



*SAVANNAH RIVER SITE*

# **Citizens Advisory Board**

***2002 - 2003 Biennial Report***



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# MESSAGE

## from the chair



*It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board for the last two years. As my tenure draws to a close, I leave my post with mixed emotions. I'm very proud of the accomplishments of the Board and the efforts to accelerate cleanup at SRS. However, I'm saddened by recent decisions by this administration that may undermine the future independence and productivity of this Board. My hope is that by the time this report is issued, those decisions have been revisited and a workable solution for both the Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) and the Department of Energy has been achieved.*

*It has been an eventful two years for the SRS CAB. During the course of 2002-2003, the SRS CAB has adopted 37 recommendations, hosted and/or participated in two national SSAB workshops, welcomed ten new CAB members to the table and said goodbye to long-time SRS CAB and DOE Ex-Officio members. The combination of both new and experienced members, has enabled the SRS CAB to remain a positive force working to ensure that protection of the public and worker health; safety and the environment are the foremost considerations in the cleanup, stabilization, disposition and long-term stewardship policy decisions at SRS.*

*As I look back of the past two years, several issues stand out in my mind. The complex-wide top-to-bottom review and efforts to accelerate cleanup, which resulted in plans to suspend operations at F Canyon minimizing the footprint of ongoing process facilities; the consolidation of spent fuel storage*

*facilities, plutonium shipments to SRS; the successful shipment and disposal of approximately 63,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste. Deactivation and decommissioning of no longer needed SRS facilities became a focal point of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, rated as the top issue for consideration in 2003. The end state vision and treatment of salt*

*waste were also top priorities for the Board. The SRS CAB took a position on the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing court ruling advising DOE to seek prompt relief from this decision. The Board felt the Idaho District Court ruling increased the risk to the environment and the people of South Carolina from continued high level waste storage. We supported DOE's position that this ruling jeopardizes safe, cost-efficient and risk based treatment and disposal of certain waste and asked DOE to appeal or seek legislative relief from the ruling.*

*I hope you find this report informative. A great deal of work has been accomplished by the SRS CAB over the past decade, however much work remains as well. The SRS CAB stands prepared to assist DOE in its vast challenges the future surely holds.*

*Sincerely,*



Wade Waters  
Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board Chair

# MESSAGE

## from DOE

**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802



The SRS Citizens Advisory Board has faced significant change over the last two years. Just over a year ago, I was appointed the Designated Federal Official for the Board. As a relative newcomer, I've been impressed by the SRS CAB's informed involvement in the most critical issues faced by SRS. Ten new members brought an influx of new perspectives. An emphasis on accelerated cleanup along with changes in DOE management, modification of the WSRC contract, and WSRC reorganization challenged the Board to maintain a fast pace. A challenge they accepted without hesitation. The Board provided sound advice, and was instrumental in supporting positive changes in many areas including the Transuranic Waste Program, Soil and Groundwater Remediation, Deactivation and Decommissioning and historic preservation.

As I reflect over the past year and the invigorated EM Program, the need for stakeholder involvement becomes more and more apparent. The Board continues to provide input that sensitizes DOE to the impacts of accelerated cleanup. They bring common sense to the equation. The board has weighed in on important decisions regarding the future of various facilities such as F Canyon and advised us of where our priorities should be when making deactivation and decommissioning decisions. Aggressive and positive negotiations between SRS and its regulators have also benefited from CAB insights and involvement.

My heartfelt thanks go to those who have recently departed the SRS CAB for their service and dedication. I greatly appreciate the CAB members as well as those internal to SRS that continue to make the CAB such a key component of our cleanup mission. You have provided a valuable service to this site and I look forward to another successful year.

Alice Doswell  
Acting Assistant Manager for Closure Projects  
DOE Savannah River Operations Office

## mission

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is a non-partisan group of individuals who are independent of federal, state and local government organizations as they relate to the mission of the CAB. The Board provides informed and timely recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency—Region IV (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) concerning decisions that affect SRS in areas of environmental restoration, waste management and activities related to these functions. Two important goals of the Board are to improve two-way communication with SRS impacted communities and to ensure that stakeholders are given an opportunity to become involved in the decision-making processes of DOE, EPA, SCDHEC, and SRS management.

## charter

The SRS CAB is federally-chartered as the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) for the Savannah River Site under the DOE Environmental Management SSAB Federal Advisory Committee Act Charter. It is one of nine SSABs in the DOE Complex.

