



# **November 1996 Meeting Minutes**

**SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

**November 19, 1996 8:30 a.m.**

**Barnwell State Park**

**Blackville, S.C.**

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Members present included Ann Brown, Tom Costikyan, Bill Donaldson, Brendolyn Jenkins, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Suzanne Matthews, Kathryn May, Karen patterson, Kamalakar Raut, Deborah Simone, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Ed Tant, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio members present included Lee Watkins of DOE, Ann Ragan of SCDHEC and Camilla Warren of EPA.

Members absent were Arthur Belge, Aundria Cheever, Theolonious Jones, Mildred McClain, Jo-Ann Nestor, and Lane Parker. Board Facilitator Walt Joseph was present. Currently, there are three Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Lee Watkins.

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 a request to add discussion on the DOE response to the Board Recommendation Number 26 at the end of the day, if time permitted. The Board voted in favor of adding this agenda item. Mr. Slay also announced that at the January meeting there will be a vote to select new subcommittee chairpersons and vice chairs. (See attachments.)

Mr. Slay told the Board members that a letter had been received by Virginia Gardner from DOE-HQ which said the Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) was currently at full strength. However, occasionally ad hoc committees are formed, and the EMAB would keep Dr. Bill Lawless in mind for a position on one of these ad hoc subcommittees. (See attachments.)

Mr. Slay thanked Steve Poda for all his work in making arrangements for the meetings.

## **Key Decisions Made by Board**

The Board approved a proposal for a Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum to be held in the spring of 1997.

The Board passed a recommendation on the management of transuranic waste and shipment of TRU wastes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and that the Experimental TRU Waste Assay Facility not be relocated with the placing of a temporary soil cap over the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground.

The Board recommended that the three agencies reach consensus on the Management Action Plan (MAP), that the MAP be shortened with clear objectives, assumptions, and a statement of the relationship between the MAP and the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Implementation Plan (FIP).

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

### **Agency Updates**

Shelley Phipps announced that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) did not have anything to report as an agency update.

Lee Watkins told the Board members that the final budget for fiscal year 1997 for SRS is not yet final; however, he expects that there will be \$30 million less than was expected by the site earlier. He announced that the next draft of the Ten Year Plan has been delayed until March 1997 to allow for additional stakeholder input and to allow the sites in the DOE complex to resolve budget issues. Mr. Watkins said that the CAB budget for the year would continue to be about the same as before.

### **Facilitator Update**

Walt Joseph announced that he would provide an update on the status of the Board's recommendations and agency responses at the January meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Patricia McCracken

Ms. McCracken stated that she believed that the supporting documents for all topics under discussion should be provided at the meeting.

Ann Loadholdt

Ms. Loadholdt announced to the Board members that the agency representatives may be available to work with different school groups while visiting various areas. She gave as an example that Camilla Warren had planned to work with the gifted and talented students in Barnwell County. However, due to a conflict, Ms. Warren had to delay her offer.

### **Proposed Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum**

Karen Patterson, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum, presented draft objectives and goals, proposed budget, and invitees to co-sponsor the forum. Co-sponsors from the Plutonium Educational Forum will be invited to co-sponsor this event. She explained that the Steering Committee also plans to invite universities from the South

Carolina Universities Research and Education Foundation (SCUREF) , the Education, Research and Development Association of Georgia (ERDA), the Georgia Carolina Technical College Consortium, and the Aiken County Technical Advisory Committee to participate in the forum also, possibly through distance education (via satellite). Dr. Raut also suggested that Armstrong Atlantic College in Savannah, Georgia, be contacted.

Ms. Patterson told the Board that the forum would be held in the spring of 1997 probably at a college or university campus. Other plans include a videotape to be professionally edited for public educational use. Ms. Patterson explained that the proposed budget of \$40,000 is probably more than the Steering Committee will need, but due to timing and logistics, they had decided to ask for this amount of money to allow for contingencies.

Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the proposal as presented and Vernon Zimmerman seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 14 in favor and one abstention. (See attached proposal.)

