



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Environmental Restoration Committee

Meeting Summary

March 18, 2002
North Augusta Community Center
North Augusta, SC

CAB Members

Jimmy Mackey*

Murray Riley

Judy Barnett

Stakeholders

Sam Booher

Rick McLeod, CAB Technical
Adv.

Regulators

Charles Gorman, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractors

Karen Adams, DOE

Paul Sauerborn, WSRC

de'Lisa Bratcher, DOE

Paul Huber, BSRI

Lyddie Broussard, WSRC

Teresa Haas, WSRC

Sadika Baladi, BSRI

Terry Bland, BSRI

* Members of the ER Committee

Note: Perry Holcomb, Marty Stringer and Nancy Ann Ciehanski of the ER Committee were unable to attend the meeting.

Introduction

Jimmy Mackey introduced himself and asked other attendees to identify themselves.

Schedule Review

Paul Sauerborn reviewed the 2002 schedule. He asked that if anyone had additional items to be reviewed to tell Mr. Mackey or Mr. Sauerborn. Sam Booher asked that the presentation/update scheduled in August for the Carolina Bays be moved up a few months. Jimmy Mackey stated that he would take that request under consideration.

P-Area Burning/Rubble Pits (PBRP) Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan

Karen Adams explained that the burning/rubble pit was used for periodic burning of waste from 1951-1973. From 1973-1978 it received construction debris and then was filled to grade with clean soil.

Ms. Adams stated that the remedial investigation with risk assessment was performed in 2001 and indicated the following:

- Soils – Surface and subsurface soils are contaminated with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and pose an unacceptable risk to current and future workers. No ecological risks or Principle Threat Source Material were found at the site.

- Groundwater – Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) contamination poses an unacceptable risk to future workers and potential release of VOC's, metals and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) currently in soils to the groundwater are above established regulatory limits.

The remedial action objectives are as follows:

- burning/rubble pit – protect current and future workers at the PBRP from exposure to PAHs in the surface soils at concentrations that exceed target risk levels
- groundwater – protect the groundwater resources from contaminant migration from VOCs, metals, and PCBs residing in the PBRP soils that would impact the groundwater above established regulatory limits.

The preferred alternative for the burning/rubble pit is an engineered cover system with Baroballs, natural biodegradation, and institutional controls. The groundwater will have a no further action with continued monitoring and reporting until contaminant levels below drinking water standards are maintained.

CMP Pits Microfractionator

Karen Adams explained that the CPM Pits were placed into operation in August of 1971. Although formal disposal records were not maintained, the pits received pesticides (DDT), chemicals (solvents), metals (electrical equipment), then back filled and closed in 1979. In 1984, the Pits were excavated, back filled again, and covered with a low infiltration cap. In addition to the Pits, there was an area that received fluorescent lighting ballasts and in 1995 they were removed. The contamination is attributed to 1984 drum and soil removal at the Pits and subsequent contamination is in the surface soil.

Sadika Baladi stated that the introduction of the Microfractionator at the site is part of the Interim Record of Decision allowed on site treatment of the contaminated soils and allowed efficient biodegradation of the contamination. The equipment efficiently mixes the contaminated soil, and nutrients (manure, molasses), and air, which facilitates optimum microbial action. Preliminary data being collected on the efficiency of the biodegradation of the contamination is following the bench scale test that was the driving force in trying this new technology. A final report on the efficiency of this interim action will be available in June of 2002. Jimmy Mackey and Sam Booher asked that there be an update when the final report is complete.

Update on Cleanup Reform Appropriation (CRA) Initiatives – ER Related

Teresa Haas provided opening comments on the Proposal Initiatives by stating that the brief presentations would focus on how the CAB input from the February 26, 2002 CAB Combined Committee meeting was used. Ms. Haas emphasized the importance of the stakeholder input that was provided on the initiatives and thanked those who had participated in the February 26 meeting. Ms. Haas added that DOE-SR and WSRC greatly appreciated the helpful comments.

Paul Huber addressed the status of the ER proposal initiatives as they were presented and commented on by the breakout attendees at the February 26, 2002 CAB Combined Committee meeting held at the Partridge Inn, in Augusta Ga. He stated that there were five areas where significant cost and schedule savings would be realized. They are as follows:

1. Closing out the High Risk Sites
2. SRS-ER's Cleanup Initiatives Accelerate Risk Reduction
3. Accelerate closure of five of ER's highest risk waste sites as a single action
4. Fourmile Branch is being contaminated by metals, tritium, and other radionuclides from groundwater plumes. The plumes are under a remedial action, which includes two pump-and-treat systems. This cleanup initiative will use two alternate and innovative technologies, base injection and phytoremediation with spray irrigation.

5. Innovative technologies and streamlined regulatory processes achieve accelerated risk reduction and lower costs at priority sites.

Mr. Huber stated that he would respond to both the general and specific comments made at the meeting, starting with the general comments:

- Difficult to endorse details with limited knowledge on initiatives- not prepared to give input. Answer: Agreed. The objective was to provide an early opportunity for CAB involvement. AS the process evolves, continued CAB participation is appropriate.
- Site needs to clarify specific details in proposals. Answer: The proposal content provides sufficient details for DOE-Environmental Management (EM) to understand the initiatives' objectives.
- Need to understand the Concept of CRA. Answer: More to come, but generally the cleanup work should be prioritized to achieve risk elimination vs. risk management.
- Proposals should address what the money will be used for, benefits, cost effectiveness. Answer: The proposals cover cost and benefits, which incorporates the effectiveness of the proposed work.
- Need further stakeholder involvement in proposal process. Answer: Agreed, but also remember that all ER work is reviewed with CAB and the public.
- In all projects, assure the technology will work. Answer: Done by Treatability Studies.
- All Proposals should address institutional controls. Answer: Included in the proposals.
- CAB needs to be informed in a timely manner of technologies. Answer: This will continue to be done through the normal ER/CAB-Subcommittee process of presentations and tours.

Feedback on specific comments is as follows:

- Address whether consolidation of soils will adversely impact health/environment. Answer: Agreed. All the proposals have these facets of the work addressed.
- Endorse the 5 to 1 consolidation approach. Answer: Noted and appreciated.
- Proposals should emphasize elimination of pump and treat. Answer: Agreed and included.
- Proposal should clearly state and communicate risk reduction. Answer: Agreed and included.
- Plan needs to quantify risk, health, etc. Answer: Agreed and included
- Overall agreement with concepts. Answer: Noted and appreciated.
- Separate three concepts into individual proposals. Answer: Kept as one proposal since the three concepts are generally used together whenever appropriate.
- Set achievable schedule. Answer: Agreed and included.

Public Comment

Sam Booher stated that SRS should emphasize the sheer size of the site when talking to the CRA proposal issues. Mr. Booher believes that stating the size of the site will have significant bearing on receiving future funding.

There were no other comments made and the meeting was adjourned.

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