



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

March 2000 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

March 27-28, 2000
Houndslake Country Club
Aiken, SC

Members Present

Bill Adams	Lane Parker
Arthur Belge	Karen Patterson
Tom Costikyan	Maria Reichmanis
Ken Goad	Lola Richardson
Brendolyn Jenkins	Murray Riley
Bill Lawless	P.K. Smith
Georgia Leverett	Ed Tant
Ann Loadholt	Charlene Townsend
Jimmy Mackey	Bill Vogele
Kathryn May	Wade Waters
Barbara Murphy	Beaurine Wilkins
Beckie Witter	

Ex-Officio Representatives

Jim Brownlow (alternate)
Keith Collinsworth (alternate)
Julie Corkran
Tom Heenan

Board member Mel Galin was absent. Currently, there is one Board vacancy. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. 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 adopted the following six recommendations:

No. 116 DNFSB Recommendation 2000-1

The SRS CAB views the DNFSB recommendation as a positive step to lead to increased focus on the timely completion of the DNFSB 94-1 nuclear material stabilization program and requested that DOE brief the CAB on its implementation plan by May 23, 2000. The CAB also requested a presentation by the DNFSB by July 25, 2000 regarding the acceptance or rejection of DOE's implementation plan.

No. 117 Alternatives for On-Site Disposal of CERCLA Waste

The SRS CAB requested that before March 28, 2000, DOE identify and provide a list of any waste units for which physical removal of radiological low level waste could reasonably be expected as part of a disposal remedy, as well as disposal alternatives for the waste identified. The CAB also recommended that DOE, EPA and SCDHEC involve the Board and public earlier in the decisionmaking processes for these waste units.

No. 118 Waste Management Equity Issues

The SRS CAB recommended that DOE and SCDHEC develop and present a plan and schedule to

describe the resolution of eight equity issues regarding various waste programs at SRS and requested annual updates on unresolved equity issues each November.

No. 119 Compacted Versus Non-Compacted Waste Disposal in E Area

The SRS CAB supports the need to evaluate waste compaction in the E Area trenches and recommended that DOE investigate the need to compact waste streams and the cost that could be avoided by not compacting waste prior to disposal. The CAB also requested a comparison of long range performance of the trenches with and without waste compaction and the potential impacts on closure of new trenches.

No. 120 FY 2001 Budget Deferment of Infrastructure Activities

Concerned about the continual deferral of needed infrastructure improvements in the SRS budget for several years, the SRS CAB recommended that DOE-Headquarters reinstate \$5.3 million in the FY2001 budget for two infrastructure restoration projects and establish a 10-year \$380 million stable long term budget strategy for infrastructure improvements.

No. 121 FY 2001 Budget Deferment of Plutonium 2013 Stabilization Capability

The SRS CAB also recommended that DOE-Headquarters reinstate \$30.8 million in the FY2001 budget for the Plutonium 3013 Stabilization Capability project and fully fund the total projected costs to construct and operate the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System.

The Board also conducted annual membership elections.

Approval of the Minutes

The January 2000 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Agency Update

Keith Collinsworth of SCDHEC provided responses to CAB Recommendations and conveyed appreciation to outgoing CAB members from Ann Clark. Julie Corkran provided the tri-party response to CAB Recommendation 98, EPA responses to CAB Recommendations 75, 80, 83, 86 and 87, and a response from EPA to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board and the Local Oversight Committee regarding why a satellite EPA office cannot be established in Oak Ridge. She also noted that John Stockwell would be the alternate EPA Ex-officio for the CAB and hoped that he would promote cross-pollination of health issues with his background in public health. Tom Heenan presented the Operations Update (see attachment) and noted a new State of the Site Environmental Report to be used as an outreach tool. He asked for Board feedback on the product.

DOE-SR Manager Update

Greg Rudy, DOE-SR Manager, provided letters of appreciation to outgoing Board members Ann Loadholt, Bill Lawless, Arthur Belge, Barbara Murphy, and Ed Tant. He then provided an update on SRS activities. Mr. Rudy discussed how SRS is a modernized site recognized as a responsible steward of national security. He discussed various SRS missions and how lessons learned have made SRS more effective as a business unit. He emphasized that safety and security are always in the forefront and he discussed the importance of people, infrastructure and relationships with the community, state and regulators in a downsized DOE complex requiring technical competence. Mr. Rudy stated that SRS has an enduring mission and that he sees the same level of intensity over the next 50 years as in the past.

