



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee

Meeting Summary

September 25, 2000
First Baptist Church
Barnwell, SC

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Strategic and Long Term Issues (S<I) Committee met on Monday, September 25 at 7p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Barnwell, S.C. The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update on the National Environmental Policy Act and to also receive an update on the Savannah River Site Budget for 2001 and 2002, highlights from both Bill Vogele and Bill Adams on their visits and training received on the SRS Budget and Facilities Disposition Division respectively and hear public comment. Those in attendance were:

CAB Members

Mel Galin*
Bill Adams*
Carolyn Williams*
Bill Vogele*

Stakeholders

None

Regulators
Jeff Joyner, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractors

Drew Grainger, DOE
George Mishra, DOE
Brian Hennessey, DOE
Jim Buice, DOE
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC

* S<I Members present

Note: Committee member, P.K. Smith was unable to attend.

Mel Galin, S<I Committee Chair, welcomed those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves. He reviewed the agenda.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Status Update:

Drew Grainger prefaced his talk for the attendees and stated that there are no significant changes since his last presentation. Mr. Grainger updated the following four Environmental Impact Statements (EIS):

- SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel Management EIS
 - Draft EIS issued December 1998
 - Final EIS issued March 2000
 - ROD issued in July 2000
 - DOE has selected the preferred alternative, which was to develop a melt and dilute process for 97 percent by volume of the SRS spent nuclear fuel, and to process the remaining 3 percent.

- SRS High Level Waste Tank Closure EIS
 - Notice of Intent issued December 1998
 - Scoping Meetings January 1999
 - Preliminary Draft under review by DOE-HQ
 - Review delayed by other priorities
 - Expect Draft EIS in October 2000

- SRS Salt Disposition Alternatives EIS
 - Notice of intent issued February 1999

- Scoping Meetings held March 1999
 - Draft EIS prepared with three alternatives
 - National Research Council review
 - Independent Review of Phase 4 research
 - Recommendation to EM-1
 - Draft EIS expected fall 2000
- Geological Repository for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste at Yucca Mountain EIS
 - Draft EIS issued August 1999
 - Comment period closed February 2000
 - Final EIS expected in 2001

Mr. Grainger proceeded with a status of four Environmental Assessments (EA) as follows:

- Offsite Shipments of Certain Low Level and Mixed Waste from SRS for Treatment and Disposal at Commercial Facilities EA
 - State Notification June 1999, Environmental Bulletin notice June 25, 1999
 - Pre-approval of EA completed September 2000
- Construction and Operations of the Low Enriched Uranium Loading Station EA
 - Blend down DOE highly enriched uranium to low enriched and transfer to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
 - Contract between DOE and TVA not yet signed
 - State Notification September 1999, Environmental Bulletin notice August 13, 1999
 - Pre-approval of EA expected September 2000
- Alternative Approach for the DWPF Glass Waste Canister Storage Facility EA
 - State Notification November 1999, Environmental Bulletin notice October 28, 1999
 - CAB Waste Management Committee briefed on March 9
 - Project scope being revised. Pre-approval of EA will follow scope revision
- Removal, Transportation, and Storage of Strontium 90 Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs) EA
 - DOE and Air Force Cooperating
 - RTGs deployed in Alaska (10) and throughout the U.S. (up to 50)
 - SRS is a potential storage site
 - Notification soon, Draft EA in March of 2001
 - Being prepared by DOE/HQ-EM22

Bill Vogeles and Mel Galin held the dates for the above future activities suspect but were hopeful they would not change.

Jim Buice presented an update of the projected SRS Budget for the fiscal year 2001 and 2002. Mr. Buice stated that since the February 2000 Congressional submittal there were some proposed SR Amendments. These amendments would create a net zero effect on the Fiscal Year 2001 Amended Congressional. The internal adjustment totaled \$48,000,000 to be reallocated as follows:

- Solid Waste Activities – Additional funding to support waste shipments to IPP and low level and hazardous waste storage and treatment activities driven by the acceleration of work in the SRS canyon buildings ... \$6 million
- F and H Area Stabilization – Additional support for \$11 million

stabilization of Plutonium materials and Americium and Curium solutions an acceleration of Authorization Basis work in F&H area facilities in support of Defense Nuclear Safety Board (DNFSB) recommendation 94-1 ...

- Plutonium 3013 Stabilization Capability – Modification of existing facility to provide capability to stabilize, package and store Plutonium pursuant to DNFSB recommendation 94-1 ...

\$31 million

Mr. Buice indicated that the total budget for fiscal year 2002 was essentially the same as that of fiscal year 2001 with the most significant reduction in Nuclear Materials Stabilization of approximately \$50 million offset by increases in High Level Waste and Solid Waste of \$16 million.

Mr. Galin asked Bill Vogele to share with the group his perspective of the training he received June 15th from Clay Jones and Jim Buice. Mr. Vogele said the training was extremely helpful to him and demonstrated the degree of total integration at the Savannah River Site. Some general observations were as follows:

- WSRC is not the only contractor at SRS but a part of an overall Management Team working together in a seamless organization
- All share common goals
- A clear distinction between Line Organizations and Support Organizations
- Referred to the Integrated Priority List (IPL) as a tool to assist the Programs

Mr. Vogele's hope is that more people could be exposed to this kind of knowledge. Mr. Buice indicated that the risk matrix, as a part of the IPL, is soon to be modified. Mr. Buice offered to share those changes with the Committee, as they become known.

Mr. Galin asked Bill Adams to give some highlights of his site trip to the Facilities Disposition Division. Mr. Adams said that due to the late hour he preferred to defer his review until the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Mr. Galin asked if there was any other public comment. With no other comments, Mr. Galin adjourned the meeting.

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