



# **March 1997 Meeting Minutes**

**SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

**March 25, 1997 .**

**Savannah River Site, Building 703-41A**

**Aiken, S.C.**

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## Members Present

Members present include Arthur Belge, Anne Brown, Bill Donaldson, Brendolyn Jenkins, Thelonious Jones, Bill Lawless, Suzanne Matthews, Mildred McClain, Kathryn May, Karen Patterson, Kamalakar Raut, Deborah Simone, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Ed Tant and Beaurine Wilkins. Ex-Officio members Tom Heenan, Jim Brownlow, Ann Ragan and Camilla Warren were present.

Members absent were Aundria Cheever, Tom Costikyan, Ann Loadholt, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, and Vernon Zinnerman. Currently, there are three Board vacancies. The DOE Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. J. Walter Joseph of Aiken, S.C. served as the CAB Facilitator.

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

## **Key Decisions Made by Board**

Ann Loadholt was elected Chairperson, Brendolyn Jenkins was elected Vice Chairperson and Suzanne Matthews was elected Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Chairperson.

The Board passed a recommendation on the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Prioritization that ranked criteria to be used in establishing priorities and encouraged consistency in application of the process.

The Board recommended that DOE not pursue the construction of a soils/debris consolidation facility as a waste minimization effort.

A recommendation that all three agencies work closely to expedite actual cleanup field work focusing on cleanup up the highest risks units was unanimously adopted by the Board.

The Board unanimously adopted a motion supporting a DOE Technology Deployment Initiative and recommended expanded stakeholder involvement in Phase II of the Initiative.

Fourteen individuals were elected to two-year term membership positions.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September January 28, 1997 meeting were approved with no changes.

## **Recognition and Service Announcements**

SRS Deputy Manager Greg Rudy was introduced to the Board and presented letters of recognition to Bob Slay and Anne Brown from Dr. Mario Fiori. Mr. Heenan and Mr. Rudy also presented a plaque recognizing the SRS CAB chairpersons to be displayed by the Department of Energy and a recognition memento to Mr. Slay who has chaired the Board for the past three years. Bob Slay and Anne Brown both elected to rotate off the Board and not pursue consecutive membership terms.

## **Agency Updates**

Tom Heenan announced that the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) was scheduled to begin a trial burn in the next few weeks and commented on a tour of the facility which was attended the day before by several Board members. He reminded Board members of the CIF Open House later that evening to be held in North Augusta, S.C Mr. Heenan also announced that Assistant Secretary Tom Grumbly was resigning (see attached press release). He discussed other local DOE personnel changes as well. Board Ex-Officio Member Lee Watkins will now head the division dealing with nuclear materials management such as spent fuel and plutonium disposition. Frank McCoy will be the new Assistant Manager for High Level Waste and Assistant Manager Len Sjostrom will now head the Health and Safety Division at Savannah River.

Camilla Warren announced that EPA was currently reviewing budget prioritization activities and the CAB could look for agency comments on the DOE budget shortly. She also stated that EPA has received the same presentation as the Board's subcommittee on fish subsistence and they were following these activities.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments were received on March 25 from the general public, however Board member Karen Patterson thanked DOE for the tour of CIF. During the public meeting on March 24, 1997, Lee Poe of Aiken, S.C. provided comments on DOE budget prioritization and the Environmental Management Ten Year Plan (see attached). These comments were provided to the full board during its regular business meeting on Tuesday at Mr. Poe's request. Trish McCracken of Augusta, Ga, also presented comments and questions to the Board on Monday and discussed the site's permitting process (see attached).

## **Election of Officers**

The Board elected Ann Loadholt as Chairperson of the Board to fill the unexpired portion of the term held by Bob Slay. Brendolyn Jenkins was elected Vice Chair. Candidates for the position were Brendolyn Jenkins, Karen Patterson and Kamalakar Raut. Suzanne Matthews was elected

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Chair. Ann Loadholt and Suzanne Matthews both ran unopposed.

## **Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report**

In the absence of recent subcommittee chair Vernon Zinnerman, Walt Joseph presented a draft recommendation on Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Prioritization (see attached). Mr. Joseph explained that five public meetings had been held since late September 1996 and that the recommendation reflected the budget prioritization criteria rankings established during the public meetings. Karen Patterson moved the Board accept the recommendation and Bill Donaldson seconded. Much discussion followed regarding how regulatory compliance was ranked within the list. Some board members felt as if regulatory compliance was addressed within the first three to four criteria and should not be ranked separately as the seventh criteria. Other members stated it was important to keep the recommendation as is since it reflects the wishes of the general public. Board members noted that the number of individuals participating in the public meetings were not very large and that the chart showing the sum of all five meetings should be included with the recommendation.

