



## SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

### May 1999 Meeting Minutes

#### **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

May 24-25, 1999  
DeSoto Hilton  
Savannah, GA

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#### **Members Present**

|                   |                  |                                   |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bill Adams        | Lane Parker      | <u>Ex-Officio Representatives</u> |
| Arthur Belge      | Karen Patterson  | Jim Brownlow (alternate)          |
| Mel Galin         | Maria Reichmanis | Ann Clark                         |
| Ken Goad          | Lola Richardson  | Julie Corkran                     |
| Brendolyn Jenkins | Murray Riley     | Roy Schepens                      |
| Georgia Leverett  | P.K. Smith       |                                   |
| Jimmy Mackey      | Ed Tant          |                                   |
| Earnest Marshall  | Bill Vogele      |                                   |
| Barbara Murphy    | Wade Waters      |                                   |
|                   | Becky Witter     |                                   |

Members absent were Tom Costikyan, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Charlene Townsend and Beaurine Wilkins. Currently, there are no Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Roy Schepens. Mike Schoener served as facilitator.

The meeting was open to the public and posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

#### **Key Decisions Made by the Board**

The Board provided comments on a Risk Summary draft prepared for the Savannah River Site by the Center for Risk Excellence of DOE. The summaries describe seven major risk-related challenges at SRS. The CAB asked for many clarifications and corrections to the document.

The Board recommended that DOE hold a public hearing on the Yucca Mountain EIS in the Aiken, SC/ Augusta, GA area, in addition to the one scheduled for Atlanta, GA.

The Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Focus group reviewed the Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study for this unit and found it to be a good basis for decision making. The Board adopted the focus group's motion and also provided recommendations to improve the study.

The Board provided comments on the Proposed Permit Modification on the Mixed Waste Management Facility at SRS under the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The Board recommended that DOE interact with Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners and encourage them to complete their decision regarding whether residual wastes remaining in HLW tanks following tank closure can be categorized as "incidental wastes" so that DOE may proceed with closing the remaining tanks.

The Board applauded the EM Technology Integration initiative and provided comments to improve the Technology Plan.

The CAB strongly supports an integrated effort by DOE to consolidate nuclear materials at four DOE facilities, thus optimizing national stabilization and disposition activities in times of limited funding. They also strongly support the pre-decisional recommended action of shipping vitrified americium/curium to Oak Ridge for storage.

The Board endorsed the activities for nuclear materials stabilization and storage currently planned for FY2001 that are included within the target budget, however the CAB is concerned whether the FY2001 target budget will be adequate to allow SRS to meet all of the activities planned for the site. The Board strongly recommends that FY2001 budget include funding for all activities with priorities currently falling below the target line but within the planning case. The CAB also asked DOE to work aggressively with the State of South Carolina, regulators and elected officials to ensure nuclear material stabilization goals are in accordance with expectations.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

The March 1999 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

#### **Agency Update**

Roy Schepens of the Department of Energy provided an update of SRS operations (see attachment). Ann Clark of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) introduced other SCDHEC representatives in attendance and announced that the DOE Draft Cultural Resources Policy is out for public comment. She also provided SCDHEC responses to CAB recommendations 60, 67, 68, 71 and 76 (see attached). Julie Corkran of the Environmental Protection Agency elaborated on a shared commitment to outreach in regards to cleanup and environmental justice (EJ), noting a conference call held and the work being conducted by DOE. She also noted discussion regarding the Fish Fact Sheet and the following action items identified: 1) contact CRESA to coordinate outreach activities; 2) seek input from the CDC Health Effects Subcommittee and 3) seek input from the SRS CAB regarding appropriate steps for those impacted by fish consumption issues.

#### **Public Comments**

Lynn Waishwell of the Consortium for Risk Evaluation & Stakeholder Participation introduced herself to new Board members and noted that CRESA had recently reviewed two documents: The Risk Summaries from DOE's Centers for Risk Excellence and the Dose Reconstruction document.

George Sawyer of Savannah, Ga. voiced concern that proper advance notification is not being provided when radioactive materials are shipped. He questioned when the port city is notified and if they have prior knowledge of shipments. (Ann Clark of SCDHEC noted she would discuss the State of South Carolina's perspective with Mr. Sawyer during break.)

#### **Facilitator Update**

Mike Schoener provided a review of recommendations noting that 13 were pending, 33 open and 37 closed. He cautioned that no matter how many recommendations are provided, the Board needs to stop and question their effectiveness. He suggested that the Board spend more time reviewing responses for adequacy and actively tracking the status of open recommendations. Mr. Schoener also discussed the results from a special session held to discuss the restructuring of subcommittees. Beginning in 2000, the following three issues-based committees would be formed: 1) Environmental Remediation 2) Waste & Materials Management and 3) Strategic and Long Term Issues. The Budget, Administrative and Outreach Subcommittees will be combined into one Administrative Committee. The Administrative Subcommittee will meet in July to review any required changes to the bylaws and discuss requirements for subcommittee participation, he said.

