

FALL 2004



SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Board Beat

BOARD CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board is celebrating ten years of service to the Department of Energy (DOE). “We are so proud of the accomplishments of this board” said Jean Sulc, SRSCAB Chairman. “Not only have we provided nearly 200 recommendations to the Department of Energy and its regulators over the past decade, but the Board has also assisted the site by improving relations with the regulators and community at large.”

On July 27, 2004, DOE Site Manager Jeff Allison congratulated the Board by presenting a plaque listing 87 individuals who have served as members of the Board since its inception. This plaque is showcased at the Aiken Federal Building, where many of the SRS CAB committee meetings are held.

In his remarks, Mr. Allison noted that the board’s first recommendation, which was spearheaded by Bill Lawless (now serving his second term and seventh year on the board), regarded independent scientific peer reviews. This practice has been instituted as standard operating procedure for all major site documents over the past decade.

Mr. Allison thanked the Board for its emphasis on the Transuranic Waste Program, noting it was invaluable in ensuring the success of that program and the commencement of shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on May

8, 2001. The Board strongly influenced the environmental remediation program by establishing areas that should be considered only for industrial uses in the future. Since SRS did not have a declared future mission in 1995, the Board recommendation provided a clear path forward by which cleanup decisions for near term waste units could proceed, enabling DOE to save millions by attaining less restrictive industrial-use cleanup standards for zones clearly used for industrial purposes now and in the future, said Allison.

“I think it speaks well of the Department of Energy and the site contractor, that of the numerous members serving on this CAB, approximately 20 persons have served the maximum of six years in office and several are back to do it again,” said Sulc. “The support we’ve received from SRS has made this a meaningful experience for all involved.”

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board held its first full board meeting in February 1994. Seventy full board meetings and hundreds of committee meetings later, the Board is still moving full steam ahead. Faces have changed and processes have been refined over the past decade, but the SRS CAB is steady as she goes in providing informed and timely recommendations to DOE, improving two-way communications with SRS impacted communities, and ensuring that stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved in SRS decision making.

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- 2003 Environment Report Available

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

2005 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are seeking new members! Our Board provides advice to the Department of Energy and its regulators reflective of public values and concerns in areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related issues.

Membership solicitation began August 23 and runs through September 30. New applicants are being sought to fill positions held by citizens currently serving two-year terms. Stakeholder categories to be filled include the general public, environmentalists, public officials and representatives of academia, labor, business and minorities.

The Administrative Committee of the Board will choose two to three candidates per position in late October

and new members will be elected by the full Board in January 2005 following a 60-day review period.

No technical expertise is required. Only an interest in SRS environmental issues and the time and willingness to attend meetings and learn about these various issues is necessary. Some travel will be required. Board members receive travel compensation only. They are not paid for their time.

To obtain a membership packet or to learn more, please give us a call at 1-800-249-8155 or visit the Board's website at www.srs.gov and click on "Outreach."

CAB EXAMINES PLUTONIUM STORAGE

In order to understand more about plutonium storage, SRS CAB members took advantage of the opportunity to travel to SRS to learn more about how this nuclear material is handled. On August 27, 2004, CAB members enjoyed a short driving tour of the primary plutonium storage facilities followed by a series of related presentations. The day concluded with a question and answer session, which included all of the presenters and other key program personnel.

The CAB has long recognized the safe handling of plutonium as a key issue. In the CAB's 2004 Annual Work Plan, Board members ranked plutonium disposition and the potential storage consolidation of complex-wide plutonium as two of the top ten priority issues. In an effort to carefully consider the fundamental aspects of safe, interim storage of plutonium at SRS, CAB members were provided a series of presentations that were designed to address their primary concerns. To assist the Board in understanding the

storage mission, contrasts were drawn between the capabilities of the two interim storage facilities, building 235-F and the K Area Material Storage (KAMS). A description of the engineering analysis performed to ensure the safe storage of plutonium in these facilities was discussed. Through the use of photographs and a variety of containers, tools, and instruments, CAB members were able to visualize the various aspects of plutonium receipt, inspection, and storage evolution. Interim and permanent surveillance capabilities to ensure the plutonium remains in a safe state were also explained.

