



September 1996 Meeting Minutes

**SRS Citizen's Advisory Board
September 24, 1996 8:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn
Beaufort, S.C.**

Members Present

Members present were Arthur Belge, Ann Brown, Tom Costikyan, Bill Donaldson, Brendolyn Jenkins, Thelonious Jones, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Suzanne Matthews, Mildred McClain, Lane Parker, Karen Patterson, Kamalakar Raut, Deborah Simone, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Ed Tant, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio representatives present were Tom Heenan Lee Watkins, Ann Ragan, Myra Reece and Jeff Crane.

Members absent were Aundria Cheever, Kathryn May and Andrew Rea. Board Facilitator Walt Joseph was present. Currently, there are two Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan.

This meeting was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Bob Slay announced that there had been requests to add discussion of SRS CAB representation on the Environmental Management Advisory Board and discussion of a tour of the Allied General facility (AGNES) in Barnwell County. The Board voted in favor of adding these two agenda items.

Key Decisions Made by Board

The November Board meeting was changed to November 18-19 to avoid meeting during a holiday week. Locations and times remain the same.

The Board will inquire about how to become more involved in the Environmental Management Advisory Board national process.

The Board passed an eight-part recommendation which reflected CAB comments on the Draft SRS Ten Year Plan.

The Board recommended that DOE design an alternative saltstone disposal facility and that its

design be reviewed by an independent scientific peer review.

A recommendation that DOE-SR meet its schedule to begin operations of CIF by January 1997 was unanimously passed by the Board.

The Board recommended that DOE publish a comparison of chemical processing to the alternatives covered in the *Technical Strategy for the Treatment, Packaging and Disposal of Aluminum-Based Spent Nuclear Fuel* (June 1996) within 30 days and that the chemical processing alternative be incorporated as an option in the Ten Year Plan and the Site Specific Spent Nuclear Fuel EIS.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July Board meeting were approved with no changes.

Agency Updates

Jeff Crane of the Environmental Protection Agency invited the CAB to the SRS Information Exchange to be held on October 15 at the Augusta Sheraton Hotel. Seven proposed plans will be discussed with various proposed remedial options, ranging from no action to limited action and institutional controls to stabilization and capping, he said. He stated that streamlining and approved remedial processes would also be discussed.

Tom Heenan announced that DOE has awarded a new SRS management contract effective October 1. Westinghouse and Bechtel will be joined by B&W Savannah River Company, a subsidiary of Babcock & Wilcox Governmental Group and BNFL Savannah River Corporation a subsidiary of British Nuclear Fuels Limited, Inc., he said. He also announced that the independent scientific peer review of the Management Action Plan by Joel Massmann of the University of Washington is complete and has been provided to Bill Lawless and Kathryn May. Additional copies are available upon request, he said.

Mr. Heenan also announced that the Ten Year Plan Aug. 27 Public Meeting Videotape would air on Jones Intercable, Channel 4 on Friday, Sept. 27 and Monday, Sept. 30 at 8 p.m.

Ann Ragan of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) announced that her agency has provided comments on the Draft SRS Ten Year Plan. Those comments focus primarily on equity issues, she said. The State is receptive to inter-site waste management, however they are concerned that South Carolina not get all of the waste in and none out. She said they were also concerned with this same issue regarding long-term storage and would like to see a commitment made by DOE and recognized within its agreements and permits.

Public Comments

The following public comments were made at the September 23 public meeting.

Dean Moss, Beaufort/Jasper Water Authority

Mr. Moss commented that the Ten Year Plan seemed to be a good document, however no priorities were established within the plan. He questioned what activities would be completed if partial funding were received and how DOE would determine which activities would be performed if full funding is not received. Mr. Moss also stressed that protecting the Savannah river quality is the first priority for the Beaufort area.

Eddie Rogers, Candidate for House Seat 124, Beaufort, S.C.

Ms. Rogers stated she had attended the Ten Year Plan meeting in Columbia, S.C. and recently toured SRS. She said she had a grasp of the Draft SRS Ten Year Plan and its school of thought and stated DOE should proceed knowing it might not receive all the required funding. Ms. Jenkins said it was better to proceed and make a case for full funding. She said she had received assurance from DOE that there would be no further contamination to the river.

Added Agenda Items

Brendolyn Jenkins proposed a motion that the SRS CAB send a letter requesting that they be included on the Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB). Mildred McClain seconded the motion. She said she had asked Secretary Al Alm during the Ten Year Plan meeting in Aiken, S.C. if other Boards had representatives on the EMAB and he had replied yes they did and that a former SRS CAB member was currently on the EMAB. Tom Heenan clarified that all site specific advisory board members were a part of the EMAB by virtue of appointment and that one charter exists for the EMAB/SSABs. He stated the Board's request should focus on the ability to participate in the national process. The motion passed unanimously.

Suzanne Matthews asked how many Board members would be interested in participating in a tour of the Allied General facility (AGNES) in Barnwell County on the Monday afternoon of the November Board meeting since this is one of the facilities being considered by DOE for fuel storage. Eighteen CAB members showed interest.

