



SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
2004-2005 Biennial Report

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Message from the chair



Jean Sulc

“Congratulations to the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board for more than ten years of service to the Environmental Management Program. On behalf of the President, I want to extend my appreciation to the Board members, both past and present, for their valuable service to the Department of Energy.” (The Secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman, Letter of May 19, 2005)

It is an honor and privilege to have served this Citizens Advisory Board as we celebrated our tenth anniversary year and began our second decade of service to the community and the EM Program. From a personal perspective, gauging the performance of this SRS CAB produces two “pearls”: the CAB team remained intACT (2004); and CABs initiated productive dialogue on DOE HQ’ complex-wide waste disposition plans (2005).

In the CAB’s overall performance and a “gold metrics” context of high expectations and effective actions, this team should be justifiably proud of how it fulfilled its mission “to provide informed and timely recommendations to DOE, EPA and SCDHEC concerning decisions that affect SRS in areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.” - exemplified in the following observations:

Structure for Success: Free of imposed administrative barriers, the CAB forged new levels of working relationships and productivity. By retaining its key resource core, the CAB can meet the challenges of transitions as the site carries out its acquisition strategies.

Resource for closure: The CAB has evolved into an effective closure resource for the site. Eleven years of institutional memory and issues knowledge are hallmarks of a unique and significant “investment” by the DOE. The SRS CAB is a solution-driven resource. The members’ skills sets, when applied to development of recommendations and committee agendas, would garner thousands of dollars in billable hours, if their volunteer time was thus calculated. Anchored in a broad community base, this resource assists the site in implementation of its EM mandate and can transition, eventually, as a community monitor for Legacy Management.

Strategies to reduce, not manage, risk: the site and the CAB have re-focused their plans and recommendations, respectively, to reduce risk. SRS included the CAB early in DOE’s plan review and comment process. Early exchanges and participation were the norm in the development of: Performance Management Plan (I and II), Integrated Deactivation and Decommissioning Plan - public workshops and plan reviews; several End State Vision document workshops and incorporation of comments; F Canyon Complex De-activation Project Plan.

Communication and collaboration: The CAB has moved confidently in the direction of collaboration, as opposed to confrontation: with the eight other EMSSABs. We hosted the April ’05 semi-annual Chairs’ meeting in Augusta, Georgia. Waste Disposition strategies, public participation and transition to Legacy Management were key cross-cutting topics, highlighted by hands-on experiences with SRS’s latest technologies to handle TRU, HL Waste, and area-wide (environmental) treatment strategies. The CAB provided initial comments to the Draft LLW - MLLW plan of EM’s Office of Logistics and Waste Disposition Enhancements. “Just-in-time” delivery positioned the CAB on critical waste issues re: New Mexico’s Environmental Department - our opposition to a proposed permit modification which would have impacted the site’s target capacity for its TRU shipments; support for EPA’s proposed air quality standards for the Federal Deep Geologic Repository; and NRC’s proposed Standard Review Plan for 3116 Waste Determination documents.

Advice through recommendations is the CAB’s principal “deliverable:” Since Feb. 2004, 41 recommendations have been forwarded to the site, DOE HQ and other agencies, attesting to the continuing vigor of the CAB’s second decade of dialogue and informed advice.

Breaking new ground: in history: in March 2005, FB Line was opened (after completion of de-inventory of nuclear materials) to the CAB as the first “public” to pass through that operations area in over 50 years; in dirt, literally, CAB officers turned a shovel as part of the ground breaking ceremony for NNSA’s MOX facility. Timely recommendations on TRU shipments from Mound (OH) and Battelle (Columbus, OH) sites contributed to mutually beneficial TRU quantities and shipment schedules to the WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad).

Launched in the 20th century and now into our mission in the 21st, the CAB looks forward to setting its course, in its second decade, in support of the site’s drive for new missions; new technologies to ensure risk reduction to the workers and community; and integrated approaches to the site’s environmental strategies and operations.

