



## January 2002 Meeting Minutes

### SRS Citizens Advisory Board

January 14-15, 2002  
Hilton Oceanfront Hotel  
Hilton Head Island, SC

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#### Members Present

David Adcock  
Meryl Alalof  
Nancy Ann Ciehanski  
Beckie Gaston-Dawson  
Gerald Devitt  
Mel Galin  
Ken Goad  
Perry Holcomb  
Brendolyn Jenkins  
Vera Barnes Jordan  
William Lawrence  
J.G. Long

Jimmy Mackey  
Karen Patterson  
Maria Reichmanis  
Lola Richardson  
Murray Riley  
Heather Simmons  
Marty Stringer  
Jean Sulc  
William Vogeles  
Wade Waters  
Carolyn Williams  
Bill Willoughby

#### Ex-Officio Representatives

Tom Heenan, DOE  
Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC

Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) member Sallie Connah was unable to attend. No representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were present. The meeting opened with Tom Heenan serving as Designated Federal Official. 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.

#### Outgoing Member Recognition

Greg Rudy, DOE-SR Manager, provided awards and/or letters of appreciation to outgoing Board Members Karen Patterson, Brendolyn Jenkins, and Maria Reichmanis.

#### Key Decisions Made by the Board

##### Recommendation 146-PUREX Recovery Alternatives

The Board recommended that a cost benefit analysis to select the optimum treatment/disposal route for canyon PUREX solvent be prepared and presented to the SRS CAB by April 23, 2002.

##### Recommendation 147-Parallel Salt Disposition Strategy

A recommendation that reconfirmed the SRS CAB position that the FFA closure schedule must be met, including start up of a full scale salt processing facility by 2010 and the closures of HLW tanks as scheduled was adopted. It asked for funding needs, permit and regulatory requirements and a synopsis of the technical plan to resolve questions about the low curie saltcake strategy.

#### Recommendation 148-Low Activity TRU Facility

The Board recommended that SRS proceed with the planned modifications for the Low Activity TRU Facility and provide a status update on regulatory permits and progress. It also asked that DOE identify any potential cost savings, technology enhancements, or management modifications, which could potentially speedup the disposition of SRS TRU wastes.

#### Recommendation 149-Stakeholder Input to SRS Budget Process

The Board recommended that no later than April 19, 2002, SRS develop and submit to the CAB a schedule for annual stakeholder involvement in the budget process. The schedule should include specific dates for submission of information to the CAB and establish specific dates for CAB inputs throughout all phases of the budget process.

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

The draft minutes of the October CAB meeting were approved with no changes.

#### **Agency Update**

Tom Heenan, DOE, provided the January Operations Update (see attached) and noted the progress of various programs. SCDHEC did not provide an update and EPA was not present. Westinghouse Savannah River Company President, Bob Pedde, was introduced and provided brief remarks to the Board regarding its contributions to SRS decisions.

#### **Public Comments**

Karen Patterson provided a public comment on behalf of Lee Poe of Aiken, S.C. who commented that no quarterly full Board meetings would be held in the local area in 2002. Ms. Patterson commented that all combined committee meetings are being held in the local SRS area.

#### **Facilitator Update**

Mike Schoener presented the current recommendation status report noting 18 recommendations are pending, 17 are open and 110 are closed. The Board is awaiting two responses from EPA. Mr. Schoener provided a recap of the Executive Committee meeting held the day prior noting that the Board will have an educational retreat in 2002 instead of a process retreat. The Committee also accepted Murray Riley's suggestion to open Board meetings with the pledge of allegiance and voted to provide a letter endorsing Jimmy Mackey for the Environmental Management Advisory Board. He also provided an update regarding the Site Specific Advisory Board Groundwater Workshop to be held January 31- February 2, 2002, at the Sheraton Augusta Hotel in Augusta, Ga.

#### **Waste Management Committee Report**

##### **Consolidated Incineration Facility**

Ray Hannah, DOE provided an update regarding the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF). CIF was a treatment option for PUREX and treated 5,300 gallons prior to suspension in November 2000, however 37,700 gallons remain. SCDHEC issued a permit modification, which placed CIF in suspension and required that by April 1, 2002, a site decision to either close or restart CIF by November 2002. DOE-SR commented that demonstration of an alternative treatment entails significant risk and SCDHEC responded, at the time, that it was inappropriate to further extend the closure date; however, if justification exists, the site may submit a permit modification request. Mr. Hannah discussed the CAB

recommendation to develop a plan that allows CIF to remain a viable option until an alternative treatment technology is demonstrated for site PUREX and discussed plan implementation. He also provided the current status and schedule. Board members asked questions regarding the availability of funding and regulator support for the plan.