Facilitator Update

Board Facilitator Mike Schoener provided a recommendation status update noting that 28 recommendations are pending responses, 41 are open, and 46 closed. He noted that the CAB was awaiting six responses from EPA, none from DHEC and one from DOE. Mr. Schoener noted that the Focus Group Guidelines had been finalized in a special session on Monday, March 27 and would be provided to the CAB and placed on their website. He also presented the draft schedule for the Committee Meeting Pilot. The following meetings are planned:

April 25	North Augusta Community Center	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 27	Low Country Location TBD	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 22	Aiken/Augusta Location TBD	12:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Nuclear Materials Committee Report

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan introduced Chuck Keilers of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board who provided an overview regarding the DNFSB, SRS stabilization activities and DNFSB Recommendations 1994-1 and 2000-1 (see attachment). He noted that much progress has been made in implementing the DNFSB 1994-1 recommendations, however the DNFSB doesn't believe that the progress made in certain stabilization activities reflects the urgency that the circumstances merit. The DOE implementation plan to address the 94-1 recommendations was accepted by DNFSB with the following three conditions:

- dedicated project organization
- plutonium metal and oxide conform to proposed storage standard by May 2002
- DOE moves aggressively to acquire all necessary resources

Mr. Keilers discussed the progress made in addressing the 94-1 recommendations and the hazards due to remaining materials. He also discussed DOE's suspension of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility and its impacts on the Recommendation 94-1 stabilization schedule. Mr. Keilers then discussed DNFSB Recommendation 2000-1, the Secretary's response and the path forward.

Tom Costikyan presented a draft motion (see attachment) noting that the CAB views the DNFSB recommendation as a positive step to lead to increased focus on the timely completion of the 94-1 stabilization program and requesting that DOE brief the CAB on its implementation plan by May 23, 2000. The motion also requested a presentation by the DNFSB by July 25, 2000 regarding the acceptance or rejection of DOE's implementation plan. Becki Witter moved the Board accept the motion and Bill Lawless seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Environmental Remediation Committee Report

Phytoremediation

Bob Blundy of WSRC provided a presentation regarding phytoremediation (see attachment). Phytoremediation is the utilization of natural plants to achieve remediation. Mr. Blundy described how trees draw materials up through the ground and release them to the air. This acceptable green technology is a low-cost cleanup applicable to extensive areas of low concentrations of contaminants. It can also be used on a wide range of contaminants. There are 200 deployments of this technology in the U.S. to clean up explosives and petroleum. It is limited to shallow contamination and there is the uncertainty of contamination entering the food chain, he said. SRS has deployed this technology at four waste units and is currently proposing (or are they considering it? kp) its use at the TNX outfall delta.

Alternatives for On-Site Disposal of CERCLA Waste

Environmental Remediation Committee Chair Jimmy Mackey read a draft motion regarding alternatives for on-site disposal of CERCLA wastes (see attachment). The motion requested that before March 28, 2000, DOE identify and provide a list of any waste units for which physical removal of radiological low-

level waste could reasonably be expected as part of a disposal remedy, as well as disposal alternatives for the waste identified. It also recommended that DOE, EPA and SCDHEC involve the Board and public earlier in the decisionmaking processes for these waste units.

Bill Lawless moved the board accept the motion and Becki Witter seconded. The motion passed with 18 members in favor, two opposed and one abstention by Bill Vogeles who stated he thought the motion was unnecessary.

K Area Reactor Seepage Basin

Karen Adams of DOE provided an overview of the Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for the K-Area Reactor Seepage Basin (see attachment). She stated the purpose of the ESD is to demonstrate that the basin meets the remediation criteria for the Plug-in-ROD remedy and to show how the ROD will be applied at the basin. She then provided a brief background of the basin and discussed how it meets the Plug-in-ROD criteria. In-situ stabilization with a low-permeability soil cover will be the final remedy for this basin at an estimated cost of \$2.3 million, she said. Bill Lawless presented an ER commendation for board approval, which was approved by a vote of 22 in favor and one abstention by Lane Parker due to potential conflict of interest.