Facilitator Update

Walt Joseph stated the self evaluation required by all site specific advisory boards had been completed and provided to DOE-Headquarters. He also announced that he had been interviewed for a local Augusta television program called "After 50" regarding the Board membership. The producers have invited the CAB to return for a one hour taping on October 29 and he said he would coordinate this activity through the Outreach Subcommittee.

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Vernon Zinnerman announced four upcoming subcommittee meetings

regarding budget prioritization and encouraged participation. He then read the subcommittee's proposed motion regarding the Environmental Management Ten Year Plan (see attached). Following extensive discussion, the following amendments were made:

¥ Item No. 1 was deleted by a vote of 15 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstentions.

¥ No changes were made to Item No. 2

¥ The word "equitable" was added before between "endorses" and "inter-site" in the first sentence of Item No. 3.

¥ No changes were made to Item No. 4

¥ The first sentence of Item No. 5 was changed to read "The Plan should call for aggressive treatment of high-activity TRU waste. The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (see Recommendations Number 4 and 11) and two independent scientific peer reviews have called DOE's attention to this urgent problem on several occasions."

¥ In Item No. 6 the term "chemical processing" replaces "processing" and the second sentence was changed to read "Chemical processing should remain a viable alternative until better stabilization technology is available and has been demonstrated through independent scientific peer review to be superior."

¥ The first sentence of Item No. 7 was deleted by a vote of 16 in favor, one opposed and two abstentions. The last sentence of Item No. 7 as deleted by a vote of 13 in favor, 5 opposed and one abstention. (To be formally transmitted with recommendations as a public comment made by George Minot during a subcommittee meeting along with comments made at public meeting by Dean Moss of the Beaufort Jasper Water Authority.) The third sentence was modified to read "Canister loading should be optimized tomission."

¥ The following statements were added to the recommendation as new item numbers:

"One issue that concerns SRS stakeholders is that various wastes are coming to SRS for temporary, interim and long-term storage with no provisions for final disposal. The Board encourages DOE to pursue permanent storage with equal vigor."

"The realities of the budgetary process over a ten-year periods are that funding may not come as planned or desired. Budget uncertainties mandate prioritizing the ten-year plan components to provide clear understanding of which items will be dropped or delayed upon funding shortfalls. Prioritization will alleviate stakeholder fears."

Bill Lawless moved the Board approve the motion as amended above and Bill Donaldson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 18 in favor, none opposed and two abstentions. (See attached final recommendation.)

Environmental Remediation & Waste Management (ER & WM) Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Co-Chair Bill Lawless announced that a subcommittee meeting had been held on September 10 in Beech Island, S.C. regarding the recent SCDHEC fish advisory and there was not much public interest. A second meeting will be held in Hampton County in late October, he said.

At Mr. Lawless' request, Charlie Anderson of DOE gave a presentation on a Saltstone Alternative Initiative (see attached slides). He discussed the objectives of the initiative, which is to define and implement a disposal for tank salt solution that meets environmental and regulatory requirements imposed on SRS and significantly reduces costs. He provided background on saltstone disposal, monitoring and facility operation. He discussed existing saltstone vaults and proposed layouts for the closure of these vaults.

Mr. Anderson then discussed the alternative approach being investigated by DOE, which is to use an engineered landfill instead of vaults. He discussed the design concept and provided several diagrams of the alternative waste cells and plans. He concluded by stating discussions continue with SCDHEC regarding the new approach, a Supplemental Analysis is ongoing and due shortly and that sources of funds are still being determined.

Mr. Lawless then read the subcommittee's motion that recommends DOE design an alternative saltstone disposal facility and that its design be reviewed by an independent scientific peer review. JoAnn Nestor moved the Board accept the motion and Mildred McClain seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 19 in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

Charlie Anderson also provided a presentation on the Consolidated Incineration Facility (see attached slides). Following a video presentation, he briefly discussed the basics of incineration, CIF ash and blowdown products, waste feed streams and the CIF schedule. Discussion revolved around whether studies had been conducted for allergies and air emissions, worker safety, mechanical problems or systems in place for failure, temperatures and monitoring.

Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's motion recommending that DOE-SR meet its schedule to begin operations of CIF by January 1997 and that an opportunity to introduce the public to CIF with an open house be provided. JoAnn Nestor moved the Board accept the recommendation and Bill Donaldson seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Anderson also announced that the high level waste closure criteria was running behind and that a final closure plan for Tank 20 was another week or two away.

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness

Mike Butler of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) provided a presentation regarding his organization. He explained that CNTA is a non-profit, grassroots

organization dedicated to public education and providing factual information concerning nuclear energy and to supporting new missions for SRS. CNTA has approximately 1000 dues-paying members who are scattered across the U.S., but most of its membership is concentrated in South Carolina and Georgia, he said. CNTA is managed by a 25-member Board of which Fred Davison, former University of Georgia president chairs. Bill Reinig acts as vice chairman. The organization provides speeches, interviews, letters to editors, op-ed articles, public forums and seminars.

