

Summary Notes, February 23, 2010
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Nuclear Materials Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials Committee (NMC) conducted a meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive presentations on the H-Canyon 3009 DSA Update, provided by Carl Everatt, DOE-SR, and the Plutonium Disposition and Spent Nuclear Fuel NEPA, provided by Allen Gunter, DOE-SR. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

Judy Greene-McLeod, Chair
Don Bridges
Art Dombay
Ed Burke
Stan Howard, Vice Chair
Ranowul Jzar
K. Jayaraman
Jerry Wadley
Rose Hayes
Marolyn Parson
John Snedeker
Joe Ortaldo
Alex Williams
Manuel Bettencourt
Kathe Golden

Stakeholders

Karen Patterson
Cathy Amoroso, EPA
Martha Berry, EPA
Francis Close, FOE
Tom Clements, FOE
Adam Waller, SCDHEC
Bill Lawless

Bill Brizes, Technical Advisor

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Bill Bates, SRNS
Erica Williams, V3
Charles Nickell, SRNS
Bill Brizes, V3
Paul Sauerborn, SRNS
Carl Everatt, DOE-SR
Allen Gunter, DOE-SR
Pat McGuire, DOE-SR
Drew Grainger, DOE-SR

Welcome and Introduction:

Judy Greene- McLeod, Chair, NMC, opened the meeting with a welcome and thank you to all attendees.

The attendees introduced themselves. NMC Chair Ms. Greene-McLeod then referenced the meeting ground rules and encouraged adhering to them. To facilitate meeting timeliness, she encouraged all questions to be held until the end of the presentations. She reminded all attendees that the meeting is being webcast.

Committee Update:

NMC Chair Ms. Greene-McLeod began by providing the status of the NMC open recommendations. For the NM Committee Update, there are four open recommendations.

As information to everyone, she continued by stating the NMC focuses on issues that involve nuclear materials that have an impact on present or future SRS activities. These issues include spent nuclear fuel program activities (foreign and domestic), nuclear materials management and nuclear materials integration. We are interested in the consolidation, storage and disposition related to the legacy materials that were once part of the nuclear weapons production cycle that are no longer needed for their original purpose, but are not considered waste. As we hear the presentations today, it is imperative that we understand what is being done to ensure safe operations and disposition of this material.

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NMC Chair Ms. Greene-McLeod stated that today's agenda includes an update on the H-Canyon Documented Safety Analysis as requested in our Recommendation #259 to provide periodically the status of updating the safety documentation for upgrades to the H-Canyon and the HB-Line facilities. She continued by stating that some of you may recall we received the last update in September of 2009. The second presentation today is an update on the Plutonium Disposition and Spent Nuclear Fuel National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Meeting Summary:

The NMC discussions began with an update from Carl Everatt, DOE-SR, on the Governor of Utah and the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management's decision to halt all Depleted Uranium Oxide (DUO) shipments to Utah and that SRS has begun to review alternative DUO shipping options. Mr. Everatt stated that one shipment of DUO was sent to Utah in early December and that at this time that shipment will remain in Utah for characteristic studies. All other railcars that have been loaded with DUO drums will remain at SRS until an alternative disposition path is determined. Mr. Everatt stated that SRS started today to plan and look at options. At this time, SRS does not have a plan or schedule developed. He stated that there was a long-term Disposition Plan available, but due to ARRA funding acceleration we were shipping as quickly as possible. SRS was always meeting the required Waste Acceptance Criteria for disposition in Utah.

The NMC members received a presentation on the H-Canyon 3009 DSA Update, provided by Carl Everatt, DOE-SR. The presentation was well received. He provided a chronological of the events of the H-Canyon and HB-Line 3009 Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) upgrade. He provided an outline of the activities being taken to review comments and their resolutions. The 3009 DSA upgrade is critical path to resuming spent fuel processing. The schedule under review for various options is August 2010 to January 2011. The DOE-SR and the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has established a daily team meeting to focus strictly on the H-Canyon 3009 work scopes and schedule execution to ensure a safe and timely resolution. Questions were of clarifying nature. Mr. Dombay asked how DOE knows that they are not back fitting the requirement beyond the capability of the systems. Mr. Everatt replied that we are trying to stay with controls and systems that are already in place. The seismic ventilation upgrades require very few physical changes and are going to be made due to the DSA findings. A CAB member asked if the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has reviewed the DSA and resolutions. Mr. Everatt confirmed that the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board has looked at the DOE review and looked at how some of the issues are being resolved. The CAB members asked if this issue has had commercial or M&O Contract changes or impacts. Mr. Everatt replied that there has been no notice from SRNS of contract impacts.

Meeting discussions continued with a presentation on the Plutonium Disposition and Spent Nuclear Fuel National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provided by Allen Gunter, DOE-SR. The presentation was well received. Mr. Gunter provided the background and current status of the Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 5 Metric Tons (MT) of Surplus Non-Pit Plutonium stored at the Savannah River Site. He stated that the current Record of Decision selected melt and dilute as the disposition for Al-clad SNF. He continued by stating that an analysis of potential disposition and management alternatives for Al-clad SNF is currently underway as part of EM's overall effort to reduce the cost and time of its projects and activities.

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The completion of a Supplement Analysis and amended Record of Decision will be required prior to implementation of a disposition strategy other than melt and dilute, such as processing the Spent Nuclear Fuel in H-Canyon. The CAB members asked about where and when there will be scoping meetings and an opportunity to provide comments. Mr. Gunter said that scoping meetings will be held in Aiken, SC, and Carlsbad, NM. He does not know when. Mr. Clements asked why it would take another 12 -18 months for the NEPA. Mr. Gunter said the NEPA process takes 12 – 18 months to complete. Open discussions continued on who will make the decision for the Pu disposition Alternatives; review of the process and types of containers; and why the SNF decision is not being made prior to the Safety Analysis being completed. NMC Chair Ms. Greene-McLeod invited Mr. Gunter to attend the SRS CAB full board meeting and provide this information and any additional information on the Pu Alternatives and Spent Nuclear Fuel decisions.

Other:

NMC Chair Ms. Greene-McLeod reviewed the upcoming meeting schedules and encouraged everyone to sign-in and complete the feedback forms. She also encouraged SRS CAB members to sign up at the March full Board meeting to become a member of the NMC.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjourn:

NMC Chair Ms. Greene-McLeod adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.

Follow-Up Actions:

None.

Presentations are posted on the SRS CAB Website separately.