Waste Management Committee Report

Waste Management Equity Issues

Bill Lawless provided a presentation on waste management equity issues (see attachment). He discussed what the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement means to SRS stating it provides for regional treatment of DOE's mixed waste at Hanford, Idaho, Oak Ridge, and SRS. Sites would also have the option to treat mixed waste on-site or ship to regional sites for treatment. SRS was identified as a regional mixed waste treatment site. Mr. Lawless elaborated on the Consolidated Incineration Facility at SRS and its treatment capability and noted that with a permit change, CIF could receive wastes from other DOE sites for treatment.

Tom Heenan informed the CAB that DOE was considering suspending CIF operations at the end of the year. He stated that because it is not operating at 100 percent capacity, it was not cost effective to continue operating. Keith Collinworth of SCDHEC noted that if CIF were shutdown, SCDHEC would consider the permit null and void. Several Board members commented that CIF had not been operating long and thought it should be utilized further before shutdown, due to the cost of constructing the facility.

Bill Lawless presented a draft motion (see attachment) that DOE and SCDHEC develop and present a plan and schedule to describe the resolution of eight equity issues regarding various waste programs at SRS and requested annual updates on unresolved equity issues each November. Following a great deal of discussion and minor modifications to the motion, Bill Adams called the motion and Wade Waters seconded. The motion passed with 17 members in favor, five opposed and one abstention by Bill Vogeles who had serious questions and a problem with equity being embedded in the recommendation.

Low-Level Waste Disposal

Sonny Goldston of WSRC provided an overview regarding low-level waste disposal and cost savings expected by trench versus vault disposal (see attached). Mr. Goldston discussed the waste forecast through FY2020 and how three major LLW streams were compared to the trench waste acceptance criteria versus vault disposal. These included (1) non-incinerable/non-compactable, (2) compacted, and (3) waste currently stored in the vaults. During this assessment, the necessity to sort and compact certain waste types prior to trench disposal has surfaced as an issue, he said. SRS has estimated an approximate cost of \$4,000 per cubic meter to sort and compact waste. This compaction was initially instituted to maximize disposal space in the vaults. Since this waste stream meets the trench WAC and can now go to the trenches for disposal, the need to compact has come in question. Currently, over 6,000 cubic meters of waste which meets the trench WAC has been compacted. SRS would realize a cost saving of \$24 million dollars if this waste did not need to be compacted prior to disposal.

Beckie Witter presented a draft motion (see attachment) that the CAB supports the need to evaluate waste compaction in the E-Area trenches and recommends that DOE investigate the need to compact waste streams and the cost that could be avoided by not compacting waste prior to disposal. It also requested a comparison of long range performance of the trenches with and without waste compaction and the potential impacts on closure of new trenches. Following discussion, Bill Lawless called the motion and Barbara Murphy seconded. The motion was adopted by a vote of 18 members in favor, 3 opposed, and two abstentions.

Waste Management Committee Chair Wade Waters presented a draft commendation regarding SRS use of engineering approaches to extend the life expectancy of the existing vault noting it as a significant accomplishment, one that both SRS and the CAB were instrumental in achieving. Bill Vogele moved the Board accept the commendation and Bill Lawless seconded. It was accepted by a vote of 20 members in favor and three opposed.

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee Report

P.K. Smith presented a draft motion regarding the FY2001 budget deferral of infrastructure activities (see attached). Concerned about the continued deferral of funding for needed infrastructure improvements in the SRS budget for several years, the Committee recommended that DOE-Headquarters reinstate \$5.3 million in the FY2001 budget for two infrastructure restoration projects and establish a 10-year \$380 million stable long term budget strategy for infrastructure improvements. Board members questioned if funding infrastructure upgrades would eliminate funding for other projects and asked if DNFSB activities would be impacted. It was clarified that the Board was asking DOE-Headquarters to allocate additional funding for SRS. There was much discussion regarding the implications of deferred maintenance and if this was a priority. Bill Lawless moved the Board table the draft motion and Arthur Belge seconded. The motion failed with ten members in favor, eleven opposed and one abstention by Maria Reichmanis because of a lack of familiarity with issues. Brendolyn Jenkins moved the Board adopt the draft motion as presented and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion passed with 19 members in favor and three opposed.