Message from DOE



William Spader

On behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE), I thank the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for over a decade of valuable service to the DOE Environmental Management Program and to the communities from the Central Savannah River Area to the Low Country.

As a result of the enormous commitments made by Board members, past and present, the SRS CAB has contributed over 225 recommendations during the past eleven years. These recommendations have clearly described the issues and contributed significantly to the Department's progress in moving from risk management to risk reduction with resulting cleanup successes. This clarity and useful advice reflect the ever increasing technical knowledge of the Board and have led to effective, collaborative working relationships that assist DOE in effectively communicating with all its various stakeholders.

It has been my honor to serve as the Deputy Designated Federal Official for the SRS CAB since 2004. As I reflect over the past two years, there is clear evidence that the CAB's recommendations and early review of many of our planning documents have greatly helped to infuse public comments and concerns into DOE decisions. Several recommendations regarding transuranic waste from Mound and Battelle sites in Ohio to SRS were direct contributors to DOE and its regulators reaching an agreement that support early closure of the Ohio sites as well as additional waste removal from SRS.

The SRS CAB has also weighed in on important decisions regarding salt waste processing and high level waste tank closure, which are two of the more difficult challenges faced by DOE in recent years. This support further illustrates the CAB's understanding of complex issues and their significant contributions to the SRS cleanup mission.

I applaud the SRS CAB for its dedicated and indispensable services over the past eleven years, and I look forward to a continued positive working relationship as together we face the challenges ahead.

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) concerning decisions that affect SRS in areas of environmental management. Ex-officio members from DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources participate in board activities. 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.

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.



HISTORY AND OPERATIONS

The SRS CAB was developed in response to comments from stakeholders on the proposed Federal Facility Agreement and Public Participation Plan in the early 90s. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee (or Keystone Committee) issued a report which supported site specific advisory boards as an effective mechanism for bringing stakeholders into the DOE 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's bylaws, and a selection process that called for a seven-member panel to select the initial 25 members of the SRS CAB. The Board began operations in February 1994.

The SRS CAB still consists of 25 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds and represent academia, business, labor, 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 GADNR.

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, stakeholder concerns and issues offered for consideration by ex-officio members. Issues are prioritized and worked through the appropriate committee. Committees work with a 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 via email among committee members and interested members of the public to develop final draft motions. Generally, presentations are provided regarding each issue, primarily by SRS personnel and occasionally by independent sources. 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.



SRS Citizens Advisory Board 2004-2005



Jean Sulc



Meryl Alalof



Donna Antonucci



Jennifer Barrington



Manuel Bettencourt



Tracy Carroll



Leon Chavous



Gerald Devitt



Art Domby



Mary Drye



Mel Galin



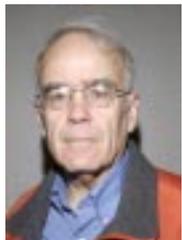
Cassandra Henry



Perry Holcomb



Ranowul Jzar



Bill Lawless



William Lawrence



Wendell Lyon



Jimmy Mackey



Danielle Mackie



Robert Meisenheimer



Darryl Nettles



Joe Ortaldo



Karen Patterson



Barbara Paul



Harold Rahn



Dorene Richardson



Murray Riley



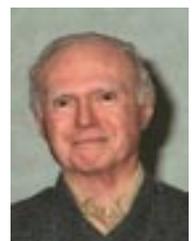
Bill Vogele



Carolyne Williams



Gloria Williams-Way



Bill Willoughby

SRS Citizens Advisory Board 2004-2005

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Department of Energy

William Spader
Kevin Smith

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Shelly Sherritt
Rick Caldwell

