

**SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
Strategic and Legacy Management Committee Meeting  
Aiken Federal Building, Aiken, SC  
November 7, 2006**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Strategic and Legacy Management (SLM) Committee met on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, 5:00 p.m. – 6:25 p.m., at the Aiken Federal Building in Aiken, SC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) draft motion and to hear public comment. Attendance was as follows:

**CAB Members**

- Jimmy Mackey \*  
- Wade Waters \*  
- Judith Greene-McLeod  
Karen Patterson  
Alex Williams  
Wendell Lyon  
Joe Ortaldo  
Leon Chavous

**Stakeholders**

Todd Crawford  
Jack Roberts  
Liz Goodson  
Phillip Lord  
Kurt Buhlman  
John Rema  
Russ Messick  
Bill Guthier  
Charles Pair  
\*\*Rick McLeod

**DOE/Contractors**

Bill Spader, DOE  
Paul Bertsch, UGA/SREL  
Jim Giusti, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
Sheron Smith, DOE  
Mindy Mets, V3  
Jim Moore, WSRC

**Regulators**

None

\* *SLM committee members*

\*\* *CAB technical advisor*

Note: Barbara Paul, Madeleine Marshall, Gloria Williams-Way, Ranowul Jzar and Meryl Alalof, members of the SLM Committee were unable to attend.

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Jimmy Mackey, Chair, welcomed all those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves. Mr. Mackey referred to the meeting ground rules requesting that everyone abide by them.

Mr. Mackey reminded all attendees of the Saltstone Permit Modification public meeting on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) 2030 Public meeting on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mackey encouraged attendance to both meetings and that their attendance is not reimbursable by the CAB.

Mr. Mackey stated that DOE has just released the draft Legacy Strategic Plan for comment and advised the committee members to review the Plan and see where it will affect the Savannah River Site (SRS).

**Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) Funding (draft motion):**

Discussions began with Karen Patterson requesting Dr. Bertsch or Mr. Spader to explain the history of the DOE and SREL/UGA Cooperative Agreement and the funding issues. Mr. Spader stated that the Cooperative Agreement with SREL was extended to the end of December 2006 and DOE is currently working on the next Cooperative Agreement which means that budget numbers are not final. Mr. Spader pointed out that DOE is working closely with SREL to develop the Agreement. Ms. Patterson

questioned the involvement of Jill Sigal, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, and referred to rumors.

Mr. Spader affirmed that he would not address rumors, and that Ms. Siegel was DOE-HQ and the Department responds as one entity. Ms. Patterson stated that she and others feel that they do not have complete information to be able to advise the Department. Mr. Wade Waters reaffirmed that the CAB members feel that DOE does not recognize the talents and importance of SREL to assist in the Savannah River Site cleanup missions.

Due to some sharp give and take discussions on agreements and clarifications, Mr. Ortaldo reminded CAB members of the meeting rules. Mr. Ortaldo continued by stating that SREL has been a tremendous asset to the Site and the CAB members are concerned that DOE will lose a tremendous asset and very effective program.

Mr. Todd Crawford stated that the SREL is a training institution for people involved in the nuclear industry and considered world class training.

Ms. Liz Goodson stated that cleanup of the Site has a lot of Low Level Waste and that as a citizen of this area, she would be more confident if the ecology lab remained in operations to ensure safe.

Mr. Mackey stated that in 2004, the Commission report done by the Committee of Visitors recognized the beginning of the end for SREL, because that was the first time SREL funding was reduced. He continued by stating that CAB members had to find out about the funding cuts through the media and that the new Cooperative Agreement should have been signed weeks ago.

Dr. Bertsch, Director, SREL, provided a history and confirmed that DOE and SREL are working together to agree on the Cooperative Agreement.

Mr. Ortaldo asked if SREL budget was supported by Site NNSA and Dr. Bertsch affirmed.

All CAB members requested that the motion be rewritten to strongly focus on how important and beneficial SREL work is to the Site and that SREL needs a landlord identified and the base funding each year to remain in operation. Their concern is that funding cuts have been drastic and impacts are detrimental to SREL. Ms. Patterson stated that without a base funding each year, SREL can not operate and we will have to go through this process again. Mr. Mackey stated that even if an agreement is signed, Congress has not approved the FY2007 budget. Mr. Spader stated that contingency resolution funds at the level of the prior year and that we are not allowed to start a new project. Mr. McLeod asked if the UGS/SREL work could be issued for bid from other universities. Dr. Bertsch replied that has been discussed but not pursued. Mr. Mackey wrapped up discussions by strongly stating the CAB's position and encouraging CAB members to provide their comments to Mr. McLeod for incorporation in the motion which will be discussed and finalized as a recommendation at the Chairs meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Follow-Up Actions:**

Provide all final comments on the SREL Funding Reductions draft motion to Rick McLeod for incorporation.

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Last updated: November 1, 2006