## contact

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Web Site:  
[www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov) (click on Outreach)

Wade Waters, Chair,  
Mike Schoener, Board  
Facilitator and Jean  
Sulc, Vice Chair in  
2002-2003.

## primary objectives

The CAB's primary objectives are to provide recommendations to DOE on:

- Disposing of high-level waste and its removal from SRS
- Disposing of transuranic waste and its removal from SRS
- Disposing of low-level waste and mixed-low level waste
- Developing plans for current use and eventual closure of the SRS canyons after the needs of DOE have been met
- Restoring the SRS environment to a state that is protective of human health and the environment



# citizens advisory board

# SRS



2003 Executive Committee Members: (Front Row) Bill Wiloughby, Jean Sulc, Mel Galin (Back Row) Lola Richardson, Carolyne Williams, Perry Holcomb, Gerald Devitt, Wade Waters

## statement of principles

- Protection of public and worker health and safety and the environment are the foremost considerations in the cleanup, stabilization, disposition and long-term stewardship policy decisions.
- Cleanup, stabilization, monitoring and stewardship are vital to ensure the health and safety of future generations and the protection of their environment.
- Decisions should be made that ensure reduction of the greatest health and environmental risks first. It is recognized that some DOE sites and certain states bear bigger burdens of risk and regulatory oversight costs. Therefore, decisions should be based on sound science and practical management assessments rather than political expediency.
- DOE and regulatory agencies should make cleanup decisions using reasonable interpretations of the regulations and realistic assumptions concerning funding.
- Decisions should be based on strategies which incorporate life cycle costs. Predictable and adequate funding for cleanup, stabilization and stewardship should be assured as well as DOE complex-wide coordination and full integration of all sites in planning and implementation of decisions.
- Cleanup should comply with laws and statutes and should accommodate community desires whenever practical. The end states should be considered in all decisions.
- DOE should remain committed to public involvement, recognizing that it is morally obligated to reduce the risk to all affected communities. Effective public involvement requires timely access to relevant public information as well as opportunities for input from the public.

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## SRS CAB in brief

- The CAB first met in 1994.
- The CAB consists of 25 members representing seven stakeholder categories.
- Volunteers are recruited through advertising and word-of-mouth and must meet stringent diversity requirements dictated by the Board's Bylaws.
- The full Board meets bi-monthly. All committees meet as needed generally on a monthly basis.
- The bulk of CAB work is conducted in four issues-based and one administrative committee.
- CAB decisions are made by majority rule.
- Over 180 recommendations or letters of advice have been provided to the Department of Energy and its regulators since the CAB's inception.
- Public outreach to impacted communities is extremely important to SRS CAB members.

# SRS citizens advisory board

The SRS CAB was developed in response to comments from stakeholders on the proposed SRS Federal Facility Agreement and Public Participation Plan. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee (or Keystone Committee) issued an interim report which supported site-specific advisory boards as an effective mechanism for bringing stakeholders into the Department of Energy decision-making process.

Following several public meetings in late 1992, a public working group of 16 citizens was formed to develop a charter and membership selection process for an SRS site-specific advisory board. A year-long effort produced a working charter, which for the most part later became the Board Bylaws, and a selection process that called for a seven-member panel of individuals from the general public to select the initial 25 members of the SRS Citizens

Advisory Board. The SRS Citizens Advisory Board began operations in February 1994.

The SRS CAB still consists of 25 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds that represent academia, business, labor groups, public officials, environmental organizations, minority groups and the general public. Board members serve two-year terms and may serve up to three consecutive terms. Ex-officio members represent DOE-Savannah River, EPA-Region IV, SCDHEC and the State of Georgia.

## How the Board Operates

The SRS CAB members meet for two-day board meetings bi-monthly. Board operations are driven by four issues-based committees, which meet on an as-needed basis. Early in the year, the Board facilitator and issues-based committee chairpersons generate a workplan based on CAB interests, concerns raised by friends and neighbors, and issues offered for consideration by ex-officio members. Issues are prioritized and worked through the appropriate committee. Committees work with the CAB Technical Advisor to develop draft motions, which are provided at least ten days prior to the Board meeting where they will be discussed and considered for adoption. A great deal of work is conducted between meetings, primarily by email among committee members and interested members of the public to develop the final draft motions. Generally, presentations are provided regarding each issue to the full Board, primarily by SRS personnel and occasionally by independent sources. Consensus building is preferred at the committee level, however the SRS CAB employs majority voting for all CAB recommendations. Minority reports are always optional for CAB members to voice a dissenting point of view.