Jean Sulc, CAB Chair, expressed pleasure at the level of detail provided. She said, "This was very useful, especially from the perspective of seeing the flow of operations from start to finish. It was good to see the big picture." Other Board members echoed Mrs. Sulc's sentiments and stated that the presentations were very timely and informative.

Over the last year, the Board has made several recommendations on plutonium to DOE. While the Board expressed pleasure in the professional manner by which the site handles the interim storage of plutonium, the Board will continue to monitor the progress DOE makes on a preferred disposition strategy for surplus plutonium as well as any material consolidation proposals.



CAB members during recent tour

RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED

Performance Management Plan (PMP) 2004

In an effort to strengthen the PMP process the SRS CAB recommended that SRS develop a section on accountability in the PMP and discuss how key assumptions will be periodically revalidated. The CAB also asked DOE-HQ to work aggressively with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure the licensing of Yucca Mountain to meet the PMP objectives and requested that DOE-HQ prioritize waste acceptance for SRS vitrified high level waste and spent fuel. In addition, the Board asked DOE-HQ to provide a schedule and implementation plan for the SRS shipments. The Board also recommended that SRS provide alternatives (back-up plans) for several key assumptions identified in the PMP.

Risk Based End State Vision (RBES) Document

The SRS CAB endorsed the RBES process and offered nine recommendations in an effort to strengthen the process and requested a progress report on each of the specific recommendations by September 27, 2004.

Modified Salt Waste Disposition Strategy

The SRS CAB is deeply concerned about potential delays in implementing the modified salt waste disposition strategy; their long term effect on completion of HLW cleanup by 2019; and their short term effect on availability of the skilled work force specific to these projects. Therefore, the board recommends that SRS identify the impacts on costs and schedules of delaying SWPF design activities. The Board also requested that SRS implement as much of the modified salt waste disposition strategy as the FY04 budget will allow and asked DOE-HQ to provide funds necessary for SRS to begin to implement the modified salt waste disposition strategy.

Prioritizing D&D Activities

The SRS CAB recommended that DOE-HQ and DOE-SR should closely review its D&D prioritization policy/strategy, emphasizing that the D&D focus should be on risk mitigation and reduction and not merely on reducing the site "footprint" via D&D of selected, still viable structures.

Public Dissemination-Waste Disposition Information

The SRS CAB is interested in factual information reaching stakeholders and media and recommended that DOE-SR hold an educational forum on the waste disposition and tank closure strategy. The Board also asked that DOE-SR provide access to pertinent reports and articles under a special Waste Disposition and Tank Closure section on the SRS CAB web site with links to credible,

third party sources and that DOE-SR provide rapid news releases, background point papers, or fact sheets to clarify misleading and/or non-factual information in the media or in public debate.

Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Recycle

While the main priority remains salt processing and tank closure, the SRS CAB supports increasing tank space capacity as funding allows and therefore recommends that DOE-SR increase its emphasis on DWPF recycle reduction through implementation of technology and/or management techniques including contractor incentives. The Board requested that DOE-SR accelerate the design, construction and regulatory approvals of the acid-side evaporator and strive to have it operational by FY07 and asked DOE-SR to accelerate the near-term DWPF recycle disposal and limited low-curie salt to Saltstone campaigns as soon as regulatory approvals allow.

Receipt of Spent Nuclear Fuel at SRS

In an effort to improve the SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) program, the SRS CAB recommended that DOE-HQ continue to investigate and implement an SNF disposition strategy that will accelerate the program and requested an update on the SNF program uncertainties by January 15, 2005. The SRS CAB also recommended that DOE-HQ identify SNF that can not be directly disposed into the Federal Repository prior to its shipment to SRS, and establish and document an alternative disposition prior to accepting it for shipment to SRS, and asked DOE-HQ to present the direct disposal form of spent fuel to NRC immediately and obtain a binding determination that it can actually be disposed in the Federal Repository. The Board recommended that DOE-HQ keep H Canyon operable until there is certainty that spent fuel, which could be processed there, can be disposed in the federal repository.

