is eliminated at this Board meeting, it will set a precedent which will encourage owners with reduced coverage to burden the Board with requests for reconsideration, despite the violation which triggered the reduction.

He stated there is a claim included for this case, and per Resolution 2012-06, any change enacted by the Board would start after this Board meeting.

He said that in conclusion, NDEP recommends the Board upholds its original determination made on March 14, 2013, continuing to provide coverage with a 20% reduction and a 10% co-payment. The Board does have the authority to eliminate, reduce, or even increase the reduction.

He then stated he was available to answer questions and informed the Board that Mr. Stewart was present in the Las Vegas venue.
Mr. Stewart, with Stewart Environmental, stated the following:

When he presented this case a year and a half ago, he made the statement that although there was a five month delay in investigation, once the release had been detected the fuel was immediately removed from the tank. It had been stated at that time the cleanup would be very minimal. In fact, it has become so minimal that it is essentially non-detect and would not require any remediation.

What he thinks is new information is the fact that the resolution presented to the Board at that time was based on the fact that it may cause additional remediation costs.

He read the following sentence from the minutes of the respective meeting, “the resolution states that the violation may cause an increase in the cost of cleanup, which is the case for this situation and is why NDEP is making a 40-percent coverage reduction recommendation.”

He stated that NDEP’s stance is that it could cause an increase in the cleanup cost. The irony of this project is that there will be no cleanup costs. The site will be in clean closure monitoring status because they are in the non-detect state, and they will be for some time. In four more quarters, they are going to have a clean closure. The delay has not caused any additional wells to be installed, any additional action, or any additional cost. He stated the other irony is the general statement made that you could excavate or clean one of these sites up but it is hard to do around active tanks and lines without having significant cost. Had Stewart Environmental gone out and done the assessment immediately, the contaminant actually would not have made it to the groundwater yet. It would have taken some time to get there. In fact, NDEP made that statement back in March of 2013 that it takes some time to migrate. They still would have put the wells in, monitored, and been in this same situation.

He stated that the irony of this specific project is, he thinks the cost will be less. The claimant is going to pay about $25,000.00 on a site that does not even meet the criteria to warrant remediation. The claimant is penalized even though they do not have to remediate. Maybe a 5% reduction would have been in order on this project. I believe there was a motion made during the March meeting for a zero reduction. Obviously that motion did not pass at the time.

Vice-Chairman Ross thanked Mr. Stewart and then asked if there were any comments or questions for Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Fischenich stated that perhaps the lack of compliance did not increase the actual cleanup cost. However, it may have increased the corrective action cost, which includes installing the wells, site characterization and laboratory testing; however, staff did not know because they were non-compliant. He cannot go back in history and say what would have happened. However, they do know what did happen. He stated that was the basis of NDEP’s recommendation.

Mr. Stewart stated that NDEP requested monitoring wells to be installed and assessed. The wells had to be installed, regardless, and there was some contamination which was delineated. He said they had non-detect wells surrounding it. All concentrations have reduced to below detection. So, the wells were required regardless, but they have not put in any additional wells since the original work.
Ms. King asked Mr. Croft if he would verify if that was correct. Had they not delayed five months in the investigation, would you have required the wells to be installed to characterize the site of the extent of the release?

Mr. Croft introduced himself as the supervisor in the Las Vegas office for Remediation and Leaking UST Branch. Mr. Croft recapped what Mr. Fischenich indicated, there is a lot that NDEP does not know. He said what NDEP can say here is that there are several things that are at work. The principle thing is that because of the delay, the contamination that did escape from the UST system was allowed to be present in the soil, migrate through the soil and get into the groundwater.

What did not occur, which routinely should occur in these situations, is with quick action, the impacted area should be sampled, properly assessed, and then in certain circumstances, excavated. None of that occurred here, so NDEP has no samples. Even months later when the piping system was replaced, the owner did not take the opportunity to collect soil samples from the source area, did not do any borings to estimate the extent and did not excavate. As a result, petroleum was left for an extended period of time and it did migrate to groundwater. As Mr. Fischenich indicated, it is difficult now to know exactly what NDEP would have done had actions occurred differently. It is quite possible that if the owner moved diligently and quickly and remediated the soil, that either the amount of groundwater investigation would have been smaller or non-existent. It is just too hard to know.

Mr. Croft stated that there are several programs at work. What this Board, through the different resolutions, has tried to do historically, was promote UST compliance. By having a compliant UST system and a compliant operator, corrective action costs are minimized.