## WHERE our board members reside



# SRS CAB

## 2002 - 2003



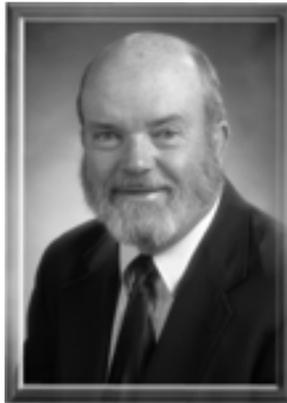
David Adcock	Bill Lawless
Meryl Alalof	J.G. Long
Donna Antonucci	Wendell Lyon
Judy Barnett	Jimmy Mackey
Jennifer Barrington	Darryl Nettles
Leon Chavous	Harold Rahn
Nancy Ann Ciehanski	Lola Richardson
Sallie Connah	Dorene Richardson
Ann Dalton	Murray Riley
Beckie Dawson	Heather Simmons
Gerald Devitt	DeAnne Smoak
Mary Drye	Marty Stringer
Mel Galin	Jean Sulc
Ken Goad	Bill Vogele
Perry Holcomb	Wade Waters
William Lawrence	Carolyn Williams
	Gloria Williams Way

## the board said goodbye

to charter ex-officio member and federal official

Tom Heenan

The Board bid farewell to Tom Heenan, Department of Energy Deputy Designated Federal Official since the Board's inception in 1994. Mr. Heenan retired from his position as Assistant Manager for Environment, Science and Technology in January 2003. Mr. Heenan's contributions to the SRS CAB are reflected in the successes of this board. The SRS CAB expresses sincere appreciation for his commitment and dedication.



### ex-officio members

#### Department of Energy (DOE)

Tom Heenan  
Alice Doswell  
Charlie Anderson

#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Jim Barksdale, Jay Bassett  
Dawn Taylor, Robert Pope

#### SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC)

Jim Brownlow, Kim Newell, Myra Reece  
Keith Collinsworth, Chuck Gorman

#### State of Georgia

James Sanders

#### Board Administrator

Dawn Haygood

#### DOE CAB Coordinators

Gerri Flemming, deLisa Bratcher

#### Facilitator

Mike Schoener

#### Technical Advisor

Rick McLeod

# COMMITTEE

## waste management

With a goal of reducing the highest risks to the public, workers and the environment, the Waste Management Committee addresses the treatment, storage and disposal of various waste streams, including transuranic waste, low-level waste, mixed-low-level wastes and high-level wastes.

Chair: Bill Willoughby  
Vice Chair: Bill Lawless

Membership: Harold Rahn  
Murray Riley  
Wade Waters

PI Support: Kelly Way

### areas of focus in 2002 - 2003

- SRS Transuranic Waste Program
- Treatment of Salt Waste
- High Level Waste Tank Closure Program
- High Level Waste Tank Space Management
- Glass Waste Storage Building



### recommendations

- PUREX Recovery Alternatives
- Parallel Salt Disposition Strategy
- Low Activity TRU Facility
- PUREX Waste Alternative Treatment Evaluation
- TRU Waste Priority and Offsite Shipments
- TRU Waste Shipment Acceleration
- Glass Waste Storage Building #2
- Low Curie Salt to Saltstone
- Burning Paper Pellets in A Area Boilers
- High Level Waste Accelerated Sludge Removal
- High Activity Transuranic Waste Packaging
- WIPP Non-Compliant Item Waste Acceptance Criteria
- Draft West Valley Demonstration Project Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- Salt Processing Design Revision
- High Level Waste Classification
- Low Curie Salt Stream Characterization
- Inspector General Waste Solidification Building Report
- Burning Paper Pellet Update



TRU Waste Shipment to WIPP



Bill Willoughby, Waste Management Committee Chair

*All SRS CAB meetings are open to the public.*

# COMMITTEE

## facility disposition & site remediation

Chair: Perry Holcomb

Membership: Donna Antonucci  
Mary Drye  
Leon Chavous  
Ann Dalton  
Murray Riley  
Darryl Nettles  
Dorene Richardson

PI Support: Paul Sauerborn

**The Facility Disposition & Site Remediation Committee addresses deactivation and decommissioning of excess facilities and remediation of contaminated areas at SRS including various types of waste units, groundwater and surface water contamination.**