### **Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Vernon Zimmerman asked Clay Jones to give a status report on the Ten Year Plan for the Board. Mr. Jones announced that the schedule for the plan has been delayed which will allow more opportunity for stakeholder participation. The next RM&FU subcommittee meeting will be on December 2, 1996, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Augusta. The subcommittee will discuss this plan at this meeting.

Mr. Zimmerman provided a brief summary of the subcommittee`s work on the fiscal year (FY) 1999 budget prioritization activities. He explained that the subcommittee held meetings in Savannah, Georgia, and Hilton Head Island, Williston, and North Augusta, South Carolina to discuss the nine stakeholder criteria developed last year. The participants at each meeting ranked the nine criteria. Mr. Zimmerman provided a preferred ranking of the nine stakeholder criteria for the FY 1999 budget. (See attached for the ranking and a copy of the slides used in this report.)

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

At Subcommittee Co-Chair Bill Lawless' request, Joe D`Amelio, WSRC, gave an update on the Transuranic (TRU) Waste Program at SRS. He explained to the Board the progress the program has made in 1996 including the TRU waste retrieval activities, the TRU waste drum vent and purge activities, the TRU Waste Container Evaluation Examination Program, and the TRU Waste Strategic Plan and discussed the proposed initiatives for 1997.

Dr. Lawless read the subcommittee's recommendation that if the transportation regulations cannot be rewritten by November 1997 to permit shipment of the SRS Pu-238 waste to WIPP, then the Board recommends that funding for the construction of an SRS facility to destroy the combustible fraction of the Pu-238 waste be immediately requested. In addition, the motion recommends that placing a temporary soil cap over the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground not require the relocation of the Experimental TRU Waste Assay Facility. Kamalakar Raut moved the Board accept the motion and Kathryn May seconded.

Bill Donaldson moved to amend the motion to delete the last sentence in the second paragraph which says "This plan is contingent on revising transportation regulations to allow shipment of combustible Pu-238 wastes without prior treatment". Ann Brown seconded the amendment. The amendment failed by a vote of 6 in favor, 8 opposed, and one abstention.

The original motion passed with a vote of 8 in favor of the motion, 6 opposed, and one abstention.

Dr. Lawless asked Dr. Joel Massman to summarize the independent scientific peer review (ISPR) of the Management Action Plan (MAP) for SRS. Dr. Massman explained that the ISPR team for the MAP had been asked to review the MAP as a response to CAB Recommendation Number 10. The review showed that the MAP does not satisfy Recommendation Number 10. However, the group believes it is very difficult for DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC to fully implement Recommendation Number 10. He further explained that the CAB had also requested a plan for Phase II of the F and H Area Corrective Action and that the development of such a plan should be a reasonably manageable task.

Revision 4.0 of the MAP does incorporate many of the recommended changes, and this revision is better organized. Dr. Massman also explained that the mechanism for developing a consensus plan is not obvious. (See the attached Summary of Independent Scientific Peer Review of the Management Action Plan for the Savannah River Site.)

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC, told the Board that the regulators consider the MAP a strategy document and the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Implementation Plan (FIP) is more of a tactical document with milestones. EPA, SCDHEC, and DOE did reach consensus on the FIP. The Board and agencies agreed that the MAP and FIP should be better integrated. SCDHEC asked if the ISPR had included the FIP. Since it was not included, all decided that there should be better communication among the groups performing ISPRs, DOE, WSRC, and the regulators so that those reviewing documents for the CAB have the documents and contacts names to facilitate this review.

Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's motion recommending that the MAP be improved with a consensus among the three agencies and that the MAP have clearly defined cleanup goals, objectives, assumptions, and metrics. The motion was changed as follows:

2. The word "could" was changed to "should" in the first sentence.
4. The last sentence was removed.
5. The work "Contrasting" was changed to "Contrast" and the words "to the extent possible" was added after the word "distinguish" so that the first sentence is "Contrast the risks against the highest risks at the Site (e.g., High Level Wastes)."

