



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee

### **Meeting Summary**

**January 22, 1996**

**Hilton Head Island, S.C.**

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The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials Management (NMM) Subcommittee held a subcommittee meeting on Monday, January 22, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hilton Resort on Hilton Head Island, SC. Subcommittee members attending the meeting were Tom Costikyan, Pat Tousignant, and Alice Hollingsworth. Savannah River Site resource personnel attending included Donna Martin, Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) and Gerri Fleming, Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR).

The meeting consisted of discussion on the status of the plutonium disposition draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PU PEIS) and an overview of a plutonium disposition presentation given by Rick Geddes, WSRC, at a Sierra Club Central Savannah River Area chapter meeting on January 14 (see attached slides).

Costikyan noted that the draft PU PEIS was expected for release in late February, two months later than first estimated. According to previous discussion with deLisa Bratcher, DOE, the CAB and its independent advisor, Bill Sutcliffe, will receive the document at the same time congressional officials receive the draft, two weeks in advance of public distribution.

Discussion then focused on the plutonium disposition presentation given at the Sierra Club. Donna Martin, WSRC, discussed the history and characteristics of plutonium, then focused on specific activities leading up to the development of the programmatic environmental impact statement on the disposition of excess plutonium and DOE's responsibility in making the decision. Screening criteria for disposal options were highlighted, as well as the various disposal options DOE now considers most reasonable. Those options include: direct geologic disposal, immobilization with radionuclides and disposal, and reactor and accelerator options.

Warhead dismantlement and storage of pits at the Pantex Facility was briefly outlined, followed by discussion of the three most logical disposal scenarios. In all cases of preparing for disposal, Martin noted pit disassembly and conversion was necessary.

Pat Tousignant asked if any new waste streams were produced when the pits were taken apart. Martin said she would direct that question to WSRC technical personnel. Tousignant also asked if the SRS canyon facilities were adequate for future operations.

The "spent fuel standard" for plutonium was discussed. It was pointed out that the National Academy of Sciences and the American Nuclear Society suggest that near-term action for excess

plutonium should be getting the material to the spent fuel standards. In other words, plutonium should be coupled with highly radioactive material that would make it extremely difficult for anyone to separate the weapons usable plutonium without highly sophisticated procedures (see presentation: spent fuel definition)

The meeting concluded with discussion on SRS's history of plutonium production and management and the fact that SRS is being considered along with other DOE sites to assist in functions involved in disposition of excess plutonium. Tousignant suggested there would be benefit for national dialogue on this issue to hear the opinions of advisory board and stakeholders at other DOE sites.

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