### areas of focus in 2002 - 2003

- Deactivation & Decommissioning
- Groundwater Cleanup
- Remediation of various individual waste units
- Long Term Monitoring Technologies and Natural Remediation Strategies



Perry Holcomb discusses the SRS Integrated Deactivation & Decommissioning Plan



### recommendations

- Cleanup Reform Appropriation
- General Separations Consolidation Unit
- Full-Scale Dynamic Underground Stripping
- Passive Treatment of F/H Area Groundwater
- Deactivation & Decommissioning Plan
- R Reactor Seepage Basin
- Monitored Natural Attenuation and Enhanced Passive Remediation



A welder works on the Dynamic Underground Stripping Steamline in M Area

Workers load resin at the F Area Groundwater Waste Unit



# COMMITTEE

## nuclear materials

The Nuclear Materials Committee was established to study issues that involve nuclear materials (generally uranium and plutonium) that have an impact on present or future SRS activities, including spent nuclear fuel program activities, nuclear materials management and integration.

Chair: Gerald Devitt

Membership: Perry Holcomb  
William Lawrence  
Wade Waters  
Bill Willoughby

PI Support: Lyddie Broussard

### areas of focus in 2002 - 2003

- Canyon Utilization
- Disposition of Plutonium not Suitable for MOX
- EM Vision for Plutonium Consolidation at SRS
- Spent Fuel Disposition
- HEU Blendown Project
- Progress on FB Line Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization Project
- Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels Deinventory



### recommendations

- F Canyon Suspension
- EM Owned Plutonium Storage and Disposition at SRS
- NEPA Implementation
- Plutonium Storage at 235-F
- DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel Disposition at SRS



Nuclear Materials Committee Chair Gerald Devitt presents draft motions to full board.



K Area Material Storage project (KAMS) provides interim storage for excess plutonium

# COMMITTEE

## strategic & legacy management

Chair: Mel Galin  
Vice Chairs: Carolyne Williams  
William Lawrence  
Bill Vogele

Membership: Meryl Alalof  
Jennifer Barrington  
Wendell Lyon  
Darryl Nettles  
Gloria Williams Way  
Harold Rahn  
Lola Richardson  
Jean Sulc

PI Support: Jim Moore

The Strategic and Legacy Management Committee is involved in long-term policy, planning and other strategic matters, including issues that “cross cut” the work of other CAB committees. Its work includes many programmatic topics. Some specific areas of interest are development and deployment of technology, the SRS budget decision-making process, long-term stewardship or legacy management, future land use, facility disposition and relevant national environmental policy.



Robotic and remote systems designed for use in radioactive, hazardous or inaccessible environments



Mel Galin,  
Strategic & Long  
Term Issues  
Committee Chair

### areas of focus in 2002 - 2003

- End State Vision
- Legacy Management
- EM Performance Management Plan
- Budget Development/Priorities/Performance Based Incentives
- Technology Development
- National Environmental Policy Act updates



### recommendations

- Stakeholder Input to the SRS Budget
- SRS CAB Presentations
- SRS National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
- Historic Preservation at SRS
- SRS Visitor Center and Museum

Visit our website at [www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov).  
Click on Outreach for  
recommendations, meeting  
summaries, member bios, etc...

# COMMITTEE

## administrative

The Administrative Committee combines four former subcommittees and is responsible for membership replacement, compliance with and amendments to the Board's Bylaws, nominations and elections of Board officers and public outreach.

Membership solicitation is conducted year round, however, an extensive campaign is conducted every other year which consists of newspaper, radio and cable advertisements, flyers and mailings, news releases, internet announcements, and displays at local colleges and expositions.

In early fall each year, committee members meet and select three qualified candidates for each of the Board vacancies. Approximately half of the Board positions become available every year due to staggered membership terms. Following public notification and a 60-day review period, the full Board conducts membership elections annually in January.

Chair: Lola Richardson

Membership: Meryl Alalof  
Gerald Devitt  
Mary Drye  
William Lawrence  
Wade Waters

PI Support: Dawn Haygood

Lola Richardson,  
Administrative  
Committee Chair



# SRS CAB

## public outreach

The SRS CAB mission notes two important goals of the Board to improve two-way communication with SRS impacted communities and to ensure that stakeholders are given an opportunity to become involved in the decision-making processes of DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC on SRS management. The SRS CAB utilizes a variety of outreach techniques.

The *Board Beat*, a semi-annual newsletter about SRS and CAB activities, is provided to over 2500 interested stakeholders. Essay contests are conducted in conjunction with bi-monthly board meetings whenever possible. The Board established a Speaker's Bureau to offer presentations to various groups ranging from garden clubs meetings to church groups and Rotary Clubs.