Environmental Protection Agency

Robert Pope
Dawn Taylor

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Al Frazier



SUPPORT STAFF

Board Administrator

Dawn Haygood

DOE CAB Coordinator

Gerri Flemming

Facilitator

Mike Schoener

Technical Advisor

Rick McLeod

Public Involvement Staff

Lyddie Broussard

Jim Moore

Paul Sauerborn



COMMITTEE

facility disposition & site remediation

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

Chair: Perry Holcomb

Vice Chair: Mary Drye

PI Support: Paul Sauerborn

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Deactivation & Decommissioning
- Federal Facility Agreement
- Area completions
- Western Sector DUS progress
- Burial ground closure progress

RECOMMENDATIONS

- SRS Environmental Monitoring Program
- Prioritizing D&D Activities
- F Area Material Building Deactivation
- TNX Operable Unit
- FFA Process-Early Stakeholder Involvement
- Planning and Scheduling SRS Cleanup
- F Canyon Complex Decommissioning
- Loss of Expertise to Support SRS Cleanup
- Classified Information Issues in Cleanup
- Public Notification Requirements for Non-Time Critical Removal Actions



Building 247-7F was one of 36 facilities decommissioned in 2005.



Demolition work in M Area

COMMITTEE

nuclear materials

Chair: Gerald Devitt
Vice Chair: Karen Patterson

PI Support: Paul Sauerborn

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 consolidation.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Disposition of Plutonium not suitable for MOX
- EM Vision on Plutonium
- Plutonium Storage & Surveillance
- FB Line Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization
- Canyon Utilization
- Spent Fuel Storage and Disposition
- HB Line Neptunium Stabilization Project

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Plutonium Disposition
- Receipt of Spent Nuclear Fuel at SRS
- Plutonium Shipments and Disposition
- Redirection of 3013 Container Surveillance and Storage Capability
- Plutonium Vitrification Facility
- Plutonium Disposition Options
- Hanford Limited Plutonium Disposition Mission
- Plutonium Consolidation - GAO Report
- F Canyon Deactivation and Post Deactivation

K Area Materials Storage Facility safely stores the nation's excess plutonium.



SRS CAB members are first to tour FB-Line since it began operations over 50 years ago.



COMMITTEE

strategic & legacy management

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. Some specific areas of interest are the SRS budget decision-making process, long-term stewardship or legacy management and development and deployment of technologies.

Chair: William Lawrence
Vice Chairs: Bill Vogeles; Meryl Alalof
Jimmy Mackey

PI Support: Jim Moore

AREAS OF FOCUS

- End State Vision Document
- Historic Preservation
- SRS Environmental Management Performance Management Plan
- Budget Development/Gold Metrics
- Annual Financial Report
- Technology Development
- Natural Resource Management

RECOMMENDATIONS

- End State Vision
- SRS Visitor Center and Museum
- Performance Management Plan
- Risk Based End State Vision Document
- SRS Artifact Storage and Long-term Records Management



COMMITTEE

waste management

Chair: Bob Meisenheimer
Vice Chairs: Joe Ortaldo
Manuel Bettencourt

PI Support: Jim Moore

The Waste Management Committee addresses the treatment, storage and disposal of various waste streams at SRS, including transuranic waste, low-level waste, mixed low-level wastes and high level wastes. The goal of the committee is to reduce the highest risks to the public, workers and the environment.



WM Committee Chair Bob Meisenheimer reads about making of the Yucca Mountain Tunnel during SRS CAB tour in March 2005.