Perry Holcomb presented the committee's draft motion regarding PUREX Recovery Alternatives (see attachment). The motion recommended that a cost benefit analysis to select the optimum treatment/disposal route for canyon PUREX solvent be prepared and presented to the SRS CAB by April 23, 2002. Bill Vogeles moved the Board adopts the motion and Beckie Gaston-Dawson seconded. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

### **High Level Waste System Update**

Steve Piccolo, WSRC, provided a High Level Waste System Update (see attachment). He reviewed the mission of the HLW program and discussed the status of the various facilities and waste inventories. Key obstacles to overcome in 2002 include feed preparation for DWPF, restart of the 2H evaporator and 3H evaporator performance, the management of tank space, electrical recovery of the DWPF melter, and an alternative salt technology decision. Mr. Piccolo expounded upon tank space management, discussed the current system status, tank closure, and salt processing. Board members inquired about the stability of the evaporators, Nuclear Regulatory Commission interactions, DWPF melter vulnerability analysis, DNFSB recent comments, the schedule for Americium Curium disposal and the tritium load at the Effluent Treatment Facility.

Wade Waters presented a draft motion regarding the Parallel Salt Disposition Strategy (see attachment). The motion confirmed the SRS CAB position that the FFA closure schedule must be met, including start up of a full-scale salt processing facility by 2010 and the closures of HLW tanks as scheduled. This recommendation asked for funding needs, permit and regulatory requirements and a synopsis of the technical plan to resolve questions about the low curie saltcake strategy and ensure compliance of the closure schedule. Murray Riley moved the Board accept the motion and Bill Willoughby seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 23 in favor and one abstention by Karen Patterson, due to any perceived conflict of interest regarding her employment.

### **SRS Transuranic Waste Program Review**

Sonny Goldston, WSRC, provided a briefing regarding the Transuranic Waste Program. He discussed the Handling and Drum Segregation System (HANDSS), a new, state-of-the-art technology development project that is remotely operated to open, inspect, and repackage 55-gallon drums to comply with Waste Isolation Pilot Plant disposal requirements. Mr. Goldston also discussed a Low Activity TRU Facility, an SRS project to house and demonstrate the HANDSS-55 system. SRS is working closely with the development team to implement an integrated safety management system. Radioactive operations should begin in late 2004/early 2005. Brian Ray, BNFL, showed a video to further describe the HANDSS-55 Facility.

Wade Waters presented the committee's draft motion that recommends that SRS proceed with the planned modifications for the Low Activity TRU Facility and provide a status update on regulatory permits and progress. It also asked that DOE identify any potential cost savings, technology enhancements, or management modifications, which could potentially speed up the disposition of SRS TRU wastes. Meryl Alalof moved the Board accept the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

### **Nuclear Materials Committee Report**

Allen Gunter, DOE, provided an update of Nuclear Material Stabilization Programs at SRS (see attachment). He provided updates on Plutonium 239 stabilization, the Americium Curium Program,

PUREX process suspension in F-Canyon and plutonium receipts. In F Area, plans are to complete stabilization of plutonium solutions and sand slag and crucible material by March 2002. Installation of the 3013 stabilization and packaging system in FB-Line continues with the baseline project to be completed in March 2002. In H Area, dissolution of SRS plutonium residues continue and HB Line Phase II was authorized for startup in November 2001. Phase II converts plutonium solution from H Canyon to an oxide and is scheduled for completion in 2005.

The Americium/Curium vitrification project was cancelled in September 2001 and an option to transfer to the High Level Waste Program was endorsed. The transfer will take place between December 2002 and March 2003.

A multi-year contract provides incentive for WSRC to complete PUREX operations by March 2002. DOE sees no reason to keep F Canyon operational and therefore plans to suspend operations in a safe condition in late 2002.

The K Area Materials Storage remains ready to receive material for storage with 30-day notification to restaff the security force. Mr. Gunter discussed offsite receipts and the plan to be submitted to Congress by February 1 regarding the plutonium disposition program. FY2002 Appropriation Requirements include 30-day notice to congressional defense committees prior to each shipment. DOE is developing the plan to be submitted to Congress and continues discussions with the Office of the South Carolina Governor. The first shipment is anticipated in the March/April 2002 timeframe.

### **Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee**

#### **Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP II)**

Lynn Waishwell and Melinda Holland provided a presentation regarding CRESP (see attachment), which is working to advance cost-effective cleanup and greater stakeholder understanding of the nation's nuclear weapons production facility waste sites by improving the scientific and technical basis of environmental management decisions and policies. Ms. Holland noted that CRESP was formed based on a perceived need for credible and trusted science, interdisciplinary approach and focus on research that helps make better risk based decisions, which was the primary focus in the first five years. The key focus for CRESP research has been understanding risk and risk management. Ms. Holland noted the various universities included in the consortium and the organization's structure, which includes six centers of expertise including remediation, exposure, human health, ecological health, public policy and socio-economic impacts. Lynn Waishwell discussed CRESP's work, objectives, and various studies, including the review of the Integrated Priority List, Regional Economic Impact Analysis of DOE Subsurface Contaminant Transport Models at C Area Burning Rubble Pit, and fish consumption and risk communication.