Bill Donaldson moved that the recommendation be accepted with the changes shown above and Brendolyn Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (See attachments for copies of the draft motion and final motion.)

Dr. Lawless then asked Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC, to give a presentation on the fish advisory that SCDHEC issued in May. (See attached slides.) Mr. Collinsworth provided a history of the fish advisories issued by SCDHEC in 1995 and 1996. The participants discussed whether the fish advisory had reached the affected population of subsistence fishermen. Camilla Warren pointed out that SCDHEC had made special efforts to reach the affected population. Ann Ragan asked the CAB members to provide suggestions as to how to reach this population and how to explain the risk to this group. Brendolyn Jenkins explained that many of these subsistence fishermen probably do not read the newspaper or watch local news on television. She suggested additional efforts are needed to reach this group of people.

Dr. Lawless then asked Dr. Tom Hinton from the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory for a presentation on the risk as related to the Savannah River Fish Advisory. Dr. Hinton explained dose and gave dose comparisons between eating fish and other exposures that people experience (e.g., cosmic radiation, terrestrial radiation, different foods, etc.).

Dr. Lawless read a motion on the fish advisory which said that an independent scientific peer is needed for this advisory. Ann Brown moved that the CAB accept the recommendation; Kathryn May seconded the motion. After much discussion about what value this study could do, Ms. Brown withdrew her motion and Ms. May withdrew her second to the motion. Camilla Warren suggested a status report on the DOE fish survey be provided at the next CAB meeting. The Board was receptive to this suggestion.

Dr. Lawless distributed a package of information on the SRS High Level Waste Program home page. (See attachments.)

Dr. Lawless then turned the floor over to the subcommittee co-chair, Kathryn May. Ms. May introduced Ken Crase who gave an interim report on the various health effect studies. There are three studies underway at this time: the National Institute of Occupation Safety and Health (NIOSH) is doing site worker health effects study; the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is sponsoring a dose reconstruction study; and the Consortium for Risk Evaluation Through Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) is proposing to do followup studies on leukemia rates on workers who have been exposed to tritium.

At the last ER&WM Subcommittee meeting, CRESP and NIOSH sent representatives to provide an update on their studies; CDC was unable to make the meeting. Mr. Crase explained the NIOSH studies involve SRS workers including the incidence of multiple myeloma, effects on female workers, and a leukemia case control study which will include six DOE sites. However, these studies are not specific to tritium exposures. He also explained that CRESP will continue and expand the ORISE Leukemia Study to include females and minorities, extend the years of study, and reassess the leukemia dose response.

Bill Lawless said that there would not be a discussion on the final item on the ER&WM Subcommittee Report, closure of Tank 20. Lee Watkins that the scheduled tank closure has been delayed from December to January and offered to provide an update of the status at the January meeting.

## **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan provided an update of activities of the Nuclear Materials Subcommittee. First he said his subcommittee may have a recommendation in January on the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residue Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A scoping meeting will be held on this EIS on December 12 in North Augusta. One alternative includes material that would come to SRS.

Mr. Costikyan told the Board that Billy Keyserling had joined the Governor of South Carolina in his lawsuit against DOE. In addition, the Beaufort County Council has also voted to join the lawsuit. A federal judge has overruled Mr. Keyserling and is not going to allow him to join in the lawsuit.

Mr. Costikyan thanked Suzanne Matthews for arranging a tour of the Allied General Nuclear Services facilities (AGNS) on Monday, November 18. Board members asked DOE to provide a history of the facility at the next Board meeting. Ann Ragan suggested that people from SCDHEC and Barnwell County may have some additional insights about the facility.

Since time was running short, Mr. Costikyan told the group that he may discuss the DOE response to Recommendation Number 26 at the next Board meeting.

