



## **July 1998 Meeting Minutes**

**SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
July 28, 1998 8:30 a.m.  
University of South Carolina  
Aiken, SC**

### **Members Present**

Bill Adams	Kathryn May	<i>Ex-Officio Representatives</i>
Tom Costikyan	Lane Parker	Tom Heenan
Mary Elfner	Karen Patterson	Ann Clark
Barbara Gordon	Maria Reichmanis	Camilla Warren
Brendolyn Jenkins	Lola Richardson	
Bill Lawless	P.K. Smith	
Ann Loadholt	Ed Tant	
Jimmy Mackey	Wade Waters	
	Beaurine Wilkins	

Members absent were Arthur Belge, Bill Donaldson, Ken Goad, Debra Hasan, Barbara Murphy, and Becky Witter. Currently, there are two Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. Mike Schoener served as the Facilitator.

The 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 the Board**

The SRS CAB adopted a recommendation concurring with DOE that SRS is a reasonable site for some or all of the proposed missions discussed in the Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement.

The Board adopted a unanimous recommendation on a Nuclear Regulatory Commission pilot program regarding oversight of DOE facilities and the need to carefully weigh the benefits and possible disadvantages, thereof.

Concerned that DOE, the States, and regulators seem reluctant to actually confront issues and make decisions, the SRS CAB unanimously approved a recommendation regarding political, regulatory and state equity issues and treatment, storage and disposal of defense-related nuclear wastes and materials.

A recommendation that the three agencies resolve issues with the remediation of the Savannah River Laboratory basins soils and vegetation and present a revised remedial schedule that regains lost time was also approved.

Wade Waters was elected to fill the unexpired portion of term for the Budget Subcommittee Chair position.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The May 1998 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Agency Update**

Ann Clark of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) extended an invitation to the SCDHEC Environmental Forum on August 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Aiken Conference Center. This series of public meetings, focused on local solutions to local problems, is being held throughout the state.

Camilla Warren of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that she would be taking a leave of absence from SRS CAB activities to concentrate her efforts on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. She is being replaced by Julie Corkran, new to EPA-Region IV, but formerly employed by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry and EPA-Region V in Ohio.

Tom Heenan of DOE announced that Greg Rudy had been confirmed as the DOE-Savannah River Manager. Frank McCoy has been named Deputy Manager. Mr. Heenan also announced that Bill Richardson's confirmation as Secretary is pending and expected shortly. Mr. Heenan discussed recent Round Robin meetings being conducted at each major DOE site. These two-day meetings allow Site Managers and DOE-Headquarters to better understand the various site issues surrounding nuclear materials and waste management. Mr. Heenan also noted the Operations Update (see attached) and the tremendous progress being made in routine operations at SRS. In particular he drew attention to the new record of over 200 canisters of vitrified high level waste filled at the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

### **Public Comments**

Dennis Bechtel and Daryl Pepper of the Nevada Test Site Citizens Advisory Board were introduced along with Lew Goidell of Fluor Daniel, Fernald, Ohio. The group was visiting for several purposes, including benchmarking, and to gain a better understanding of low level waste issues at SRS in preparation for an upcoming seminar.

### **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan introduced Bert Stevenson of DOE-HQ Materials Disposition to provide a presentation on the storage and disposition of surplus fissile materials (see attached). Mr. Stevenson began the presentation with a video called "The End Game."

Following the video, Mr. Stevenson provided background information regarding DOE's Material Disposition Program and how upcoming decisions relate to SRS. Program objectives include consolidated storage, disposition of surplus materials and work with Russia to obtain reciprocal action for disposition of Russian plutonium. A dual-track approach (requiring three facilities) for disposing of 50 metric tons of surplus plutonium was approved by President Clinton. SRS is a preferred location for two of the three disposition options and a candidate (along with Pantex) for the third. Decisions to be made include: a) whether to construct and operate co-located plutonium conversion and immobilization facilities, and if so, where; b) whether to construct and operate a pit disassembly and conversion facility, and if so where; and c) whether to construct and operate a MOX fuel fabrication facility, and if so, where.

