



Appendix B

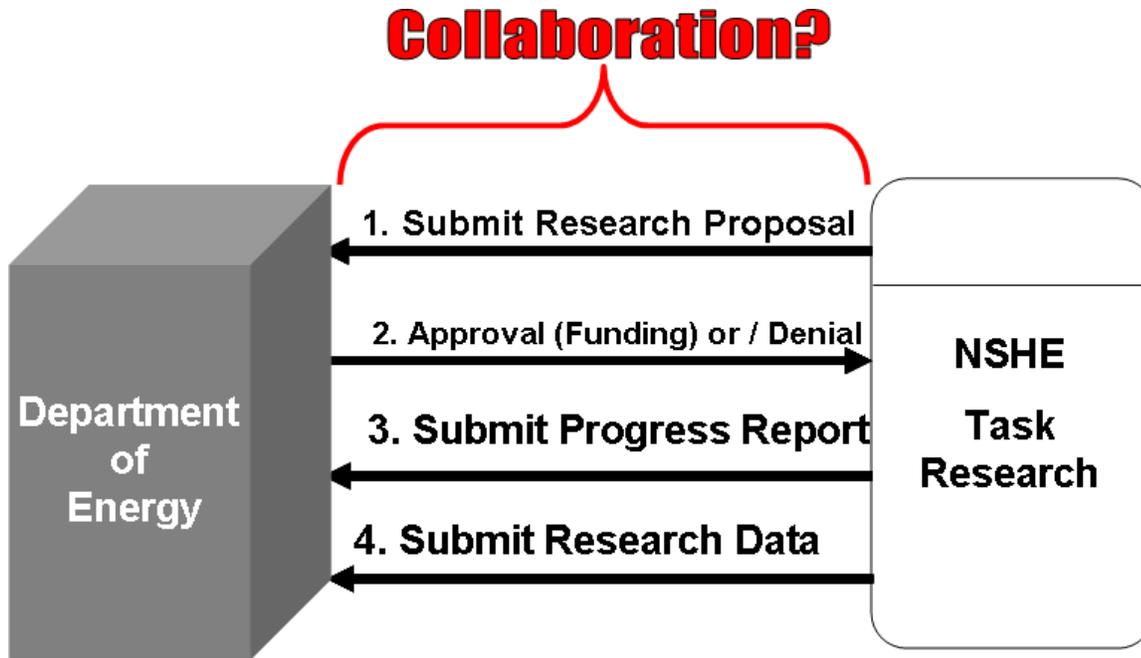


Figure 1 Exchange between DOE and NSHE

Item 1

Process of Program

Under the Cooperative Agreement, researchers (within the System of Higher Education) propose and plan task that have been approved and funded by the Department of Energy's Office (DOE) of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The proposal process (below) has strict guidelines that the researchers must adhere to.

- The researchers review published literature and attend public meetings expecting to identify potential areas of study related to Yucca Mountain (licensing, nuclear waste or disposal). In order to maintain independence, researchers are discouraged from soliciting the Department of Energy for ideas.



- Next, researchers produce a concise white paper detailing the proposed work, its value to the Yucca Mountain Project, its intended duration and the total annual budget. This white paper is transmitted through the Harry Reid Center (HRC) Cooperative agreement Administrator, to the Department of Energy contract office. White papers that are not submitted through the administrator will not be considered. The DOE merit review board meets periodically and reviews submitted white papers.
- If the white paper has sufficient merit and fits within budget and scheduling constraints the review board will draft a request for proposal (RFP) and send this to the HRC Cooperative Agreement Administrator. An RFP does not mean that the task has been approved.
- The Researcher then develops a detailed proposal which includes an annual budget, the principal investigator, a schedule, a list of products to be produced, due dates, equipment needed...etc. The proposal is then sent to University Community College Southern Nevada Quality Assurance Manager for review and comment; once all comments have been resolved the proposal is sent to the HRC administrator who forwards it to the DOE. The DOE Merit Review Board reviews the proposal and decides whether or not to fund the task.
- If the task is funded, the DOE will notify the HRC administrator when the task is approved, when funds are available and whether or not the task must comply with nuclear quality assurance requirements.
- The PI and the UCCSN/DOE Technical Liaison meet to finalize a milestone schedule based on the schedule submitted in the proposal. This schedule is then posted on the internet for the DOE and other stakeholders to view. The tasks that are identified as quality assurance must develop a scientific investigation plan acknowledging (by the PI) that all work can and will be conducted in full accordance with the UCCSN QA program.
- Every quarter each task submits a progress report.
- A final technical report is expected at the end of each task.

This five-year agreement was signed in 2003. As of July 2004 21 tasks have been funded and no further tasks are being considered at this time.

Figure 2

See pull out flow chart



Item 2

Evaluation Methodology

The literature review was conducted of peer reviewed journals on the topic of collaboration. Although most of the articles read did not pertain to the needs of the NSHE/DOE collaborative effort, the team felt that utilizing previously adopted collaboration definitions would yield sponsor “buy in” for the evaluation.

Although the team considered that bias from our program sponsor might be an evaluation issue, the team utilized regular interviews and gained access to our survey group, and all of the documents for review.

Focus group participants were chosen based on their willingness to talk, their current job title, or their past experiences as Principal Investigators. The Focus group participants encompass a wide range of NSHE program responsibilities and interests. The results of the interviews, combined with the document review and stakeholder/program sponsor interviews helped shape the survey instruments.

Sampling Methods for Distribution of survey:

The purposive sampling method was used for our survey recipients based on our evaluation of NSHE’s structure. Principal Investigators were identified as the key figures for our survey and subsequent analysis. The team offered surveys to all principal investigators of the 23 NSHE tasks.

The team used this sampling method based on the Russell K Schutt 4th edition definition of purposive sampling, “Informants should be:

Knowledgeable about the cultural arena or situation experience being studied

Willing to talk

Representative of the range of points of view

Completeness: What you hear provides an overall sense of the meaning of a concept, theme or process

Saturation-You gain confidence that you are learning little that is new from subsequent interviews” (Schut page 150-151).