### **Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report**

P.K. Smith, Subcommittee Co-Chair introduced Virginia Kay of DOE who provided an update on Environmental Management Integration or EMI (see attachment). She discussed the EMI Process, the focus of the EMI effort and the stakeholder involvement process. EM Integration is a systems engineering approach to analyze and develop cleanup alternatives that ultimately accomplishes more, accelerates cleanup schedules and costs less, she said. The effort includes all EM programs and sites nationwide. Ms. Kay presented the process flow diagram and discussed the various program area teams working on various opportunities. Opportunity description documents are completed and submitted for approval and then followed with a recommendation evaluation plan regarding technical feasibility, costs, risk and benefits. If the EMI opportunity appears to be sound, then a detailed implementation plan is required along with any other regulatory documentation. Ms. Kay discussed the Integration Structure and progress made. Currently, about 80 opportunities are open and being evaluated, she said. Ms. Kay also briefly discussed opportunities for stakeholder involvement.

Wade Waters, Subcommittee Co-Chair presented a motion regarding risk summary developed by DOE's Center for Risk Excellence (see attached). Following discussion about the Center for Risk Excellence, its purpose and credentials, Karen Patterson moved the Board accept the motion that provides comments on the Risk Summary draft prepared for the Savannah River Site. Barbara Murphy seconded the motion. The Board discussed several inaccuracies within the report and requested the mandate document that required the summaries that describe seven major risk-related challenges at SRS. The CAB asked for many clarifications and corrections to the document. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

P.K. Smith read a draft motion requesting that a public hearing regarding the Yucca Mountain EIS be held in the Aiken-Augusta area, in addition to the one scheduled for Atlanta, Ga. (see attached). Becky Witter moved the Board accept the motion and Murray Riley seconded. The Board was in favor of the motion by a vote of 18 in favor and one abstention by Bill Voegelé who thought an additional meeting is unnecessary.

### **Transportation Seminar**

Karen Patterson gave a synopsis of the Transportation Seminar held May 20-23 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Eight statements (see attached) were developed by consensus. All participants signed a letter in support as individuals at the Seminar. These were forwarded to DOE-Headquarters. Now, each individual Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) has the opportunity to endorse these general statements. Brendolyn Jenkins, PK Smith and Ann Clark joined Karen Patterson in describing the sessions they attended and how statements were generated. It was determined that the Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee will take the lead regarding this issue. Karen Patterson also noted that the Fernald SSAB plans to form an Intersite Working Group regarding transportation that will include one representative from each of the Boards.

### **Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Report**

#### **Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Corrective Measure Study (CMS)/Feasibility Study (FS)**

Ed McNamee of Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) provided a brief overview of the ORWBG CMS/FS report (see attached) that evaluates various alternatives for final remedial action at the ORWBG including 22 underground Old Solvent Tanks (OSTs). Mr. McNamee noted that the preferred alternative will be detailed in a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan (SB/PP) that will follow the CMS/FS. The final remedial action is being pursued under a regulatory framework that integrates the corrective measure process of RCRA and the remedial action process of CERCLA, he said. Following discussion regarding intruder scenarios and institutional controls, Maria Reichmanis read the subcommittee's motion regarding the ORWBG CMS/FS (see attached). In summary, the ORWBG Focus group reviewed the CMS/FS for this unit and found it to be a good basis for decision making. It also provided recommendations to improve the study. Bill Adams moved the Board adopt the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. It was adopted by a unanimous vote.

#### **Mixed Waste Management Facility (MWMF) Draft RCRA Permit**

Ed McNamee next provided a briefing of the Mixed Waste Management Facility (MWMF) Draft RCRA

Permit and addressed the landfill units post closure care (Section III.E.B of the Permit) and the Solvent Rag Portion of the Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility (LLRWDF). Mr. McNamee also discussed groundwater (Section III.E.H of the Permit) that includes the MWMF, LLRWDF and the ORWBG. Mr. McNamee explained that the RCRA Permit calls for capture and treatment, and also to reduce what is in the point of compliance wells. The MWMF has already been capped, but is now scheduled for treatment. Mr. McNamee discussed the Corrective Action Program and answered questions regarding water tables, the point of exposure. Keith Collinworth of SCDHEC provided a clarification of "point of exposure" as well, explaining that it is an "undefined term." Jimmy Mackey presented a motion that regarding the Draft RCRA Permit (see attached). The Board discussed minor amendments to the motion and combined number 1 and 3 of the draft motion into one statement and clarified that the point of exposure for the public should be defined by the three agencies. Becky Witter moved the Board accept the motion as amended and Barbara Murphy seconded. It was adopted by a unanimous vote.

#### Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) Focus Group Update

Karen Patterson provided an update on the ORWBG Focus Group, which was chartered in November 1998 to evaluate future reasonable risks to people from the ORWBG. The Focus Group is comprised of members of the public, CAB, DOE-SR, SCDHEC, EPA and WSRC. Ms. Patterson included a status of analysis, which included the established location of the involved public and a review of regulatory documents and technical studies to determine if additional information is needed. In the update, Ms. Patterson mentioned that additional analysis includes a groundwater transport model and the risk to the involved public. The Focus Group determined that in order to meet schedule commitments, it needs conclusions from further analysis by December 1999 to feed into the public participation process for remediation of the ORWBG. The Focus Group also determined that an independent study would be necessary to obtain the following information:

- Screening analysis - most important constituents of interest
- Sensitivity analysis - relative importance of model parameters
- Human health risk assessment
- Draft and final report

The Focus Group would use the results of the study to provide an independent judgement on a reasonable risk to people. This information would also give decision makers an idea of risk to people rather than only contaminant concentrations at a location in space (boundary of the ORWBG).

Karen Patterson reviewed the proposal for the CAB to provide \$35,000 to fund this ISPR (see attached). The names of specific independent study representatives had been removed from the proposal. Regulator concerns were raised when Julie Corkran stated that EPA did not agree this work needed to be done. Ms. Corkran stated that this ISPR would not significantly impact the range of alternatives or provide any added value. Keith Collinworth of SCDHEC echoed this opinion. Ms. Corkran did encourage the Board to include a scenario that addressed worker exposure if they chose to go forward with the ISPR. Board members expressed concern regarding the potential candidates to perform the ISPR. One concern voiced was that if a volunteer ORWBG Focus Group member were officially appointed and paid to perform an independent study after previously volunteering time to participate in the scope of the Focus Group, it would appear as an unethical practice. Others felt the ISPR would not be beneficial. Bill Voegel moved the motion be tabled and returned to committee. Becky Witter seconded. The motion to table passed with 16 in favor, one opposed and two abstentions.

#### High Level Waste Tank Closure Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Update

Larry Ling of DOE provided the current status of the preliminary High Level Waste Tank Closure Draft EIS, which will be completed for DOE review by June 14, 1999, with expected DOE approval by July 19, 1999. The Draft EIS is also on schedule to be filed and distributed on August 6, 1999. The Notice of Availability will be published and the public comment period will begin on August 13, 1999, with the public comment period ending on September 27, 1999. Mr. Ling added that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review of tank closure methodology and the basis for "incidental waste" determination is in

progress and that DOE and NRC met in April 1999 to resolve final questions. Mr. Ling described incidental waste as a High Level Waste residual by-product defined by source that can be disposed of as incidental waste if it meets the criteria of Class C Low-Level Waste. Mr. Ling concluded his presentation by noting that the NRC staff expects to provide a recommendation to the Commissioners by the end of July and mentioned that DOE and NRC staff are working on coordinating the review and EIS to support the scheduled Record of Decision.

Karen Patterson presented a motion noting the CAB's concern about the timing of the NRC's decision on the HLW tank closure EIS process (see attached). The motion recommends that DOE interact with Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners and encourage them to complete their decision regarding whether residual wastes remaining in HLW tanks following tank closure can be categorized as "incidental wastes" so that DOE may proceed with closing the remaining tanks. Lane Parker moved the Board accept the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion was passed by a vote of 18 members in favor and one abstention by P.K. Smith due to her employment in the High Level Waste Division at WSRC.

#### SRS Technology Management Integration

Dick Reynolds of WSRC provided a presentation regarding the SRS Technology Integration Plan and Program (see attached). Tiering off two DOE-HQ plans, the Savannah River Site Technology Integration Plan describes major technology activities at SRS and links them to the strategic commitments and budgets made by the SRS operating divisions. This plan is an intensive effort to integrate in one place, a document that highlights and captures the technology plans of all six operating divisions at SRS. Mr. Reynolds stated that a strong link, both programmatically and financially, between technology and timely cost effective accomplishment of missions exists, but can be strengthened further with the implementation of this plan.

Jerry Morin of WSRC discussed emerging technologies for high level waste (see attached presentation). He reviewed high level waste technology functions and how planning and investment in technology is beneficial to SRS. He described and showed photographs of various waste retrieval and closure technology such as pitbull pumps, robotic tank crawlers, and flygt mixers. He also discussed vitrification technology and ways to optimize glass waste loading.