Mr. Butler stated that CNTA supported a multi-purpose reactor at SRS. CNTA supports a proposed SRS Visitors Center and has entered a memorandum of agreement with DOE and Aiken County on the concept of a Visitor Center. Currently they are seeking more community support and funding for the facility. Mr. Butler stated CNTA had hosted three public forums for candidates for office and had met with the Governor of South Carolina regarding spent nuclear fuel and plutonium issues.

Mr. Butler invited CAB members to attend the Edward Teller Lecture on November 19 featuring Dr. Alvin Weinberg. He then answered questions regarding CNTA's position on spent nuclear fuel stating that he believed the technical competence of spent fuel management at SRS is unsurpassed, but that CNTA is opposed to SR being a dumping ground and considers it more a parking lot. Several Board members took exception to a brochure in the CNTA literature regarding the formation of the SRS CAB. Mr. Butler apologized stating the brochure reflected a certain technical bias, which did not necessarily reflect the sentiment of the entire organization. Mr. Butler also responded to other questions regarding the location of the CNTA offices and lobbying activities, stating CNTA did not have a paid lobbyist and the organization is located in Columbia, S.C. because it is a media center. Mr. Slay thanked Mr. Butler for taking the time to speak with the Board about CNTA activities.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan announced the subcommittee will provide a presentation to the Charleston Safety Committee on October 21 regarding the CAB and the spent nuclear fuel project and invited other Board members to participate. He then announced that the seismic study of F Canyon was completed and the findings, which were endorsed by an independent panel, were that the structures were stronger than originally anticipated.

He announced that spent nuclear fuel is the current issue. He reminded the Board of the June 20 recommendation on the Foreign Research Reactor EIS and that the Board endorsed bringing in rods to SRS and that they be processed as a positive step toward disposition in the ultimate repository. Since then a Record of Decision was released and the rods will be brought to SRS, however a key component missing was that it lacked a decision to process the rods and this judgment was deferred to DOE-Headquarters, he said. DOE-HQ would be evaluating alternatives to reprocessing prior to a decision being made a few years down the road, he said.

Subsequent to this, a technical study was commissioned to look at treatment, packaging and disposal of spent fuel. Mr. Costikyan read the following from the preface of this report

"Disposal of aluminum-based fuel raises issues which are different, and in some respects more challenging, than those presented by other types of DOE and commercial spent nuclear fuels. Given the expected unavailability of fuel processing capability beyond current operations commitments, alternative means of rendering this fuel safe and stable for ultimate disposal are required." The report however only provided a comparison of eight alternatives and excluded the chemical processing alternative.

Mr. Costikyan then read the subcommittee's recommendation that DOE publish a comparison of chemical processing to the alternatives covered in the Technical Strategy for the Treatment, Packaging and Disposal of Aluminum-Based Spent Nuclear Fuel (June 1996) within 30 days and that the chemical processing alternative be incorporated as an option in the Ten Year Plan and the Site Specific Spent Nuclear Fuel EIS. Brendolyn Jenkins moved the Board accept the motion and JoAnn Nestor seconded. The motion passed with 18 members in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

Bob Slay asked how many Board members would be in favor of hosting an educational forum regarding spent nuclear fuel, similar to the plutonium forum held in April. Eighteen members were interested in hosting such a forum.

Administrative Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins announced that the Administrative Subcommittee was recommending the removal of Board member Andrew Rea following four consecutive unexcused absences, three since his re-election in March. The Board voted in favor of such an action.

Ms. Wilkins also announced that advertising had been conducted to solicit new applications for membership and that a three-day membership review will be held on October 18-20 in Charleston, S.C.

Budget Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Thelonious Jones presented an overview of the Board's budget for the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 1996. The board also questioned whether the Board would receive adequate funding in FY97. Tom Heenan responded that the Board had DOE's commitment to maintain a vital and robust CAB budget in 1997.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Lane Parker announced that the Outreach Subcommittee had met on Monday afternoon and were working on a standard presentation for CAB members to provide to organizations. He thanked Ed Tant for his meeting with North Charleston Mayor prior to the Beaufort meeting and requested that Ann Loadholt and Brendolyn Jenkins speak with officials in their communities prior to the November meeting.

Handouts

SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, September 24, 1996
Risk Management & Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee Draft Motion, Rev. 2
Risk Management & Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee Final Motion
Saltstone Alternative Initiative slides, Charles E. Anderson, DOE
SRS CAB Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Draft Motion:
Saltstone
Consolidated Incineration Facility slides, Charles E. Anderson, DOE
SRS CAB Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Draft Motion:
Consolidated Incineration Facility
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness literature, Mike Butler
SRS CAB Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Draft Motion
SRS CAB Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Summary
CRESP Update: Savannah River
EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report
SRS Public Involvement Calendar

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