Plutonium Shipments and Disposition

DOE is developing a disposition plan for its excess plutonium. The SRS CAB is concerned that DOE may already have a proposed plutonium disposition strategy that they have not shared with the public. The SRS CAB recommends that DOE ensure an exit strategy exists before commitments are made to receive surplus plutonium at SRS. The Board also requested that DOE present the preferred proposed plutonium disposition strategy, its implementation, and schedule to the SRS CAB by September 26, 2004, and make available to the CAB and the public any studies to support this plutonium disposition option. The CAB also requested that DOE ensure a public forum and comment period on the plutonium disposition option is included in the NEPA process.

EDUCATION RETREAT 2004

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board members participated in a two-day educational retreat in Charleston, S.C. on September 10 and 11, 2004. The purpose of the retreat was to provide a broad-based overview of technical subjects and concepts related to the issues the CAB members deal with in committee and board meetings. The Board held a similar retreat in 2002, but since that time, a dozen new members have joined the board. The presentations were designed to provide basic information to assist in fundamental understanding of SRS issues, rather than the more specific programmatic information which is covered routinely during committee and board meetings. The retreat was facilitated by Mike Schoener, CAB facilitator, and covered a variety of topics including: Basics of Radiation, Nuclear Materials, Waste, Hazards and Risk, the DOE Organization and Cleanup Decision making. The meeting format was very informal and interactive with much discussion and participation among the members.

SRS SIGNS AGREEMENT TO PRESERVE HISTORY

On July 8, 2004, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between DOE, the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and other consulting parties for the management of Cold War historic properties on the Savannah River Site was finalized during a signing ceremony. Other signatories to this agreement are the SRS Citizens Advisory Board; Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA); City of Augusta, GA; City of Aiken, SC; and City of New Ellenton, SC.

DOE consulted with SHPO and ACHP on the agreement per the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which requires all Federal agencies to consider the impacts to historic properties in all their undertakings. The Act ensures that the spirit and direction of the Nation are reflected in our historic heritage and that historical and cultural foundations are preserved and maintained for future generations.

DOE inventoried 732 facilities, all of which were constructed between 1950 and 1989. Two hundred and thirty-three SRS structures are considered historic. Eleven properties are also individually eligible. These are: C Reactor; K Reactor; L Reactor; P Reactor; R Reactor; F Canyon; H Canyon; SRTC Main Technical Laboratory (773-A); Physics Laboratory (777-10A); Mockup Building (717-F); and Chemical Semiworks Building (678-T).

In November 2002, DOE proposed and SHPO accepted that the SRS Cold War National Register District encompasses the Site's 310 square miles within Aiken, Barnwell, and Allendale counties. The SRS historic dis-



C Reactor is one of 233 structures considered historic.

trict recognizes the national, state, and local significance of the Site and the first generation of buildings constructed at the Savannah River Plant.

There are more than 200 facilities onsite that are considered historic and require consideration before being modified, deactivated or decommissioned. This includes: preserving old photographs, records, or documents; taking new photographs; recording oral histories of former workers; or collecting and preserving artifacts. Future plans call for forming an Artifact Selection Team that includes Site personnel and one member from CNTA. The Team has met once and has plans for facility walk-throughs. A team will also be formed with members from each of the consulting parties to examine public involvement, outreach and education. Future endeavors also include the development of a management plan for these Cold War historic resources. The management plan is scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2004. A complete list of the facilities considered historic and the full text of the Cold War History Programmatic Agreement will be posted on the publicly accessible web site in the near future.

**Want to learn more about SRS?
The SRS CAB has a speakers bureau.
For more information, please call 1-800-249-8155**

ENERGY SECRETARY ABRAHAM CERTIFIES SAVANNAH RIVER TECHNOLOGY CENTER AS NEW DOE NATIONAL LABORATORY

On May 7, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham designated the Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC) as the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), making it one of only 12 labs across the country to carry the “national laboratory” designation.