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## SRS savannah river site

The Savannah River Site is a 310 square mile facility bordering the Savannah River and encompassing parts of Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale counties in South Carolina. Located approximately 15 miles from Aiken, South Carolina and 20 miles from Augusta, Georgia, this Department of Energy-owned facility originally produced materials for the nation's defense.

The current mission of the Savannah River Site is to serve the nation through safe, secure stewardship of our nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear materials and the environment by:

- Supporting current and future national security requirements
- Reducing the global nuclear proliferation danger
- Protecting and restoring the environment while managing waste and nuclear materials
- Conducting mission-supportive research and technology development

The day-to-day operations of SRS are managed by Westinghouse Savannah River Company through an integrated team management approach—WSRC, a subsidiary of Washington Group, Inc., is in partnership with several other companies: Bechtel Savannah River Inc., a subsidiary of Bechtel National, Inc.; B&W Savannah River Company, whose parent company is Babcock & Wilcox Government Group, a subsidiary of McDermott International, Inc.; BNFL Savannah River Corporation, whose parent is BNFL, Inc., a subsidiary of British Nuclear Fuels; and CH2 Savannah River Company.

The Board also purchases advertising for its bi-monthly Board meetings in ten newspapers and on local radio stations, in addition to public service announcements. Public notifications are made of all committee and full Board meetings to interested stakeholders and SRS employees. Local papers frequently run SRS CAB activities in their meeting calendar sections and the majority of CAB meetings are covered by the local papers.

The SRS CAB Website ([www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov)) contains information regarding Board recommendations, meetings, schedule and membership.

The SRS CAB sponsors Middle School essay contests



The "Board Beat" is issued semi-annually

# **national interactions**

# SRS CAB

SRS CAB members periodically meet with members from other site-specific advisory boards (SSAB) across the DOE complex. Nine such boards represent stakeholders from the following DOE facilities: Fernald, Hanford, Idaho, Los Alamos, Nevada Test Site, Oak Ridge, Paducah, Rocky Flats and SRS.

## **Groundwater Workshop**

On January 31-February 2, 2002, the SRS CAB hosted a national groundwater workshop, which was attended by nine SSABs, regulators and other stakeholders. The purpose was to improve stakeholder understanding of groundwater cleanup technology issues; foster dialog among SSABs about common groundwater issues and concerns; and to provide joint recommendations toward resolution of those concerns. Participants toured SRS and learned about 176 contamination plumes identified across the DOE complex. They worked together to develop statements that identified issues of importance to stakeholders to help guide DOE and its regulators as they consider groundwater-related decisions. They were formally submitted in April 2002.

## **Transuranic Waste Workshop**

On January 31-February 2, 2003, the Northern New Mexico Board hosted SSAB members during a nationwide Transuranic Waste Workshop in Carlsbad, N.M. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is an underground repository on the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The plant consists of above-ground and underground facilities, both of which were toured by workshop participants. Five SRS CAB members participated. The goal was to discuss regulatory and outreach issues; transportation; waste characterization; treatment and packaging; and management issues regarding the DOE Transuranic Waste Program. Attendees participated in breakout sessions regarding core topics and heard from DOE-Headquarters representatives. Meeting participants agreed by consensus on a dozen recommendations regarding the TRU Program, which were then taken back to all nine SSABs for endorsement.



SRS CAB members and support staff visited the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, N.M.

# FINANCIAL **statement**

	Actual Costs	
	FY02	FY03
		
<b>Member Travel/Board Meetings</b>	<b>\$ 21,367</b>	<b>\$ 41,168</b>
<b>Member Travel/Committee Meetings</b>	<b>21,953</b>	<b>10,026</b>
<b>Other Travel</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>22,794</b>
<b>CAB Miscellaneous</b>	<b>21,554</b>	<b>6,154</b>
<b>Board Meeting Rental/Audio Visual</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,024</b>
<b>Committee Meeting Rental/Audio Visual</b>	<b>5,830</b>	<b>2,598</b>
<b>Facilitation</b>	<b>37,420</b>	<b>45,283</b>
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>33,667</b>	<b>32,088</b>
<b>Administrative Support</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	<b>9,520</b>	<b>18,851</b>
<b>Membership Drive</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$292,032</b>	<b>\$274,986</b>

**We're on the web**  
**[www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov)**

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