AREAS OF FOCUS

- TRU Ship to WIPP Program
- Legacy Organic and Aqueous PUREX
- SRNL/Hanford Treatability Studies
- High Level Waste Tanks
- Salt Waste Processing
- DWPF and Glass Waste Storage

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Glass Waste Storage Building #1 and #2 Long Term Impact
- High Level Waste Proposal
- SRS TRU Waste Program Acceleration
- Additional TRU Waste Shipments from Mound
- TRU Waste Shipments from Battelle
- National Academy of Sciences-Tank Waste
- Draft 3116 Determination-Tank Closure
- SRS TRU Waste Issues
- SRS Non-Drummed Transuranic Waste
- Draft Salt Waste Determination
- Salt Waste Processing Facility Confinement System
- Repackaging of TRU Waste Black Boxes
- Inspector General Waste Solidification Building
- Burning Paper Pellet Update
- High Level Waste Tank Longevity
- TRU Waste Program Challenges
- SRNL Treatability Study Impacts
- 3116 Implementation-High Level Waste Tanks
- 3116 Implementation- Salt Waste Processing
- Modified Salt Waste Disposition Strategy
- Public Dissemination of Waste Disposition Information
- DWPF Recycle
- Yucca Mountain Waste Acceptance Criteria
- WIPP Permit-NMED Initiated Modification

COMMITTEE

administrative

The Administrative Committee 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 and radio advertisements, flyers and mailings, news releases, internet announcements, and word-of-mouth.

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: Meryl Alalof
Vice Chair: Gloria Williams-Way

PI Support: Dawn Haygood



*Meryl Alalof
chairs the
Administrative
Committee.*

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The SRS CAB mission notes two important goals of the Board are to provide 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. 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 2000 interested stakeholders. The Board also established a Speaker's Bureau to offer presentations to various groups ranging from garden club meetings to church groups and Rotary Clubs.

The Board also advertises all 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 local papers. The Board provides press releases before and after every full board meeting.

The SRS CAB website (www.srs.gov) contains information regarding all Board recommendations, meetings, schedule, special reports, newsletters, and informative related links.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SRS.GOV AND CLICK ON OUTREACH

National Interactions



Idaho Chair David Kipping and SRS CAB Vice Chair Bill Lawless discuss waste disposition issues during the semi-annual meeting of the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs.

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board does not operate in a vacuum, but is a part of a larger Environmental Management Advisory Board that consists of nine site specific advisory boards across the DOE complex. This umbrella board provides a great network for national discussions regarding many common issues faced at the various facilities. Issues such as waste disposition and consolidated storage of excess plutonium can benefit from national dialogue and input. To that end, the Site Spe-

cific Advisory Boards for EM meet twice annually at various sites and participate in complex-wide workshops. Generally, meetings are conducted by a host SSAB and include a tour and two-day meeting format to discuss common areas of interest. Often, letters of advice to DOE are developed and taken back to the individual boards for approval prior to transmitting them to DOE. The SSABs have tackled such issues as disposal of transuranic waste, transportation, groundwater cleanup and long term stewardship over the past several years.

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 DOE-owned facility originally produced materials for the nation's defense.

The current mission of SRS is to serve the nation through safe, secure stewardship of our nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear materials and environment. Day-to-day operations of SRS are managed by Washington Savannah River Company, a subsidiary of Washington Group, Inc., in partnership with several other companies.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

The Site Specific Advisory Boards are federally-chartered under the DOE Environmental Management Advisory Board. The boards comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, which authorizes the establishment and operations of committees to advise the federal government.

Financial Statements

FISCAL YEAR 2004

	(Actual Costs)
Board Member Travel / Board Meetings	\$ 35,298
Members Travel / Committee	11,784
Miscellaneous Travel	7,996
CAB Miscellaneous	1,384
Board Meetings Rental	3,790
Committee Rental	2,999
Facilitation	40,261
Advertising	34,564
Administrative	64,332
Technical Assistance	22,228
Grand Total	\$ <u>224,636</u>

FISCAL YEAR 2005

	(Actual Costs)
Board Member Travel / Board Meetings	\$ 35,101
Members Travel / Committee	13,263
Miscellaneous Travel	18,673
CAB Miscellaneous	4,997
Board Meetings Rental	4,298
Committee Rental	5,169
Facilitation	25,717
Advertising	28,488
Administrative	66,332
Technical Assistance	22,280
Grand Total	\$ <u>224,318</u>

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