Questions and discussion revolved around the following issues: indication of interest in MOX fuel; commercial needs or modifications required to burn MOX fuel; privatization and economic impacts of facility construction. Mr. Stevenson stated privatization is not being considered. These facilities will be government owned and the government will also bare the costs to modify commercial reactors. When asked what happens if no commercial facility wants to burn this fuel, Mr. Stevenson replied that all surplus plutonium would be immobilized.

**Tom Costikyan presented the subcommittee's motion that the SRS CAB initially concurs that SRS is a reasonable site for some or all of the proposed missions for the following reasons: 1) because the Board supports site integration activities when the selected sites are best able to perform those activities that are part of their core function and 2) because incremental risks appear to be minimal and acceptable (see attached).** Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the motion and Brendolyn Jenkins seconded. The recommendation was adopted by a majority vote with **13 members in favor and three abstentions.** Karen Patterson and Beaurine Wilkins required more information and Lane Parker abstained due to his affiliation with a local labor union.

Tom Costikyan next discussed a pilot program for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversight of DOE facilities. The SRS Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels was chosen as one of three DOE facilities for this program. The pilot is intended to determine the feasibility of placing certain facilities under NRC oversight. **Mr. Costikyan read a subcommittee motion that recommends NRC regulation be carefully addressed to weigh the benefits or possible disadvantages, thereof (see attached). The Board acknowledges that oversight could potentially enhance DOE credibility in the public's perception; however it would likely increase costs of DOE activities and delay the decision-making process as well. Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the draft motion and Brendolyn Jenkins seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.**

### **Public Involvement and the Decision-Making Process**

Tom Heenan gave an impromptu presentation regarding how implementable and sustainable decisions are made and provided a "big picture" look at how the process has evolved. He discussed the Keystone Dialogue, an early 1990s effort to find effective ways for the public to become involved in federal decision-making processes. Hence the development of site specific advisory boards. He discussed frequent changes in senior management and the challenge to

maintain momentum. Four years ago, the National Academy of Sciences suggested that DOE fund academia to conduct risk research due to the lack of DOE credibility. Mr. Heenan stated that CRESA has done a good job of providing this independent advice. Under the leadership of Tom Grumbly, the League of Women Voters was asked to help DOE get public input. Later Al Alm asked DOE contractors to look for opportunities to run the EM program in a more synergistic manner. This led to an Environmental Management Integration Report. A DOE group has now been formed under Mark Frei of DOE-HQ to look at the different approaches to management in the EM program. A series of round robin meetings is being held across the DOE complex and a DOE Executive Team has been formed to make decisions and implement them on a more corporate basis. A report is expected in December.

### **Intersite Workshop Trip Report/National Dialogue**

Tom Costikyan provided a trip report on the Intersite Workshops held in June in San Diego, CA and Chicago, IL. He discussed stakeholder participation, which clearly reflected a cross section. He stated he was disappointed in the San Diego meeting where the agenda was overturned for noisy lectures from people angry with DOE. It was his opinion that this did not contribute to the effectiveness of the meeting. He was frustrated that the meeting never got into specifics. The Chicago meeting was much better, he said. There was more time for informed conversation and the wrap up with DOE was the best session in his opinion. Mr. Costikyan reported information regarding several DOE site specific advisory boards and facilities he found interesting.

Mr. Costikyan posed the question "To what degree should very loud voices influence decisions?" He stated there appeared to be a lot of parochial thinking and that with 125 people in the room, it's hard to get orderly dialogue. Ann Clark of SCDHEC requested that her discussion time be given to Dr. Mary Kelly of the SC League of Women Voters who responded to statements regarding logistics and the location of the meeting. Beaurine Wilkins attended the San Diego workshop and stated the meeting was very beneficial for her. She referred to literature regarding transportation and shared brief comments on her learning experience.

