



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee**

#### **Meeting Record**

**April 27, 1998**

**Partridge Inn, Augusta, GA**

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The CAB ER&WM subcommittee met on April 27, 1998 at the Partridge Inn in Augusta GA. Bill Lawless opened with introductions of the attendees. CAB members present included Bill Lawless and Kathryn May (ER&WM subcommittee Co-Chairs, Karen Patterson, Wade Waters, and Brendolyn Jenkins. Todd Crawford, Technical Advisor for the CAB was in attendance. Attending from DOE-SR were Roy Schepens, Howard Gnann, Jim Arnett, Martin Salazar, Charlie Anderson, and Dale Ormond. Craig Mariner attended from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Attending from WSRC/BSRI/BNFL were Robbie Cordani, Welford T. (Sonny) Goldston, Steve Crook, Steve Piccolo, Kelly Way, Mike Mason, Elmer Wilhite, Jim Moore, Bruce Lawrence, Joe D'Amelio and Helen Villazor. Public attendees included Patricia McCracken, Jim Pope, Mike French, Art Dobby, Debbie Gartland, Lee Poe, Sam Booher, and Bill McDonell. Gerri Flemming attended as the Associate Deputy Designated Federal Official (ADDFO).

During the public comment period, Lee Poe expressed concern over the lack of local stakeholder involvement on Defense Programs at SRS, especially citizen involvement in the area of tritium production from power reactors. Mr. Poe explained that stakeholder involvement had been sought away from SRS including states such as Alabama and Tennessee. Mr. Poe recognized that Defense Programs are outside of the CAB's charter, but believes strongly that local citizens need to be involved in making decisions that could affect SRS. Patricia McCracken noted that she agreed with Mr. Poe's concern on the lack of public participation on Defense Programs at SRS. A copy of the CAB's Charter is being sent to Ms. McCracken per her request.

Todd Crawford, CAB Technical Advisor, discussed the motion he drafted that came to be known as Deed Restrictions. The purpose of the draft motion was to further commit DOE to protecting SRS Industrial Areas (CAB Recommendation 2) into the foreseeable future. Recognizing that the FFA Implementation Plan does bring land use into the remediation discussions, and noting there was reluctance to move forward with this new draft motion, Mr. Crawford requested that the Deed Restriction motion officially be dropped.

Bill Lawless thanked Patricia McCracken for her participation in the Beneficial Reuse Recommendation that was passed by the CAB at the full Board meeting in Charleston, SC on March 24, 1998.

Bill Lawless noted that he will present the comments he has received on the SCDHEC Fish Fact Sheets at the ER&WM Subcommittee meeting scheduled for May 6, 1998. Mr. Lawless requested that the comments be transmitted electronically to SCDHEC prior to the meeting.

Sonny Goldston introduced the draft DOE Order, 435.1 Radioactive Waste Management, which replaces existing DOE 5820.2A. Mr. Goldston said that the new or modified requirements are being driven primarily by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) and comparisons to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulations. Mr. Goldston explained that the new DOE Order will require briefing Citizen Advisory Boards across the complex on the modifications and that a draft order will be presented to the public for a 30-day comment period in June. Bill Lawless requested this topic to be added to the ER&WM Subcommittee agenda in June.

Bill Lawless concluded the opening public comment period by asking about the progress of an agreed-upon SRL Seepage Basin Core Team meeting scheduled for April 29, 1998 with EPA, SCDHEC, and DOE-SR. When advised that the meeting had been canceled, Mr. Lawless then requested that his proposed action item from the ER&WM subcommittee meeting on April 14, 1998, for a tele-conference call among Jim Hankinson, EPA, Lewis Shaw, SCDHEC, and Greg Rudy, DOE-SR be arranged for April 30, 1998.

Bruce Lawrence presented an overview of the Site Treatment Plan (STP) by discussing the Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992, and the relationship of government facilities with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Mr. Lawrence discussed STP commitments and milestones of three SRS facilities: Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), which will remove waste by 2028; M-Area Vendor Treatment Facility (VTF), which will complete sludge processing and Stream 31 by June 30, 1999 and Stream 48 processing by October 30, 1999; and the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF), which will process 50% of non-PUREX mixed waste by September 30, 1998 (350 cubic meters). Mr. Lawrence noted that a RCRA Part B application for pretreatment is required to be submitted to SCDHEC by December 31, 2001.

