



SRS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

RISK MANAGEMENT AND FUTURE USE SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 1, 1996

BARNWELL, SC

A meeting of the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was held on June 1, 1996, at 11:00 a.m. at the Winton Inn, Barnwell, SC. CAB attendees included Vernon Zimmerman, Chairman of the subcommittee, and Karen Patterson. Walt Joseph, CAB facilitator, and Suzanne Hoviary, a citizen from Summerville, also attended. Site employees who attended were Clay Jones, Gail Jernigan, and Keysha Jerbin. Designated Federal Official for the Department of Energy was Gerri Flemming.

Vernon Zimmerman welcomed participants to the meeting and asked for self-introductions from all attending. In reviewing the agenda, Mr. Zimmerman said that the CDC Health Effects Subcommittee presentation has been postponed until the July meeting as Dr. Raut was unable to make the meeting on June 1. Clay Jones added that the CDC has a separate board from the CAB and may ask to work with the CAB in certain mutual activities.

Gerri Flemming explained that the DOE-funded Risk Communication Study was one of the suggested topics for this subcommittee on a list of possible topics in a letter from Tom Heenan. (See letter attached.) She said that the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) has been given a grant by the Department of Energy to improve risk communications with citizens from the smaller communities near SRS. She explained that this grant will allow MUSC to establish several focus groups in Barnwell, New Ellenton, Jackson, and Burke County. Participants will be paid as well as provided a meal. These methods are being used to encourage minorities and low income populations to attend and participate in this study. Task 1 of the grant is to ascertain perceptions of environmental health risk with concerns associated with SRS. Task 2 is to develop community-specific communication models, based on Task 1, to respond to identified environmental health risk concerns of the focus groups.

Ms. Flemming further explained that two years ago, Ann Loadholdt and Julie Arbogast, CAB members at that time, had informally asked the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a strategy to simplify how risk is communicated to citizens of the smaller communities near SRS. This grant is a result of that request. The proposed dates for the initial public meetings are June 13 in Barnwell, June 14 in Jackson, July 30 in Girard, and July 31 in New Ellenton. Since the first meeting will be held in less than two weeks, a question was raised if these were tentative dates or final dates. Mr. Jones and Ms. Flemming said that they confirm the dates for the meetings and notify members of the CAB of the times and locations for the meetings in these communities.

Ms. Flemming also distributed letters from Bob Slay and Virginia Gardner in reference to this grant. (See attached.) Mr. Jones announced that there will be a risk assessment workshop on June 28-29 at the Ramada Plaza (formerly the Landmark Inn) on Broad Street in Augusta, Georgia. This course is being offered through the Oak Ridge Office by HAZRAP. The emphasis of this course will be to stress the basic principles of risk assessment, risk management, and risk perception/risk communication. (See attached information.) June 29 is also one of the days that the CAB members will be manning a booth at the Black Expo for the Outreach Subcommittee. This will be a conflict for some members of the CAB.

Mr. Jones then began the discussions on the FY 1999 Budget Prioritization activities. He explained that the FY 1998 budget, as submitted by the site with input from the CAB is being reviewed by DOE Headquarters. From there it will go to the Office of Management and Budget to be incorporated as part of the President's FY 1999 budget submission to Congress. Then Congress will work to develop a budget bill. Congress and the President are currently working on the FY 1997 budget which will take effect October 1, 1996.

Last fall the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee with the Waste Management and Environmental Remediation Subcommittee developed stakeholder criteria for prioritizing the work at the site. (See attached list of Stakeholder Criteria.) Site management developed 300 work packages that were consolidated into 60+ broader categories. The Risk Data Sheets (RDSs) which describe these activities fell into 4 major categories: (1) Safe Storage and Surveillance and Maintenance, (2) Material Stabilization/Cleanup, (3) Improvements/Cost Reductions, and (4) Infrastructure and Site Support.

Since then, the Consortium of Risk Evaluations with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) has reviewed the RDSs and compared SRS RDSs with RDSs from other sites. (Risk Data Sheets are a four page summary that describes each activity. These sheets explain what is the work to be done for each activity, what is the risk of not doing the work described, what is the risk for accomplishing this activity, what risk reduction is expected, etc.) CRESP suggested that these RDSs be written in a more readable form so that the average reader could understand them. After reading RDSs from across the DOE Complex, CRESP found a lack of consistency among the sites. DOE-HQ has found SRS's cost estimates and methodology to be more credible and realistic than other sites.

Mr. Jones suggested that the CAB and this subcommittee consider two approaches to improve the process for the FY 1999 budget. One approach is to broaden the community participation. The site was criticized last year for not having participation from citizens downstream from the site so this approach is to actively solicit additional stakeholder input into the process this year. Another approach suggested by Mr. Jones is to study 6-8 work packages in detail. The subcommittee can ask site experts to explain how the CAB stakeholder criteria was used last year and use this information to provide additional input into the process this year.

Another approach suggested at the meeting is to ask the decision-makers in DOE-HQ how we can improve the process. How can the site and stakeholders make the process more credible and defensible? After some discussion, Walt Joseph volunteered to develop a proposal for the subcommittee for additional public participation in the budget process as well as facilitate a

discussion to choose 6-8 RDSs for further review. This discussion and strawman will be at the July subcommittee meeting in Aiken. Mr. Jones said he would ask DOE-HQ how this subcommittee can improve on the process.

Mr. Zimmerman asked the participants if the small number of attendees should schedule October, November, and December meetings. After some discussion, the scheduling of these meetings was postponed until the July subcommittee meeting when it is expected that more members will be attending.

Mr. Zimmerman announced that a reporter from the Augusta Chronicle called him for comments on the future use report from DOE-HQ. With no further business to discuss, Mr. Zimmerman adjourned the meeting.

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