



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee

Meeting Record

March 25, 1996

Augusta, Ga.

The ER&WM subcommittee of the SRS CAB met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 1996 at the Sheraton Augusta Hotel, Bobby Jones Expressway and Wheeler Road, Augusta, Georgia.

Subcommittee members present included subcommittee co-chairs Bill Lawless and Kathryn May. Other CAB members were Lane Parker and Kamalakar Raut. Attending for SCDHEC were Ann Ragen and Craig Marriner. DOE-SR representatives included Bert Crapse and Brian Hennessey. Gerri Flemming attended as the Associate Deputy Designated Federal Official (ADDFO). WSRC representatives included Clay Jones, Marilyn Garcia and Leslie Huber. Attending from the public was Robert Ingham.

Bill Lawless opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. No member of the public was in attendance at the time. By subcommittee consensus, the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground motion was the only agenda item taken up for discussion. Agenda items dismissed for discussion were the TRU waste treatment motion, Internet demonstration and scope of work for independent scientific advice. (Attachment)

A dry run was held for the DOE presentation on the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) Interim Action slated for the Tuesday, March 26 public meeting of the full CAB. (Attachment) Bert Crapse presented. Questions and discussion ensued and several points were identified for explanation or elaboration for the March 26 presentation.

Kathryn May asked what is meant by a soil cover, what is the definition of a cap and how do these differ. Crapse explained the points of distinction. "Cap" is a regulatory term denoting layers and liners; "soil cover" is a compacted layer of clay that is less permeable than soil and has a compaction ability of 10⁻⁵ to promote water runoff. Crapse determined that the term "soil cover" would be more appropriate than "cap" for public discussion of the ORWBG Interim Action.

May asked what comprised the estimated cost of \$10M for the ORWBG project. Crapse cited soil for the soil cover, construction work and storm water drainage improvements as major cost components of the \$10M.

Bill Lawless asked about purge water inside of the runoff trenches and alluded to a problem at Hanford. Crapse responded that a storm water plan is prepared and is approved by the regulators. Ann Ragen added that water will be monitored at the point of the National Priority Elimination System outfall.

Clay Jones offered several suggestions during the dry run presentation, including:

- offer motivation in the introduction of why we are doing the ORWBG interim action
- the Mixed Waste Management Facility is closed and this is evidence that we have taken remedial action in the Burial Ground Complex -- emphasize the ORWBG interim action is consistent with our approach
- be prepared for questions about public comments
- be prepared to discuss the proximity of the Burial Ground to F & H Areas as it may relate to groundwater issues

Bill Lawless asked about comments received during the public comment period for the ORWBG. Comments received were identified:

- Lee Poe submitted comments on how information is presented and had technical comments
 - The Energy Research Foundation praised DOE for its approach and approved of the interim action as appropriate, allowing more time to study contamination and remediation approaches at the Burial Ground Complex
 - George Minot submitted questions concerning tritium releases and groundwater quality
- Lane Parker asked about future environmental plans for the Burial Ground Complex. Bert Crapse indicated that characterization and feasibility studies would take place over the next five years, with a record of decision in 2001.

After no further questions nor discussion, Bill Lawless adjourned the meeting.

At this point, a member of the public arrived at the meeting and indicated he had a question. Bill Lawless reopened the meeting and invited the citizen to introduce himself and address his questions to the subcommittee. Robert Ingham introduced himself as a private citizen and president of the North Augusta Toastmasters. He said they are losing engineers and he knows of many others who are looking for jobs. He is concerned about cut backs at SRS and asked, "Why are they closing down SRS for Yucca Flats and why are they spending \$2M a day" to keep Yucca Flats going while they're trying to close SRS.

Bill Lawless said that there are no plans to shut SRS down for Yucca Mountain. Lawless explained what Yucca Mountain is and that the plan is for SRS to vitrify high level waste and send it to Yucca Mountain for final disposition. Lawless added that if Yucca Mountain does not open, SRS will store waste for a long time.

With no further questions nor discussion, Bill Lawless adjourned the meeting.

Attachments:

- Agenda, Citizens Advisory Board, Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee, March 25, 1996, Sheraton Augusta Hotel
- ORWBG Interim Action presentation, Bert Crapse, March 26, 1996

Note: Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling the SRS CAB toll free number at 1-800-249-8155.