Questions pertaining to stakeholder involvement on the STP, the relationship of Environmental Management Integration (EMI) and the STP, and state equity issues were posed. Jim Pope indicated that copies of the EMI Disposition Maps were available on the Internet.\* Therefore, Bill Lawless requested that an updated STP status report be presented to the subcommittee in September 1998. In response to questions on funding for the M-Area VTF, and the amount of meaningful work left to perform at VTF, Mr. Lawless requested that a brief overview of the VTF status be presented at the May 6, 1998 subcommittee meeting.

Howard Gnann presented the status of High Level Waste (HLW) In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) now referred to as the Salt Disposition Alternative. Mr. Gnann discussed the issued program plan specifying the System Engineering (SE) protocol, milestones, key deliverables and responsibilities for the WSRC SE, DOE-SR, DOE-HQ and the Independent Project Evaluation (IPE) teams. Mr. Gnann said approximately 130 alternatives for salt disposition have been identified, 18 of which have been placed on an intermediate list. The ultimate goal is to shorten the list to three or five alternatives. The near-term schedule includes development of the short list by mid May and development of evaluation criteria and weighing factors by late May.

In response to questions regarding ways of keeping the public informed on ITP, Bill Lawless suggested putting ITP information on the Internet so that the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the ITP alternatives. DOE committed to look into the issue of providing the public with an opportunity to respond via the HLW Home Page. In addition, it was recommended that a public focus group, led by Lee Poe, be formed to interface with HLW personnel early on in the process in order to promote greater stakeholder involvement with SRS's ITP issues. It was recommended that the group spend time identifying the categories and significance of the alternatives. Howard Gnann and Steve Piccolo offered their technical support to the focus group.

When asked about closing a "four pack", Mr. Gnann responded that the goal is not to close one tank but to close three tanks and an evaporator at the same time. Bill Lawless expressed his concern for the continuing need to meet regulatory compliance dates.

Joe D'Amelio then presented an update on the Transuranic (TRU) Waste "Ship to WIPP" initiative and TRU Vent and Purge hydrogen issues. WIPP is on schedule to open May 1998 and the initial SRS Certification Audit is scheduled for October 1998. The Solid Waste Division is currently developing process, equipment, procedures and training to prepare SRS's initial shipment, which is scheduled for March 1999. Mr. D'Amelio discussed the concern with hydrogen gas build up resulting from radiolysis and said that drums with more than 4% hydrogen are purged with nitrogen. A resampling process established that two out of three drums resampled indicated hydrogen levels were above 4% while oxygen levels remained below 4%. As a result, all vented drum movements were stopped and drum venting operations were suspended. A forty-drum sampling program was developed and it was concluded that hydrogen content returned below 4% in less than 120 days and that it would require at least 53 hours from initial venting to reach a 4% oxygen content. Bill Lawless recommended that a revisit of the TRU Program be provided to the subcommittee after the October audit.

During the final public comment period, Lee Poe expressed interest in having a future subcommittee presentation on the recent Hanford finding of radioactivity in their water table from high level waste that had previously leaked into the soil surrounding their waste tanks. Recent information indicated much greater leakage than previously thought and the finding of radioactivity in the groundwater indicated the transport through their vadose (or unsaturated soils) was centuries faster than expected. The presentation should include: Hanford findings (both the uncertainty in the amount of leakage and uncertainty in transport times); cause of Hanford uncertainties; lessons learned for SRS; and what information exists at SRS to show SRS does not have similar problems.

Mr. Poe also noted that the subcommittee should have a discussion regarding a DOE presentation to the National Governor's Association indicating decisions have been reached on High-Level, Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste. Except for the TRU Record of Decision (ROD), which was issued on January 23, 1998, no other RODs from the Waste Management Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Analysis have been issued and these RODs are not expected until late this year. Mr. Poe asked why were the State Governors told these decisions had been reached.

Because many of these issues relate to issues the ER&WM Subcommittee is working on and continues to be interested in, Bill Lawless asked that these concerns be added to future subcommittee agendas.

Bill Lawless closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

\* Internet address for EMI information and disposition maps:  
[http://infoshare.inel.gov/published/disp\\_maps\\_2-19.html](http://infoshare.inel.gov/published/disp_maps_2-19.html)

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