Dr. Cripps stated she had questions for either staff or the Board members. She stated it seems that what this reduction was designed to do was to respond to the failure to investigate and confirm a release as required by federal regulations. The fact that there was not much contamination was not necessarily germane to the issue. She stated that the Board made that decision based on the fact that they did not comply and they did not investigate. She stated that she did not know if there would be a change in her position now because they failed to do what they were supposed to do pursuant to federal law.

Vice-Chairman Ross asked if there was any additional discussion.

Mr. Mulvihill stated he would like to contribute a comment. He stated he remembered the discussion, and the Board was actually very generous with the applicant by lowering the staff’s recommendation for a reduction from 40 percent to 20 percent. It was solely based on the failure to properly act and was not based on the scope of contamination. He stated he would not be inclined to change anything at this time.

Mr. Stewart stated they are fine with that. He stated it is like a modified resolution because NDEP made it specific to that case. What had them concerned and the reason it came back was because NDEP’s approach was that it would increase cleanup costs. The irony is there are no cleanup costs. There was a delay in assessment. He said they would be happy to withdraw the resolution and leave it at the 20 percent.
**Dr. Cripps** stated that it was also her understanding that under that resolution, it is the failure to investigate or confirm the release. It may or may not result in additional cleanup costs. The fact that the investigation was not done was really what the Board was making the decision on. It does not necessarily have to result in additional cleanup costs in order for that to apply.

**Vice-Chairman Ross** said Dr. Cripps hit the nail on the head. A lot of the Board’s work is to encourage responsible behavior. He stated that he was present during the creation of the program in 1989. He still finds it astounding that people do not take it seriously. Even if they do, they are willing to gamble a little bit. He stated that you never know which discharge is going to be bigger than this particular incident. He said he definitely agreed with Dr. Cripps.

**Vice-Chairman Ross** asked if they needed a motion because Mr. Stewart withdrew his request for reconsideration.

**Mr. Stewart** stated he withdrew the request for reconsideration.

**Ms. Reynolds** stated a motion was not necessary.

**Vice-Chairman Ross** stated the Agenda Item #6 was closed.
7. **ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board will review all items as a consent calendar item, unless the item is marked by an asterisk (*), or a member of the public wishes to speak in regards to the item.

A dagger (†) indicates previously disallowed monies have been appealed where the requested amount is less than the recommended amount.

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**STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS**  
**REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS – DECEMBER 18, 2014**

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**HEATING OIL SUB TOTAL:** $184,780.44 $177,349.07
### NEW CASES, OTHER PRODUCTS

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. 2013000003 7-Eleven, Inc.: 7-Eleven #25586
   - REQUESTED: $1,000.00
   - RECOMMENDED: $900.00

2. 2014000001 The Primadonna Company, LLC: Whiskey Pete's
   - REQUESTED: $154,264.92
   - RECOMMENDED: $94,117.55

3. † 2014000002 Chapmans Las Vegas Dodge: Chapman Dodge
   - REQUESTED: $0.00
   - RECOMMENDED: $20,238.49

4. 2014000026 7-Eleven, Inc.: 7-Eleven #26637
   - REQUESTED: $43,273.27
   - RECOMMENDED: $38,945.94

**NEW CASES, OTHER PRODUCTS SUB TOTAL:** $198,538.19 / $154,201.98

### ONGOING CASES/OTHER PRODUCTS

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. 1991000039 7-Eleven, Inc.: 7-Eleven #29643
   - REQUESTED: $22,356.15
   - RECOMMENDED: $22,356.15

2. 1993000102 Rebel Oil Company: Rebel #8
   - REQUESTED: $44,582.88
   - RECOMMENDED: $43,282.88

3. † 1993000103 Russell Yardley: Charlie Brown Construction
   - REQUESTED: $5,901.78
   - RECOMMENDED: $5,901.78

4. 1994000003 Allied Washoe: Allied Petroleum
   - REQUESTED: $8,158.85
   - RECOMMENDED: $8,158.85

5. 1994000004 Avis Rent A Car Systems: Avis Rent A Car
   - REQUESTED: $31,094.88
   - RECOMMENDED: $10,619.65

6. † 1994000113 Pilot Travel Centers, LLC: Former Unocal Truck Stop
   - REQUESTED: $27,161.96
   - RECOMMENDED: $27,193.94

   - REQUESTED: $6,140.56
   - RECOMMENDED: $6,140.56

8. † 1995000074 Redman Petroleum Corp.: Redman Petroleum
   - REQUESTED: $12,381.88
   - RECOMMENDED: $11,143.69

9. 1995000075 Ewing Brothers Facility: Ewing Brothers Facility
   - REQUESTED: $2,855.00
   - RECOMMENDED: $2,569.50