#### **SRS Integrated Infrastructure Program Plan (I2P2)**

Terry Montgomery, DOE, provided an overview of the Integrated Infrastructure Program Plan (see attached). Mr. Montgomery discussed the SRS planning hierarchy and the role of the I2P2, the meaning of "infrastructure," the purpose and structure of the plan and its current status. Support infrastructure consists of the 300 square mile area, electrical transmission lines, primary access roads, steam pipelines, railroad tracks, water lines, administrative facilities, the telecom/computing network and specialized analytical facilities. The I2P2 was developed to integrate infrastructure planning and incorporate site reconfiguration and consolidated objectives. It also identifies the universe of infrastructure needs and provides an integrated approach to funding and management. Mr. Montgomery discussed the Infrastructure Planning Process, the development process and the plan contents. He discussed high priority needs and anticipated funding, which will only support critical needs. The I2P2 lays out a 20-year plan to improve site infrastructure and establishes a basis for investment decisions.

Mel Galin presented the committee's draft motion regarding stakeholder input to the SRS budget process (see attached). The motion recommends that no later than April 19, 2002, SRS develop and submit to the CAB a schedule for annual stakeholder involvement in the budget process. The schedule should include specific dates for submission of information to the CAB and establish specific dates for CAB inputs throughout all phases of the budget process. It also recommended that the SRS CAB provide a letter to DOE-Headquarters concerning the need for the CAB to receive budget and integrated priority setting information in a timely manner. Karen Patterson discussed the realities of the budget process and the need for the SRS CAB to provide input to DOE-SR and not DOE-Headquarters. The Board agreed to delete the second recommendation to provide a letter to DOE-Headquarters. The Board further discussed the need to be involved in the Integrated Priority List process. Jimmy Mackey moved the Board accept the recommendation and Carolyne Williams seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **Environmental Remediation Committee Report**

Jimmy Mackey provided a committee update noting changes to the recommendation database. He also discussed technologies the committee would be reviewing and sites close to Four Mile Branch that will be remediated in 2002.

### **Administrative Committee Report**

Administrative Committee Chair Lola Richardson conducted annual membership elections. The following individuals were elected to two-year terms in 2002-2003:

Judy Barnett, Jackson, SC	Jean Sulc, St. Helena Island, SC
Ann Dalton, Augusta, GA	Wade Waters, Pooler, GA
Perry Holcomb, North Augusta, SC	Carolyne Williams, Barnwell, SC
William Lawrence, Aiken, SC	Gloria Williams-Way, Augusta, GA
Dorene Richardson, Williston, SC	Bill Willoughby, Columbia, SC
Lola Richardson, Augusta, GA	

Ms. Richardson also conducted committee chair elections. The following members were elected Officers for 2002-2003 and Committee Chairs for 2002:

Chair	Wade Waters
Vice Chair	Jean Sulc
Administrative Committee	Lola Richardson
Education Committee	Beckie Gaston-Dawson
Environmental Restoration Committee	Jimmy Mackey
Nuclear Materials Committee	Ken Goad
Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee	Mel Galin
Waste Management Committee	Bill Willoughby

The meeting concluded with a Chairs Farewell from Karen Patterson and Brendolyn Jenkins. No further public comments were provided.

### **Handouts**

January 15, 2002 Meeting Agenda  
Operations Update, dated January 2002  
SRS CAB Recommendation Summary

Consolidated Incineration Update, Ray Hannah, DOE  
PUREX Recovery Alternatives, Perry Holcomb, CAB  
High Level Waste System Update, Steve Piccolo, WSRC  
Parallel Salt Disposition Strategy, Wade Waters, CAB  
SRS Transuranic Waste Program Review, Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
Low Activity TRU Facility, Bill Willoughby, CAB  
Nuclear Materials Stabilization Program, Allen Gunter, DOE  
Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation, Lynn Waishwell, CRESPP  
CRESPP Fact Sheet  
Overview of Integrated Infrastructure Program Plan, Terry Montgomery, DOE  
SRS Integrated Infrastructure Program Plan  
Stakeholder Input to SRS Budget Process, Mel Galin, CAB  
Letter from SCDHEC to Karen Patterson, dated January 7, 2002  
Various articles, Mel Galin, CAB  
SRS CAB Calendar  
SRS CAB 2000-2001 Biennial Report  
DOE Memorandum from Jessie Hill Roberson dated November 19, 2001