“President Bush and I are proud of the scientific and technical work ongoing at the Department of Energy’s national laboratories,” Secretary Abraham said. “And today, we are even more proud to designate this new laboratory and make it a full partner in the critical missions performed by DOE facilities.”

Secretary Abraham was joined by South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford and Congressmen Gresham Barrett (S.C.) and Max Burns (Ga.) at the certification event at the Savannah River Site. Senator Lindsey Graham (S.C.), who was instrumental in gaining the designation, was unable to attend the ceremony but sent a videotaped message.

In a letter to SRNL Director Dr. Todd Wright following the ceremony, Abraham also said, “The designation of the Savannah River Technology Center as a National Laboratory will assure that the intellectual assets acquired over the lifetime of the Savannah River Site operation remain available to support the Nation’s critical scientific and technical needs. In addition, the Savannah River National Laboratory will receive a higher level of visibility and prestige, which it deserves.”

The national laboratory designation will also provide SRNL new opportunities for growth, as well as the ability to compete for a much broader range of DOE missions than in the past.

The lab began operations in 1951 to provide applied research and development support for the department’s nuclear facilities complex and national defense. Today, SRNL puts science to work to serve the nation in the areas of energy security (including work in hydrogen energy), national security, and environmental management. About half of SRNL’s work is on behalf of SRS. The other half supports other DOE sites, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and federal

agencies including the U.S. Army, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency.

To provide the best solutions for its customers, SRNL frequently works in collaboration with partners whose strengths complement its own abilities, including universities and other national laboratories. So far this year, SRNL has signed agreements with three universities and one national laboratory to look for opportunities for collaborative work. In the spring, just days before the national laboratory designation, SRNL signed an agreement with the University of South Carolina

to work together to develop collaborative research programs in such areas as hydrogen research, fuel cells, biodefense and environmental research.

In August, SRNL entered into an agreement with UT-Battelle, the operator

of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, to serve as the basis for developing cooperative efforts in the areas of national and global security, energy development, and environmental stewardship. An agreement was also signed with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) to foster collaboration among scientists at MCG and SRNL in the area of life sciences, engineering, and related technologies. Likewise, an agreement was signed with South Carolina State University to foster collaboration in areas of science and technology of mutual interest, such as nuclear engineering, machine tooling and fabrication techniques, measurement techniques, mechanical and robotics design, environmental sciences and technology, hydrogen fuel-cell technologies for transportation systems, and transportation delivery systems for nuclear materials throughout South Carolina.



SRS Technology Center becomes 12th DOE National Lab

SRS CAB MOURNS LOSS

The SRS CAB dedicates this issue of the Board Beat to the memory of Harold Rahn. Harold was Vice Chair of the Waste Management Committee. He served on the Board for two years. Mr. Rahn resided in Springfield, Georgia. The Board expresses its sorrow for his unexpected passing.

Harold Rahn



SRS ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR 2003 AVAILABLE

The SRS Environmental Report for 2003 is ready for distribution. The report's accompanying data tables again are published on CD only.

The printed version of the 112-page report houses the CD, which includes not only data tables but an electronic version of the report; an appendix of site, environmental sampling location, dose, and groundwater maps; and complete 2003 reports from a number of other SRS organizations. The Environmental Report can be viewed at <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/ersum04/index.html> or through related links on the CAB website.

Requests for hard copies of the report may be made by calling 1-800-248-8155. A full presentation regarding the results of the report will be presented to the SRS CAB on Tuesday, September 28 during its bi-monthly business meeting to be held in Beaufort, S.C. The Board has received annual updates regarding this report since 1995. The Environmental Report was the first document recommended for independent scientific peer review by the SRS CAB.

CAB Administration Update

Discussions continue regarding CAB administration in Fiscal Year 2005. DOE is conducting negotiations with an 8A contractor regarding future Board administration.