P.K. Smith offered an amendment to the motion to list the criteria as ranked by the general public within the recommendation, but then to provide a second list which reflected the Board's opinion. Thelonious Jones seconded this motion. The amended recommendation provides a second list that removes regulatory compliance and adds a statement that regulatory compliance is encompassed within the first four recommended criteria for budget prioritization. The amended motion passed with 14 members in favor and one opposed.

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

Subcommittee Co-chair Bill Lawless introduced Dr. Ed Berkey of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) who gave a presentation on the Independent Review of the SRS Annual Environmental Report (see attached). He explained that the review has been conducted by the EAC since 1989, but that it has become much more systematically conducted since the passage of CAB Recommendation No. 1 in 1994.

Dr. Berkey stated the objective of the EAC review is to apply a multidisciplinary perspective, and evaluate and improve clarity, accuracy, readability, and subject matter. He discussed the membership of the EAC and the process for reviewing the report. He discussed EAC review comments and their views on the report stating the report has improved noticeably each year and that the vast majority of comments are accepted. Dr. Berkey also addressed the impact of the CAB's Recommendation No. 1 stating that DOE has now initiated a more formal review process, that Westinghouse has increased focus on accuracy, clarity and responsiveness to the EAC and that the recommendation has elevated the importance of the Annual Report.

Bill Lawless next introduced Bert Crapse of DOE to provide a presentation on the Soil/Debris Consolidation Facility (see attached). Mr. Crapse said the purpose of the program was to evaluate options for the consolidation of low-level radioactive soils and debris from waste units

at SRS and compare these alternatives to previously identified remedial alternatives. Mr. Crapse explained that DOE was looking for a way to handle radioactive soils from twenty waste units that would require 600,000 cubic yards of disposal capacity. This facility would be located in E Area at the burial ground complex.

Study findings showed that a soils/debris consolidation facility would be approximately double the cost of in-situ grouting and capping; increase worker exposure; and that only four of the twenty waste units were potential candidates for the facility. Bill Lawless next read the subcommittee's recommendation which commended DOE for its waste minimization efforts, however did not support construction of a soils/debris consolidation facility based on the study findings (see attached). Suzanne Matthews moved the board adopt the recommendation and Kamalakar Raut seconded the motion. Arthur Belge moved the Board amend the motion to remove any references commending DOE. Deborah Simone seconded. The amendment failed with four members in favor, nine opposed and two abstentions. The subcommittee's original motion passed with 12 in favor and three opposed.

Todd Crawford, Board Technical Advisor, provided the next presentation regarding SRS Waste Site Cleanup Actions (see attached). He discussed the SRS Federal Facility Agreement which directs SRS cleanup and was signed by all three agencies. He explained how PRescore (a computer model used by EPA) is utilized for ranking waste units by risks. The PRescore criteria include the likelihood of release, hazardous waste characteristics, adverse effects to humans from various potential exposures, potential environmental threats to ecosystem, potential threats to humans through food chain exposure and natural resource damage potential.

Dr. Crawford next discussed the various appendices of the FFA and discussed the PRescores of waste units in Appendix C. He then presented a timeline for cleanup of a typical unit under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, laws governing cleanup activities at SRS. He showed a photograph of a rubble pile (a small pile of wooden debris) and explained that through the current process, it could take as long as four to five years to remediate this waste unit.

Bill Lawless next read the subcommittee's motion regarding SRS waste site cleanup actions which recommends all three agencies work closely to expedite actual cleanup field work focusing on cleanup of the highest risks units (see attached). Mildred McClain moved the Board adopt the motion and Karen Patterson seconded. Keith Collinworth of SCDHEC stated they would have a problem with the last sentence in the third bullet since considering industrial standards prematurely concerns the State. Bill Lawless moved to delete the last sentence in bullet three noting that CAB Recommendation No. 2 addresses this issue. Karen Patterson seconded the amendment. All members were in favor of the amendment. Karen Patterson moved that a second amendment be made to clearly state that the high risk sites in the first bullet refer to SRS waste units. Beaurine Wilkins seconded. The second amendment passed with 13 members in favor and two abstentions. The motion as amended was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Subcommittee Co-Chair Kathryn May introduced the next two speakers. Karen Hooker of DOE and Tom French of Westinghouse discussed the DOE Technology Deployment Initiative (TDI). Karen Hooker explained that TDI is an initiative offered to all sites in the DOE complex that will

