



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee

Meeting Record

September 28, 1998

Augusta Sheraton Hotel, Augusta, Ga.

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee met on September 28, 1998, 7:00 p.m., Augusta Sheraton Hotel, Augusta, Ga. The purpose of the meeting was to receive the status of the Comprehensive Plan, review the CAB recommendations, receive the status of the subcommittee activities and receive public comment. Members of the CAB attending were: P. K. Smith, Brendolyn Jenkins, Wade Waters, Barbara Murphy, Lola Richardson and Becky Gaston-Witter. Other members of the public attending were George Minot and Lynn Waishwell. Gary Little from the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) attended as the Associated Deputy Designated Federal Official. C. A. Washington attended as a representative of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. Marianne Heiskett attended as a representative of the Department of Energy Oak Ridge (DOE-OR). Thomas Johnson attended as a representative of DOE-SR. Jim Moore attended as a member of Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC).

P. K. Smith, Chairperson, welcomed all those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves. She then reviewed the agenda for the evening.

P. K. Smith reviewed the key points on the discussion of the Comprehensive Plan update given at the RM&FU Subcommittee meeting August 19, 1998. The Comprehensive Plan is the physical development plan for the site for the cross cutting areas and is under the Strategic Plan in the planning hierarchy. The Comprehensive Plan is made up of five plan components: Natural Resource, Infrastructure, Future Use, Facilities and Cultural. The Future Use Plan has already been completed. The other four plans are in draft stages with the final public comment period ending on January 31, 1999 with delivery to DOE-HQ on February 28, 1999. Copies of the Natural Resource, Infrastructure and Facilities Plan were handed out at the meeting. Public comments on this first draft are due back on October 21, 1998. The draft Cultural Plan is still in the development stage and will be available upon completion. One of the stakeholders brought out that they felt that one of the weakest areas at the site was in policy for natural resources, security, the environment, etc. P. K. Smith requested that the guidance for the five areas of strategic focus be sent to George Minot. Becky Gaston-Witter said she was interested in reviewing the Cultural Plan. P. K. Smith reviewed the FY 2000 Funding Requirements Recommendation the subcommittee was proposing for CAB approval. There was much discussion with modifications being made to add emphasis in the request for funding for Americium/Curium and modifications to the Decontamination and Decommissioning paragraph. P. K. Smith stated that there were discussions developing at the subcommittee meetings on a proposed motion to reduce the priority of Environmental Restoration (ER) low risk activities in the Integrated Priority List.

P. K. Smith stated that at the CAB meeting on September 29, there would be presentations on the Annual Environmental Report for 1997 and the evaluation of that report by the Environmental Advisory Committee.

The status of the Risk Management Working Group work was reviewed. It was noted that Team B was trying to set up a meeting on October 15 and Team A had a meeting scheduled for October 26.

During the public comment section, the visitor from Oak Ridge stated they were favorably impressed with the subcommittee work and asked the following questions:

Question: When you have budget considerations, what do you do with them?

Answer: DOE and the agencies are advised through motions from the CAB.

Question: What is your success rate for influencing DOE?

Answer: While we believe a lot of the current decisions are cut in stone, we feel we can have an influence down the road. Believe the CAB has a lot of credibility with DOE. The more the CAB provides input, the better.

George Minot was concerned that one year ago, a plant was built to vitrify. SRS has one tank of Americium/Curium (Am/Cm) and they can't move it 500 yards to vitrify it. SRS doesn't want to be able to get to it. They want to have tank cars designed to move it and what will that cost? What is the policy? Are they trying to get rid of it because it is in bad shape or because it is needed for medical research? Wade Waters stated to Mr. Minot that he could tell him one policy. That was the policy that SRS will not transport the Am/Cm as it is because of the emanate risk but they will transfer it. The vitrification unit they are planning on building is only 40 feet from the Am/Cm tank.

Mr. Minot stated that in the last two months there have only been two articles in the Hilton Head Island newspaper, the Islander. Those articles were both negative. The articles were (1) British Nuclear Unfit For SRS Group Says and (2) Westinghouse Sited For Safety Violations. Mr. Minot is concerned that all they hear about is the negative news about the site. The site seems concerned about protecting jobs and not on reducing risk. The Oak Ridge visitor stated that there was an article in their newspaper concerning 100 people being ill in a minority community and they were doing a study. P.K. Smith asked for a copy of the article. Lynn Waishwell stated that in a study of the papers at Rocky Flats versus SRS, only four percent of the articles talked about risk. They talked about hazard but not risk.

With the completion of the public comments, P. K. Smith adjourned the meeting.

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