P.K. Smith presented a second draft motion regarding the FY2001 budget deferral of Pu 3013 Stabilization capability (see attached). The Committee recommended that DOE-Headquarters allocate \$30.8 million in the FY2001 budget for the Pu 3013 Stabilization Capability project and fully fund the total projected costs to construct and operate the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System. Bill Adams moved the Board accept the motion and Becki Witter seconded. The motion passed with 21 members in favor and one opposed.

Administrative Committee Report

Administrative Committee Chair Beaurine Wilkins conducted annual membership elections. The following individuals were elected to two-year terms in 2000-01:

Sallie Connah, Charleston, SC	Maria Reichmanis, Aiken, SC
Perry Holcomb, North Augusta, SC	Jean Sulc, St. Helena Island, SC
Brendolyn Jenkins, Aiken, SC	Wade Waters, Pooler, GA
William Lawrence, Aiken, SC	Carolyne Williams, Barnwell, SC
Karen Patterson, Aiken, SC	William Willoughby, Columbia, SC
Lola Richardson, Martinez, GA	

Ms. Wilkins also provided a CAB Speakers Bureau update and presented a draft of the spring edition of the "Board Beat" for comment. Ms. Wilkins noted that Jackson Middle School had been offered the March essay contest and elected not to participate.

SSAB Chairs Trip Report

Karen Patterson provided a brief trip report from the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting held in Idaho Falls, ID on February 18-19, 2000. She noted the Statement of Common Interests (see attachment) being developed by the Chairs and stated a final draft would be provided to the SRS CAB for review this summer.

Public Comments

No public comments were provided.

Administrative Items

Karen Patterson asked for feedback regarding the Educational Training Modules provided in conjunction with each CAB meeting. It was determined that this is a good program and should be continued.

Beckie Witter noted that a savings bond had been promised to a Savannah student winning the SRS CAB essay contest by the Citizens for Environmental Justice last year and she had yet to receive the bond. The Board members collected money to provide the savings bond.

Charleen Townsend expressed four concerns with Board operations. She was concerned about the recommendation process noting that Board members should be more considerate when recommendations are brought to full Board and not disregard committee work. She stated that she thought a decision had been made not to make major changes to the committee efforts. She was also concerned about the correct protocol for Chair involvement in discussion of recommendations, how Board members are recognized to speak, and participation by segments of the general public other than those with advanced degrees. She stated that increased participation by younger candidates is needed.

Handouts

March 28, 2000 Meeting Agenda

Operations Update, March 2000

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2000-1, dated January 14, 2000

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Chuck Keilers, DNFSB

CAB NM Committee Motion #1, DNFSB Recommendation 2000-1, Tom Costikyan, CAB

SRS CAB Recommendation Summary Report, Mike Schoener

Phytoremediation, Bob Blundy, WSRC

K Reactor Seepage Basin, Karen Adams, DOE

ER Commendation, K Area Reactor Seepage Basin Use of Plug-in-ROD, Bill Lawless, CAB

Waste Management Equity Issues, Bill Lawless, CAB

Alternatives for On-site Disposal of CERCLA Waste, Jimmy Mackey, CAB

Low Level Waste Disposal, Sonny Goldston, WSRC

Compacted Versus Non-compacted Waste Disposal in the E Area Trenches, Becki Witter, CAB

Final Waste Management Committee Commendation, Wade Waters, CAB

FY2001 Budget Deferment of Infrastructure Activities, P.K. Smith, CAB

FY2001 Budget Deferment of Pu 3013 Stabilization Capability, P.K. Smith, CAB

Preamble Common Interests, Karen Patterson, CAB

EPA Proposed Rulemaking, Storage, Treatment, Transportation and Disposal of Mixed Waste, SRS

Letter to Ann Loadholt from EPA, SCDHEC and DOE, dated February 3, 2000

Letter to Karen Patterson from SCDHEC, dated March 27, 2000

Letter o Karen Patterson from EPA, dated March 23, 2000

"Board Beat" Spring 2000, CAB

Letter to Susan Gawarecki. ORR Local Oversight Committee from EPA, dated November 29, 1999

Letter to Steven Kopp, ORR Site Specific Advisory Board from EPA, dated November 29, 1999

Monthly NEPA Report

SRS CAB Activity Calendar

Approved March 28, 2000

For copies of meeting handouts call 1-800-249-8155.