## **Administrative Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins told the Board that this subcommittee met the weekend of October 18 to review membership applications. Board members up for reelection are: Theolonious Jones, Bob Slay, Lane Parker, Kathyn May, Kamalakar Raut, Bill Donaldson, Beaurine Wilkins, Tom Costikyan, Mildred McClain, and P. K. Smith. She told the Board that they would be getting a package of information on each nominee at the January meeting. She encouraged the members to read and study the information and to contact the nominees before the vote in March.

She distributed a package that explained the advertising done to solicit membership applications. (See attached handouts.) She asked the Board members to review the list of newspapers and radio stations to determine if there are other newspapers and radio stations which should be used for advertising. She told the group that she would welcome any ideas they may have.

In reviewing the applications for the upcoming elections, the subcommittee found they had an insufficient number of applications from women, African Americans, and from residents of non-direct counties. (Direct counties include Allendale, Barnwell, Aiken, Richmond, Columbia, and Burke.) To maintain the diversity, the Board members should actively recruit in those three areas. She asked Gail Jernigan to describe her efforts in soliciting additional applications. Ms. Jernigan told the group that she has made some initial contacts, but the best sources are friends. Bill Lawless suggested the use of college newspapers as ads are usually nominal or free. Other groups to be contacted include League of Women Voters, sororities, etc. One suggestion was to send a copy of the application or information about the CAB with other SRS mailings. Another suggestion was to send copies of the applications to each Board member for them to recruit

someone for the Board. Deborah Simone said she had some contacts with Channel 6 who may be able to help the Board solicit more applicants.

Karen Patterson advised the group that the Board exercise some judgment in candidate solicitation to ensure interested and active individuals will participate in Board activities.

Ms. Wilkins also advised the Board that there will be a vote on propose by-law changes. Proposed changes are in the handout and can be identified as the bold, underlined text in italics. These proposed changes were drafted to respond to several concerns of the Executive Committee in their letter of October 16. The Executive Committee letter of October 16, 1996, can be found as the last page of the handout: Proposal to Amend the Bylaws. (See attachments.)

Brendolyn Jenkins questioned the need to change the Bylaws. If the Board can increase its communications and solicit additional membership applications, the Bylaws changes might not be necessary. Bill Lawless disagreed. He said that the problem has existed for several years. Ms. Jenkins` concern was the change to "plus or minus one". She said she was afraid that this plus or minus one may become cumulative such that in several years, the diversity of the Board would be gone.

Ms. Wilkins also addressed the attendance of the members to the Board members. If a member calls before the meeting , preferably several days prior to the meeting, then he/she may be excused; however, some Board members are not providing notification that they will not be attending until after the meeting. She distributed a copy of the membership roll and asked that the attendance record of the Board members be provided and analyzed.

## **Handouts**

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, November 19, 1996
- SRS CAB Recommendation Number 26 with DOE response
- Letter, to Bob Slay from the Co-Chairs of the Environmental Management Advisory Board, November 14, 1996
- Draft Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum Proposal, November 19, 1996
- FY 1999 Budget Prioritization Summary, Vernon Zinnerman, Chairman of the Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee
- Motion: Transuranic Waste
- Summary of Independent Scientific Peer Review of the Management Action Plan for the Savannah River Site, Joel Massman, November 20, 1996
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee Draft Motion: SRS Environmental Restoration Management Action Plan
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee Motion: SRS Environmental Restoration Management Action Plan
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control presentation the Fish Advisory, Keith Collinsworth
- Presentation on Risk as Related to the Savannah River Fish Advisory, Tom Hinton, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee Motion: Savannah River Fish Advisory
- SRS High Level Waste Program Home Page, Kelly Way,
- Update on SRS Worker Health Effects Studies, Ken Crase, November 19, 1996
- SRS CAB Administrative Subcommittee: SRS CAB 19967-97 Membership Advertising Campaign
- SRS CAB Administrative Subcommittee: Proposal to Amend the Bylaws
- SRS CAB Administrative Subcommittee: SRS CAB Attendance Chart (through July)
- SRS CAB Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Summary
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report