



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Notes

July 12, 1997

Savannah, Georgia

The Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) met on July 12, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. at the Hampton Inn, Savannah, Georgia. CAB members attending were Suzanne Matthews, Mary Effner, Jimmy Mackey, and Beckie Witter. Walt Joseph, CAB Facilitator, also attended. Members of the public who attended Howard Dawson, Debra Hassan, R. S. Matthews, Laura Buice, Paula Joseph, and Risa Bernasconi. Virginia Kay from the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) attended as the Associated Deputy Designated Federal Official. Jim Buice and Marian Woolsey also from DOE-SR attended. The Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) attendee was Gail Jernigan.

Suzanne Matthews, Chairperson of the Subcommittee, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting. She introduced Jim Buice, Director of Planning and Budget for DOE-SR, who gave an overview of the national and SRS Discussion Drafts of Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006. (See attached slides.)

Jimmy Mackey asked why these are not decision-making documents. Mr. Buice explained that these plans provide a strategic overview of the Environmental Management (EM) Program and they provide a chance for the public to comment on the overall picture for the EM Program. The plans are living documents which will change as assumptions and situations change. They also provided a basis for the fiscal year (FY) 1999 budget. Gail Jernigan noted that DOE decision-making documents are usually through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

Mr. Mackey also asked would the public know if a particular project, for example cleaning up the high level waste tanks, went over budget or when a project was completed. Mr. Buice explained that by studying the details of the performance measures and other sections in the plan the public would know if DOE had met its commitments. Mr. Mackey went on to ask if there is a contingency for emergencies in the plan. Mr. Buice told the participants that there is not a contingency fund. If there were an emergency or need for additional funds, DOE is required to request additional funding from Congress or would re-prioritize activities and tasks.

Mr. Mackey asked if the plan included inflation. Mr. Buice said the escalation factor for inflation is 2.7 percent. The participants expressed concern about safety. While the site is known for its safety record, they expressed concern that this safety culture continue for DOE, its contractors, and any privatization initiatives.

NOTE: Additional comments and questions were captured on a flip chart by Mr. Joseph and are included as an attachment to these meeting notes.

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Buice reminded participants that the public comment would last until September 9, 1997, and comments can be sent to Virginia Kay and Gail Jernigan. Their names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses are shown on the bottom of the agenda. Suzanne also asked for comments for the recommendation this subcommittee will be developing. She thanked the participants for attending the meeting to provide their input; she reminded the group that Mr. Alvin Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, will be at a public meeting on July 15, 1997, at 6:30 p.m. at the North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, South Carolina. The meeting was then adjourned.

Comments/Discussion Points Developed at July 12, 1997 Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Meeting

- Assumes \$1.205 Billion Per Year To 2006 For Cleanup Only Supports Constant Staffing Total = No Downsizing
- Layoff Focus Has Been On Non-Exempts (Operations, Construction Crafts, Etc.)
- Commercial Nuclear Fuel Is Not Part Of SRS Mission Or This Plan
- Spent Nuclear Fuel Transfer And Storage Facility Is Proposed SRS Privatization Initiative ~ Can It Be Cheaper If WSRC Provides Oversight? \$265 Million Preliminary Estimate (Jimmy Mackey Wants More Information on this facility.)
- Dollars Saved Stay At The Site. (Concern That Congress Will Keep The Money.)
- Efficiencies Essential To Accomplish Work On Schedule. . . SRS Has Accepted Challenge Of Offsetting Inflation But Not HQ Challenge
- PACE Initiative Yield \$75 Million Per Year Built Into Plan
- National Stakeholder Meeting In September . . CAB Recommendation And Others
- Efficiencies Must Not Compromise Safety . . Concern

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.