### **Environmental Management Integration Report**

**Education Subcommittee Chair Karen Patterson read a recommendation regarding political, regulatory and state equity issues and treatment, storage and disposal of defense-related nuclear wastes and materials previously presented during the May Board meeting (see attached). The SRS CAB is concerned that DOE, the States, and regulators seem reluctant to actually confront issues and make decisions.** A position paper was developed following a March presentation from DOE-HQ on the status of the integration effort. It was determined a stronger message would be provided in the form of a recommendation. Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the position and Brendolyn Jenkins seconded. **The Board unanimously adopted the recommendation.**

### **Outreach Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Lane Parker discussed recent Outreach initiatives. He noted a new card that replaces the Board's flyer to announce meetings. The second issue of the "Board Beat" and a new

CAB display were presented as well (see attachments). The CAB approved the new display format and agreed on participation in an upcoming trade show in Augusta, Ga. Speaker training for CAB members will be held on September 28 in Augusta, Ga. and members were encouraged to sign up for training. Monica Finney, CAB Administrative Assistant, presented recent additions to the CAB Home Page. The Board made suggestions for further additions and modifications to the web site including Board photos and bios; various links; and subcommittee meeting information.

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

Subcommittee Co-Chair Bill Lawless introduced Sherri Robinson of DOE who provided a presentation on Accelerated Site Technology Deployments (see attached). Accelerated Site Technology Deployment (ASTD) is an initiative to immediately deploy new processes and technologies in the field and accelerate the achievement of the goals of the "Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure." The costs savings achieved are reinvested in Site programs. The impact in Fiscal Year 1999 is \$6 million additional funds to environmental cleanup challenges, she said. She discussed ASTD criteria, schedule and results of the selection of proposals submitted. Eight proposals were submitted by SRS and all ranked fairly high out of the 50 proposals submitted complex-wide, she said. Ms. Robinson discussed the process for selection and briefly described key proposals submitted by SRS (see attachment).

Paul Huber of Bechtel-SR gave a brief overview of SRL Seepage Basins, remedial and public involvement activities to date, and soil removal options currently being considered (see attachments). Options under consideration include insitu stabilization, limited soil removal and removal of all soils. Disposal options currently under consideration include offsite disposal and disposal in the C Reactor Seepage Basin. Discussion revolved around groundwater monitoring; closure of the C Reactor Basin; and why the E Area trenches were removed as a disposal option. **Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's motion that the three agencies resolve issues with the remediation of the SRL basins soils and vegetation and present a revised remedial schedule that regains lost time** (see attached). Karen Patterson moved the board accept the recommendation and Lane Parker seconded. **The recommendation was adopted with 13 members in favor and one abstention** from Lane Parker due to potential conflict of interest regarding his affiliation with a local labor union.

Bill Lawless next presented a path forward statement from the subcommittee regarding early shipments of high level waste to Yucca Mountain (see attached). The subcommittee requested a DOE-HQ presentation on the schedule of SRS high level waste, spent fuel elements and plutonium can-in-canister wastes to the Yucca repository and suggested the Board be prepared to make comment on the EIS scheduled for release next year.

### **Administrative Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins conducted a special election to fill the unexpired portion of term for the Budget Chairperson. Wade Waters was elected to the position. Ms. Wilkins announced that the 1999 membership review would be held in conjunction with the November

full Board meeting in Columbia, S.C. The proposal to amend the bylaws (see attached) was tabled until September 1998 due to attendance.

### **ANS Topical Meeting and Low Level Waste Seminar**

P.K. Smith reminded the Board of the American Nuclear Society Topical Meeting being held Sept. 8-11 in Charleston, S.C. The Board is a co-sponsor of the meeting and will provide a display and administrative support during the meeting. Karen Patterson, P.K. Smith and Donna Martin are presenting a paper regarding the CAB Educational Forums on plutonium disposition and spent nuclear fuel.