provide \$50 million in FY 1998 to deploy technologies or new processes in the field that can accelerate the achievement of the Ten Year Plan goals. Cost savings can then be reinvested in site program and technologies will go directly to the field with no demonstrations, she said. She explained that SRS planned to partner with other DOE sites and that the technologies being proposed by SRS could shorten the length of cleanup and improve cleanup quality. SRS would be the team lead on high impact TDI proposals and team members for lower impact TDI proposals, she said. She stated that stakeholder support carried a 15 percent weighting for proposals.

Tom French discussed several technologies to be proposed by SRS including deploying dense nonaqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) remediation technology used at the A/M Area at SRS. This technology removes undissolved DNAPL from soil and groundwater. DNAPLs are the most significant barrier to successfully cleaning up large industrial sites like the A/M Area. He also discussed a technology used to vitrify radiologically contaminated asbestos during the dismantlement of large and/or complex equipment and structures. SRS proposes vitrifying radiologically contaminated asbestos in the existing Vendor Treatment Facility at the site which is owned and operated by GTS Duratek under contract to Westinghouse. The speakers provided proposal summaries for 22 technologies and an implementation schedule for the Technology Deployment Initiative (see attached).

Kathryn May read the subcommittee's motion supporting the Technology Deployment Initiative and recommending expanded stakeholder involvement in Phase II of the Initiative. Karen Patterson moved the Board adopt the motion and Mildred McClain seconded. The motion was amended to distinguish between the two Phases of the Initiative. The recommendation was adopted unanimously by the Board.

## **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

In the absence of Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan, Walt Joseph introduced John Dickenson of Westinghouse who gave an overview of SRS nuclear materials stabilization activities (see attached). Mr. Dickenson stated that there are three categories of nuclear materials: stable, programmatic and unstable. He discussed the full inventory of materials at SRS and how SRS will manage the various solutions. For example, he stated there were 9000 gallons of Pu-239 solutions to be processed in H Canyon and converted into metal by the year 2000.

Americium/Curium solutions in F Canyon are considered unstable and need to be converted into glass form and transported to Oak Ridge, he said. A multi-purpose small scale melter in F Canyon is proposed to convert the isotope and currently a prototype is being used without radioactive solutions. FY2000 is the projected year to begin using the melter, he said.

Mr. Dickenson explained how Pu-242 solutions in H Area were converted to oxide through the H Canyon and HB Line and then shipped to Los Alamos. He discussed recent work to stabilize Mk-31 (pronounced Mark-31) targets, showing before and after pictures of the fuel. SRS completed dissolution of the Mk-31 targets in F-Canyon this year. He also discussed Mk 16/22's explaining there are 1883 assemblies to be processed in H Canyon this year following restart of the canyon. He stated that 22 of 43 milestones in the 94-1 Implementation Plan have been completed to date and the remainder are due to be completed by the year 2003. These milestones

are based on recommendations by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Other major activities scheduled for this year include completing installation of bagless transfer equipment in FB-Line to repackage plutonium metal; completing preparations to dissolve plutonium residues in HB-Line Phase I; and completing preparations to dissolve sand, slag and crucible in the F Canyon. Currently, six environmental impact statements could potentially impact the SRS canyons.

## **Administrative Subcommittee Report**

The Board voted to request DOE take necessary actions to relinquish Aundria Cheever of her responsibilities to the Board.

Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins conducted annual membership elections. The following individuals were elected to two-year terms.

William Adams, Hilton Head, S.C. Jimmy Mackey, Beaufort, S.C.  
Tom Costikyan, Dataw Island, S.C. Kathryn May, Martinez, Ga.  
Bill Donaldson, Tybee Island, Ga. Lane Parker, Graniteville, S.C.  
Mary Elfner, Savannah, Ga. Kamalakar Raut, Savannah, Ga.  
Kenneth Goad, Aiken, S.C. Perjetta Smith, North Augusta, S.C.  
Jon Hollingsworth, Waynesboro, Ga. Beaurine Wilkins, Augusta, Ga.  
Thelonious Jones, Augusta, Ga. Rebecca Witter, Savannah, Ga.