Potential 2005 Meeting Dates

January 24-25
March 28-29
May 23-24
July 25-26
September 26-27
November 14-15

DNFSB ASSIGNS NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO SRS



John Contardi

John Contardi has been assigned as the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (DNFSB) Site Representative at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS). Mr. Contardi joined the DNFSB in September 2000. His previous assignments with the DNFSB included responsibility for staff activities related to processing and stabilization of plutonium and other nuclear materials, high-level waste processing, implementation of integrated safety management, and radiological engineering. Prior to joining the DNFSB, Mr. Contardi was a Chemical Engineer at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While at the NRC, Mr. Contardi's duties involved the study of plutonium transport at the proposed Yucca Mountain geologic repository, high-level waste processing, and various decommissioning projects.

Mr. Contardi holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Clemson University, and a master's degree in Health Physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

SRS PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

High Level Waste (HLW) Vitrification

FY04 Goal: HLW packaged for disposition – 250 canisters.

Progress: 235 canisters produced through 8/20/04

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Disposal

FY04 Goal: TRU shipped and disposed – 840 m³

Progress: 2243.6 m³ disposed in FY04

Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) Program

FY04 Goal: Reduce inventory by 10,744 m³

Progress: Reduced by 7,238 m³ through 7/1/04

Mixed Low Level Waste (MLLW) Program

FY04 Goal: No more than 527 m³ of legacy MLLW in storage

Progress: Stored legacy MLLW through July is 389 m³

Hazardous Waste Program

FY04 Goal: No more than 60 m³ of legacy hazardous waste in storage at end of FY04

Progress: Stored legacy HW reduced to 61.5 m³

Deactivation & Decommissioning Program

FY04 Goal: 82 facilities by the end of FY04

Progress: 88 facilities completed

Soil & Groundwater Program

FY04 Goal: 13 waste sites remediated

Progress: 9 sites completed through July

Plutonium Disposition Program

FY04 goal: 423 containers packaged for long term disposition

Progress: 493 containers packaged through July

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SRS.GOV AND CLICK ON **OUTREACH**

SRS CAB WELCOMES NEW EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS



William Spader

William F. Spader was named DOE-SR Assistant Manager for Closure Projects in April 2004 and became the Deputy Designated Federal Official for the SRS CAB in May 2004. In his current position, he is responsible for overall leadership and direction of the Soil and Groundwater Remediation and the Decontamination and Decommissioning Projects in support of the Environmental Management risk reduction and accelerated cleanup mission at SRS. He also is responsible for stakeholder and regulatory interface for the site.

A native of Connecticut, Mr. Spader holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He resides in Aiken, South Carolina, with his wife, Gail.



Rick Caldwell

Richard T. Caldwell is the newest Ex-Officio Member of the Board. Rick is the director of the Edisto Savannah Environmental Quality Control District of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Caldwell succeeds Myra C. Reece, who was recently named chief of DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality in Columbia. A native of Leesburg, Va., Caldwell has served in SCDHEC's Appalachia IEQC District since 1993. He worked in the district's air and solid waste programs as well as multimedia issues involving all of the district programs. He is a graduate of Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences. He holds an associate's degree in Public Management from the University of South Carolina and is currently enrolled in the Certified Public Manager program.



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Key criteria for Board membership includes a time commitment and the desire and ability to work towards better and informed recommendations.

To apply for membership to the Citizens Advisory Board, please call 1-800-249-8155.

*Board Beat is published semiannually by the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board. Content is provided by Board members and support staff. Please send your comments and suggestions to:

Dawn Haygood
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Building 742-A, Room 190
Aiken, SC 29808
Phone: 1-800-249-8155
Fax: 803-725-8057
Email: dawn.haygood@srs.gov

Upcoming 2004 Citizens Advisory Board Meetings

September 27-28
November 15-16

Ramada Limited, Beaufort, S.C.
Augusta Towers Hotel & Conference Center,
Augusta, GA (formally Sheraton Hotel)

Note: Individual committee meetings will be held as required.

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