Karen Patterson and Mike Schoener briefly described the August Low Level Waste Seminar being hosted by the Nevada Test Site CAB. Board members were requested to prioritize a list of issues to be discussed during the seminar. The following issues were identified from most important to least important:

1. Stakeholder Concerns
2. Political
3. Consolidation vs. Nonconsolidation
4. Economic
5. Transportation

### **Risk Management & Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair P.K. Smith discussed the SRS Comprehensive Plan and the subcommittee's decision to review periodic updates to the plan and comment on drafts. The plan will not replace the Strategic Plan or the SRS Future Use plan, however it will give them more substance, she said. She invited Board members to attend an August 19 subcommittee meeting at the North Augusta Community Center to learn more about the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Smith also gave an update on the Risk Working Group. Four teams have been formed and the following descriptions/purpose were provided:

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|--------|---|
| Team A | Determine how risk is defined and determined per program              |
| Team B | Recommend improvements in risk communication                          |
| Team C | Determine how risk is balanced with other factors in making decisions |
| Team D | Review risk information available off site                            |

### **Public Comments**

Peter Gray, Aiken, S.C. resident

Mr. Gray noted his concern regarding potential delays in the shipment of vitrified high level waste to the federal repository. He described openings in the floor of the repository for spent nuclear fuel next to vitrified high level waste; however no information was available when these

openings would be open and closed. He noted there is no compelling driver to send SRS high level waste to the repository and no plans for getting it done soon.

Mr. Gray also questioned if the CAB should reconsider DOE closure activities at the Heavy Water Component Test Reactor since he had heard DOE was merely going to weld the doors closed. He noted this was not in line with the CAB recommendation. Mr. Gray also requested that he be allowed to forward a five-page document for public record (see attachment).

### *Administrative Items*

- The SRS CAB reviewed an introductory videotape provided by the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
- Ann Loadholt and Karen Patterson will attend the SSAB Chairperson Meeting on Sept. 16-17 in Boulder, Co.
- Mary Elfner will attend the August SR Watershed Policy Group meeting
- Karen Patterson will attend the ANS Topical Meeting on Sept. 8-11 with full registration
- Brendolyn Jenkins, Bill Lawless, Karen Patterson and Mike Schoener will attend the August LLW Seminar

In a brief meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m., committee members voted to extend the technical advisement contract with Todd Crawford for an additional year.

### *Handouts*

- SRS CAB Meeting Agenda, July 28, 1998
- July 1998 Operations Update, Tom Heenan, DOE
- Storage and Disposition of Surplus Fissile Materials, Bert Stevenson, DOE-HQ
- SRS CAB Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Draft Recommendations, Tom Costikyan, SRS CAB
- Political, Regulatory, and State Equity Issues and Treatment, Storage and Disposal of Defense-Related Nuclear Wastes and Materials, Karen Patterson, SRS CAB
- SRS CAB Speaker Training, Lane Parker, SRS CAB
- SRS CAB Display, Lane Parker, SRS CAB
- SRS CAB "Board Beat" Summer Issue, Lane Parker, SRS CAB
- Accelerated Site Technology Deployments, Sherri Robinson, DOE-SR
- ASTD Proposal Summaries, Sherri Robinson, DOE-SR
- Motion-Savannah River Laboratory Seepage Basins Disposal of Contaminated Vegetation and Soils
- SRL Seepage Basins Soils Removal Options slide, Paul Huber, Bechtel
- SRL Seepage Basins "Short List" of Options slide, Paul Huber, Bechtel
- ER&WM CAB Subcommittee Path Forward Statement, Bill Lawless, SRS CAB
- OCRWM Response to SRS CAB Recommendation, Steve Gomberg, dated July 21, 1998
- Summary of Proposal to Amend the SRS CAB Bylaws, dated July 28, 1998
- Comments from Peter Gray, Aiken, S.C. dated July 12, 1998
- SRS CAB Recommendation Summary

- SRS CAB Public Involvement Calendar
- Monthly National Environmental Policy Act Report

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