



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee

Meeting Record

November 10, 1998
Federal Building
Aiken, SC

The CAB ER&WM subcommittee met on November 10, 1998, at the Federal Building, Aiken, SC. CAB members present included CAB ER&WM subcommittee co-chairs Bill Lawless and Kathryn May and members Karen Patterson and Wade Waters. Todd Crawford, technical advisor to the CAB was in attendance. Attending from DOE-SR were Rod Rimando, Bill Noll and DOE ADDFO Gerri Flemming. Ann Clark, Keith Collinsworth and Greg Grunzel attended from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Attending from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were Julie Corkran and Ken Feely. Attending from WSRC/BSRI/BNFL were Paul Sauerborn, Jim Moore, Helen Villasor, Gerry Stejskal, Kelly Way, Steve Piccolo, Bob Hinds, Clay Jones, Mary Flora, Tom Rehder, Ken Rueter, Kim Wierzbicki and Phil Crotwell. Peter Gray, Lee Poe, Jim Pope, Russ Messick, Mike French, and Joel Massmann attended from the public.

Bill Lawless opened the meeting by asking for any public comments. Mr. Lawless introduced Dr. Massmann, from the University of Washington. Dr. Massmann said that he spent the last two days at the site being briefed on the current status of the A and M Area groundwater, and the southwest groundwater plume at the Burial Ground. There being no other public comments at this time the meeting proceeded to the status on the TNX operable unit. Gerry Stejskal indicated that there were some additional constituents of concern found at the TNX operable unit and that due to the new findings, a presentation of the unit and the remedial alternatives would be provided in the late January time frame. Keith Collinsworth noted that a January date seemed reasonable.

Bill Lawless opened discussion of the Low Level Waste (LLW) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Karen Patterson expressed her concern that SRS would be taking waste from all DOE complex sites and the idea of parity or equity was in question. Ann Clark pointed out that all of the options had not been explored by DOE in the EIS such as the commercial disposal of waste. Ms. Clark also expressed concern over the timing of the motion, and recommended that the board wait until after the Record of Decision (ROD) was published. Bill Noll indicated that DOE would publish the PEIS in the Federal Register, and thirty days later issue the ROD. Ms. Clark stated that pursuing a motion at this time would open the door for other sites to send more waste to SRS, and that in the case of mixed waste the SRS was not geologically suited. Comments were exchanged that the board would not support mixed waste receipt at SRS from other sites, DHEC has not approved the disposal of SRS own mixed wastes at SRS, and that is why the motion recommended that SRS mixed wastes be sent away. Mr. Noll said that the PEIS might be on the table for some time with impacts on various issues, such as timing and politics, that traditionally cross among regional sites. Mr. Lawless concluded that it was important for the public to make comments before the end of the public comment period to assure the board could have its comments considered as part of the decision.

Bill Lawless introduced the discussion on the Intermodal Transportation issue. He indicated that in lieu of a motion at this time, a letter of support would be more appropriate. Bill Noll indicated that Nevada is the strongest proponent of Intermodal Transportation because they would be the recipients of the waste and

want to assure safer control over travel routes passing over Hoover Dam and through the city of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Wade Waters introduced the next motion by providing an overview of the In Tank Precipitation (ITP) focus group. He indicated that the focus group investigated 130 options, which were then narrowed to eighteen. At that point the focus group took a hard look at the science and challenged it from several angles. In doing this, the team reduced the eighteen options to four, and again to two acceptable options. The two options were either to build a small tank ITP similar to the larger existing operation, or to build a crystalline silicotitanate operation. Mr. Lawless stated that he was pleased that small tank ITP was selected, that there were always problems with the actual field implementation of new technologies and that if SRS selected a technology different than the small tank ITP, unexpected problems could well be discovered later on, putting us back where we are today; Mr. Piccolo agreed. Bill Lawless asked that Steve Piccolo present a fifteen-minute overview of the ITP process space at the next board meeting. Mr. Lawless, as well as several others attending the meeting commended the ITP focus group for its fine effort.

Todd Crawford asked that all comments on the draft motion be sent to him for inclusion, prior to the next subcommittee meeting on November 16.

Bill Lawless introduced the next motion on the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) remediation. The motion centered on the unique complexity of the ORWBG and the need for a public focus group in order to fully understand the issues and provide meaningful comment. Ann Clark and Keith Collinsworth both indicated that there had been a Public Workshop and other briefings on this remediation. SCDHEC's real concern however, is the ability to support the public focus group due to resource constraints. Julie Corkran expressed similar concerns, and also requested more scope in order to better support the public focus group. In order to help the regulators, it was decided that the public focus group meetings would be scheduled during times that the regulators had other business already scheduled at SRS. Karen Patterson stated that there would be a meeting on November 12 in order to brief the public focus group on the ORWBG and define the public focus group charter. Mr. Poe stated that his approach to this remediation would be to include groundwater issues and not to hold it as a separate investigation or remediation. Ms. Patterson stated her concern that due to overall time constraints the ORWBG should not include the groundwater issues because it would be handled as a separate closure. Lee Poe and Bill Lawless stated that groundwater should be included since it was key to the surface problems, too. Rod Rimando was asked to make the presentation to the public focus group at the November 12 meeting. Mr. Lawless asked that any final comments on the motion be sent to Todd Crawford by the end of the week.

Bill Lawless proceeded to ask for a status on the C,K,L,P-Area Plug in ROD Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan (SBPP). Phil Prater will provide an update on the January 19 meeting.

Mr. Lawless requested Todd Crawford to present the Risk and Funding motion that the ER&WM Subcommittee is co-sponsoring with the Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee. Mr. Crawford gave a brief review of the background of the motion. In reviewing the recommendation, Mr. Crawford presented a modification to item number one in the recommendation. The modification changed the first sentence to read, "DOE-SR prepare a funding priority list based on risk reduction using consistent assessment methodology (as developed with CAB in prior years)." Clay Jones stated that several years back DOE requested several versions of the priority list. One of the versions was weighted towards risk. A consequence and probability matrix was used to score the activities. This system was however, not completely qualitative and required judgement and interpretation. EPA expressed concern over the interpretation of the word "risk." Same words can have different meanings. SCDHEC again stated that they understood the subcommittees concern over funding for Americium/Curium but did not support taking funding away from the Environmental Restoration Program. There was additional concern that the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) were unfairly addressed in the motion when there were many other activities at the site that received funding. It was felt the motion was addressing the Environmental Restoration

program. It was also pointed out that most of the milestones had already been set in the FFA in order to clean up the site by 2023, keep funding and consequently the work load level over the years. Mr. Poe made a recommendation on wording of the motion that received a positive reaction from a majority of the participants. The modification eliminated reference to CERCLA and the FFA. The motion will be modified as appropriate.

Bill Lawless moved to the public comment period. Mr. Gray addressed the subcommittee and proposed that since from his opinion the E-Area waste vaults will be filled to capacity soon, that the 105 Reactor buildings be used as an alternative to building new vaults. He asked that there be more discussion on this issue in the future. Bill Lawless stated for Deborah Simone (a past member of the ER/WM Subcommittee) that her husband had Hepatitis C and that she encourages everyone to support a Walk for Hepatitis C Awareness and that donations could be made at several locations in Augusta, Georgia. There being no other issues, Mr. Lawless thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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