10. 1996000063 Wildlens Automotive Holdings: Frmr Allstate Rent A Car
    - REQUESTED: $93,705.01
    - RECOMMENDED: $84,334.51

11. 1996000064 Phillips 66 Company: Circle K #695
    - REQUESTED: $24,843.20
    - RECOMMENDED: $22,358.88

12. 1997000008 Ewing Brothers Facility: Ewing Brothers Facility
    - REQUESTED: $6,578.30
    - RECOMMENDED: $5,920.47

13. 1997000009 Estate of Robert Cowan: Former Lightning Lube
    - REQUESTED: $5,568.53
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Mr. Seidel moved for approval of the consent items, Heating Oil, 1 through 15, New Cases/Other Products, 1 through 4, Ongoing Cases/Other Products, 1 through 78. Ms. Tappan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

State Board to Review Claims, December 18, 2014, Page 10 of 12
Ms. King presented the Executive summary. She informed the Board that since the inception of the Fund, 1,472 applications have been received for reimbursement. Of those, 124 cases were denied coverage and a total of 1,096 cases have been closed. Nine applications are in pending status awaiting staff review or additional information. Forty-six cases have expired. There are currently 197 active remediation sites. The State Fiscal Year 2015 began on July 1, 2014, and since that time 14 new cases have been received by NDEP for evaluation of Fund coverage.

She stated that with today’s Board authorization, approximately $2.13 million has been reimbursed. The cumulative Fund expenditure is approximately $187.5 million. The invoicing for storage tank Fund enrollment for Federal fiscal year 2015, which runs from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, commenced mid-August, 2014. 1,395 facilities have been invoiced at $100 per storage tank system. As of December 10, 2014, 1,308 facilities, or approximately (~94%) have submitted the required fees.

She gave the Board a status update regarding the interactive database that was previously discussed during the September and December 2013 Board meetings. She stated the database contractor has been working since June of this year and is making great progress.

Ms. King then updated the Board about large oil companies who have, in other states, had discharges to the environment and used their private insurance to pay for the cleanup. Simultaneously, they accessed the state’s Petroleum Fund and received money from the Fund to cover the same cleanup costs. That is known as double-dipping. Some of these large oil companies have facilities in Nevada.

She stated that as a result, the Nevada Attorney General’s Office has contracted with outside counsel, Lewis Roca Rothgerber. This firm is willing to evaluate Nevada’s records to determine if double-dipping has occurred in Nevada, and if so, to what extent. Based upon the information they find, the AG’s Office will seek damages as appropriate. Ms. King stated that the contract with outside counsel will be implemented at no cost to the Fund.

Mr. Mulvihill asked how long the evaluation of Nevada’s records will take and when the Board will be provided the information.

Ms. King stated a kickoff meeting had taken place where they identified to NDEP what they will be looking for and an idea of the records they may be reviewing. They are going to start in late January or early February. She stated she did not know how long it would take.

Dr. Cripps said she does not think they are anticipating that it is going to take that long. She said Ms. King may be able to report something back at the next Board meeting.

Ms. King stated NDEP will keep the Board updated. She then introduced Mr. Jon McRae, the UST/LUST program supervisor, who will give an update on the cleanup status for Eagle Gas North.

Mr. McRae introduced himself as the UST/LUST supervisor for BCA located in Carson City. He was hired in June of this year. He came from the Bureau of Air Pollution Control where he was the miner source supervisor for the Nevada mercury program. He was also a chemical accident prevention program inspector.
Mr. McRae stated that since the September Board meeting, the NDEP LUST trust contractor completed the installation of the remediation system with the air sparge SVE system. The system was turned on and adjustments were made for nearly a month to increase the system’s effectiveness. He said additional system modifications are being considered. The air sparge vapor extraction system is pulling up groundwater. One modification will be to contain the groundwater, polish it and dispose of it at the Carson City sanitary sewer. Other modifications are being made and some fencing needs to be expanded. NDEP expects the system will then run at peak efficiency on a continuous basis.

Mr. McRae said they are hoping, by the first quarterly report, for changes in both the groundwater quality and mass removal and to update the Board during the March 2015 meeting.

Ms. King stated the Executive summary was concluded.

Vice-Chairman Ross thanked Ms. King and Mr. McRae. He said that it is very interesting. He then asked if there was any more business to come before the Board.

There was none.

9. **PUBLIC FORM**

There were no requests to speak.

10. **CONFIRMATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE**

It was confirmed the next meeting date would be Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 10:00 am.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.