Wade Waters reviewed the SRS Technology Integration draft motion (see attached). Karen Patterson moved the Board adopt the motion to provide input for improving the technology plan. Becky Witter seconded. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote. It was determined that DOE should be commended for the initiative in the cover letter accompanying the recommendation.

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

Jay Bilyeu of DOE provided a presentation regarding nuclear materials integration. He noted the various teams working on nuclear materials integration and the efforts to identify all DOE nuclear materials inventories and to determine disposition paths for all excess materials. There are 1887 commercial sites and 121 international sites that have nuclear material inventories. By the end of the year, twelve plans covering disposition and four key documents addressing stewardship are due and should be available, he said. Over 400 issues and recommendations are identified. Recommended actions by DOE Site are included as well as recommendations to improve nuclear materials management effectiveness. Mr. Bilyeu addressed questions regarding receiving sites, equity and tracking. He noted (pre-decisional) that only small quantities of plutonium will come to SRS with large quantities of uranium leaving SRS headed for Oak Ridge. Los Alamos has been identified as the recipient for mine materials and heavy isotopes will go to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, he said.

Ed Tant presented the subcommittee's motion regarding nuclear material integration (see attached). In summary, the CAB strongly supports an integrated effort by DOE to consolidate nuclear materials at four DOE facilities, thus optimizing national stabilization and disposition activities in times of limited funding. They also strongly support the pre-decisional recommended action of shipping vitrified americium/curium to Oak Ridge for storage. Ken Goad moved the Board accept the motion and Lola Richardson seconded. The motion was adopted with 17 members in favor. Two members did not vote.

Jimmy Mackey presented the subcommittee's motion regarding FY2001 budget impacts on the nuclear materials program. The motion endorsed the activities for nuclear materials stabilization and storage currently planned for FY2001 that are included within the target budget, however stressed concern whether the FY2001 target budget will be adequate to allow SRS to meet all of the activities planned for the site. The motion called for the CAB to strongly recommend that the FY2001 budget include funding for all activities with priorities currently falling below the target line but within the planning case. Following discussion, which led to minor modifications, the motion also asked DOE to work aggressively with the State of South Carolina, regulators and elected officials to ensure nuclear material stabilization goals are in accordance with expectations. Ken Goad moved the Board accept the motion and Georgia Leverett seconded. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

### **Outreach Subcommittee Report**

Lane Parker thanked all the Subcommittee members who had been diligently working on new outreach initiatives. He discussed a "Point of Contact" database being established and noted how Ken Goad had taken the lead on this project. He also noted work to establish media contacts by Wade Waters and the efforts of Tom Costikyan and Brendolyn Jenkins to establish a speaker's bureau. Mr. Parker also discussed a video being produced for the Board as an informational tool. He asked for a show of hands in support of funding the video production up to \$7500. This was approved unanimously. Mr. Parker noted that the National Environmental Training Office was absorbing much of the cost.

### **Handouts**

Operations Update, May 1999  
DHEC Memorandum to Ann Loadholt, undated  
Progress in DOE Environmental Program Integration Management, Virginia Kay, DOE  
Draft Motion Risk Summary-Savannah River Site, Wade Waters, CAB  
Draft Motion Public Hearing on Geologic Repository, P.K. Smith, CAB  
1999 SSAB Transportation Workshop Stakeholder Statements, Karen Patterson, CAB  
Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground CMS/FS Briefing, Rod Rimando, DOE-SR  
Corrective Measure Study/Feasibility Study for the ORWBG, Maria Reichmanis, CAB  
Draft Motion Proposed Permit Modification Mixed Waste Management Facility, Jim Mackey, CAB  
Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Proposal for Simplified Approach for Estimating Groundwater  
Savannah River Site Technology Integration, Sharon Robinson, DOE  
Emerging Technologies for High Level Waste, Tom Gutmann, DOE  
Draft Motion SRS Technology Integration, Wade Waters, CAB  
Savannah River Site High Level Waste Tank Closure EIS, Larry Ling, DOE  
Draft HLW Tank Closure EIS-Motion 2, Karen Patterson, CAB  
CAB Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Draft Motion, DOE Nuclear Materials Integration Program, Ed Tant, CAB  
CAB Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Draft Motion, FY2001 Budget Summary Impacting SRS Nuclear Material Activities, Jimmy Mackey, CAB  
Monthly NEPA Report  
1999 SRS CAB Activity Calendar  
SRS CAB Recommendation Summary  
CRESP Update, Savannah River, Volume 4, Number 2, May 1999

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