## **Recommendation Review**

Continuing a presentation from the January Board meeting, Board facilitator Walt Joseph presented a review of recommendations adopted in 1996. He presented Recommendations 18-28 providing a brief overview of each recommendation as well as responses provided by the agencies (See attached presentation slides and 1996 tracking report.)

## **Update of CAB Home Page**

Bill Lawless presented an update of the Board's home page. Board members reviewed modifications to their web site and viewed a recently added video about SRS. Other near term additions include a high-level waste section depicting the processes for managing high level waste; a Spent Fuel Forum section and membership applications.

## **Spent Fuel Forum Update**

Karen Patterson gave an update on the Spent Fuel Forum scheduled for June 12 at the Augusta Technical Institute in Augusta, Ga. Confirmed sponsors include:

American Nuclear Society  
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness  
Citizens for Environmental Justice  
Education Research and Development Association of Georgia Universities

Georgia/Carolina Technical Consortium  
Health Physics Society  
League of Women Voters, South Carolina and Augusta  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Atlanta  
Savannah River Sierra Club and Georgia Sierra Club  
South Carolina Universities Research and Education Foundation  
A letter had been sent to Secretary Pe—a requesting his participation in the forum, she said.  
Confirmed speakers include the following:

Arjun Makajani, Institute for Energy & Environmental Research (non-separation treatment)  
Alan Waltar, former ANS president (conventional processing)  
Mac Louthan, Savannah River Technology Center (wet storage)  
Jack Devine, Polestar Applications (Introduction to spent fuel)  
David Albright, Institute for Science and International Security (nonproliferation)  
Kevin Toth, Department of Transportation (highway)  
Ed Pritchard, Department of Transportation (railway)  
Ron Kinney, SCDHEC (state regulations and emergency preparedness)  
Tim Takaro, PSR (public participation and national dialogue) (contacted but not confirmed)  
Diane Harrison, Yucca Mountain Project Office (contacted by not confirmed)

Ms. Patterson discussed publicity and use of the Internet and satellite hook ups for the forum. The committee is also sponsoring an essay contest to be judged by Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness who will also provide awards, such as savings bonds. The committee is also looking into providing teacher stipends to encourage educator participation. Invitations to the forum will be mailed to all individuals on SRS mail lists, she said.

**The Outreach Subcommittee Report and the National Dialogue Discussion were postponed.**

## **Handouts**

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, March 25, 1997
- Comments Prepared for March 24 Citizens Advisory Board Public Comment Period on DOE Budget/EM10-Yr Plan/CAB Activity, Lee Poe, dated March 20, 1997
- Letter from Trish McCracken to SRS Citizens Advisory Board
- DOE News Release, dated March 24, 1997
- SRS CAB Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Draft Recommendation on Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Prioritization
- SRS CAB Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Definitions of Stakeholder Criteria
- Independent Review of SRS Annual Environmental Report slides, Edgar Berkey, dated March 25, 1997
- Soil/Debris Consolidation Facility, Bert Crapse, DOE
- Motion on Soils/Debris Consolidation Facility, Bill Lawless
- SRS Waste Site Cleanup Actions slides, Todd Crawford, consultant, dated March 25, 1997
- Motion for the SRS CAB SRS Waste Site Cleanup Actions, Bill Lawless

- Background on SRS Waste Site Cleanup Actions Motion for the SRS CAB, Bill Lawless
- Technology Deployment Initiative slides, Karen Hooker, dated March 25, 1997
- Technology Deployment Initiative Implementation Schedule, dated March 3, 1997
- Motion for the SRS CAB Technology Deployment Initiative, Kathryn May
- Additional Information Regarding Technology Deployment Initiative Motion for the SRS CAB, Kathryn May
- Savannah River Site Technology Deployment Initiative Proposal Summaries, Rev. 0, dated March 24, 1997
- Savannah River Site Nuclear Materials Stabilization slides, John Dickenson, WSRC
- Implementation of SRS Citizens Advisory Board Recommendations 1996 Tracking Report, J.W. Joseph, Facilitator, dated January 29, 1997
- Implementation of SRS Citizens Advisory Board Recommendations 1996 Tracking Report slides, J.W. Joseph
- Letter from Deputy Assistant Secretary Jill E. Lytle to Bob Slay, dated March 18, 1997
- CAB Recommendations Summary
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report
- SRS Public Involvement Calendar