



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee**

#### **Meeting Record**

**March 18, 1997**

**North Augusta, S.C.**

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The CAB ER & WM subcommittee met on March 18, 1997 at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC. Bill Lawless opened the meeting with introductions. Other subcommittee members present were Kathryn May, CAB ER & WM Co-chair, and Deborah Simone. Walt Joseph, the SRS CAB facilitator, and Todd Crawford, SRS CAB technical support, also attended. Attending from DOE-SR were Thomas Johnson, Bert Crapse, Karen Hooker, Phil Prater, Brian Hennessey, Cynthia Anderson, and Mike Simmons. Keith Collinworth and Craig Marriner attended from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Attending from WSRC/BSRI were Bob Aylward, Paul Huber, Coleman Miles, Mike Griffith, Matt Hunter, Steve Hevel, Tom French, Kim Wierzbicki, Ron Steve, Bill Rajczak, Anne Roe and Mary Flora. Public attendees included Patricia McCracken, Lee Poe, Bill Boettinger, and Gary Street. de`Lisa Bratcher attended as the Associate Designated Deputy Federal Official, ADDFO.

Thomas Johnson, DOE, gave a presentation on the SRS Decommissioning Program and its relationship to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Mr. Johnson explained that deactivation is the process of placing a facility in a safe and stable condition and is completed prior to the facility being placed in the decommissioning program. Deactivation of facilities is taking place to reduce costs and hazards and limit the mortgage costs associated with long term maintenance of these facilities.

Decommissioning involves the long term surveillance and maintenance and the final disposition of facilities. The final disposition may include reuse of facilities or their components, entombment, or removal and cleanup to "greenfield" conditions.

Mr. Johnson said the SRS Decommissioning Program will follow the Site commitment to CERCLA by complying with regulations and CERCLA requirements and encouraging public comment and involvement. Specifically, Mr. Johnson said DOE-SR is developing a program plan, (the Savannah River Site Facilities (SRS) Decommissioning Program Plan), which would be completed in September 1997 and would be consistent with existing DOE guidance and policies on deactivation and decommissioning.

Mr. Johnson compared the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor (HWCTR) decommissioning process with the typical CERCLA process for a non-time critical removal action and noted that similar public involvement activities were conducted in both processes. HWCTR is scheduled to start the decommissioning process this fiscal year.

Bill Lawless asked how the subcommittee could be involved in the process and how the State and EPA would be providing input to the decommissioning process. Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC, noted that DOE was the lead agency for this activity and was self-regulating and that SCDHEC was not really involved in the decommissioning process. Mr. Lawless also asked what facilities would be included in the decommissioning program plan. Lee Poe asked why the DOE/EPA policy on decommissioning under CERCLA was not followed for HWCTR and the Ford Building Waste Unit removal action. Thomas Johnson and Cynthia Anderson, DOE, offered to set up a private meeting with Mr. Poe to explain how the policy was implemented for these units and what the differences were between the two actions. Mr. Poe also asked what advantage there was to using HWCTR as a demonstration project for the decommissioning program and why HWCTR was funded when it was a low risk site. Mr. Johnson explained that HWCTR was funded from another funding source than other SRS projects. Trish McCracken asked if DOE was making sure valuable equipment was not being given away to private interests or foreign countries. Mr. Johnson explained that no equipment could be excessed without DOE approval.

Next, two draft motions on ER remedial actions (Clean Up Action Progress at SRS and Remedial and Removal Actions at SRS) were discussed. The draft motions were aimed at speeding up the remedial process by developing screening criteria to reduce the list of sites to be remediated in Appendix C of the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), accelerating the program for determining areas requiring no further action (listed in Appendix G of the FFA), and more extensive use of the removal action process. Keith Collinsworth noted that SCDHEC was not in favor of employing extensive removal actions to remediate the SRS because there was not a structured public involvement process associated with removal actions, but the State was in favor of doing early remedial actions when possible. The draft motion on Remedial and Removal Actions at SRS also cited the SRL Seepage Basins as an example of a site which should undergo expedited cleanup. Mike Simmons, DOE, noted that plans were underway for a more extensive approach to public involvement for the SRL Seepage Basin removal action. Mr. Simmons said that a Focus Group consisting of a cross-section of stakeholders was being planned and would involve detailed explanations and input. Ms. McCracken asked what actions were being taken at other sites and if these actions at other sites had been investigated and studied.

The use of the PREscore risk ranking methodology was discussed in relation to the sites listed in Appendices C and G of the Federal Facility Agreement. Todd Crawford noted that many of the sites listed in Appendices C and G had a low risk ranking and perhaps some of these sites could be taken off the list and the higher risk sites addressed first. Keith Collinsworth noted that early actions were taking place and a streamlined approach with generic remedies was utilized when appropriate. Bill Lawless asked if the draft motion would be helpful. It was agreed that the second paragraph would be helpful but that more work needed to be done on the motion. Lee Poe said the CAB should not recommend how the actions would be segmented (i.e. above or below a

specific PREscore value) but instead should give overall guidance and let the agencies decide how to implement the recommendation.

Bert Crapse gave a presentation on the proposed Soils/Debris Consolidation Facility (SDCF) and explained the facility analysis which was recently completed. Mr. Crapse noted that the analysis evaluated options for the consolidation of low-level radioactive soils/debris from SRS RCRA/CERCLA waste units at a centralized SDCF in comparison to other remedial alternatives. The SDCF analysis study considered 20 SRS waste units to be remediated with the contaminated soil being disposed of in the proposed 600,000 cubic yard SDCF. The analysis found that the SDCF costs were approximately double the cost of in-situ grouting and capping the waste sites in place. Keith Collinsworth noted that the proposed SDCF was studied to see if it made sense to reduce the footprint of contaminated areas by moving the contaminated soils to a central location in the interior industrial part of the Site. Lee Poe stated that he was not satisfied with the explanation of not using the high level waste tanks to contain the contaminated soil. Mr. Crapse said the HLW tank alternative was evaluated but was not practicable. Bill Lawless said the subcommittee would recommend that the SDCF not be built (draft recommendation attached).

The Technology Deployment Initiative (TDI) was presented by Karen Hooker, DOE, and Tom French, WSRC. Dr. Hooker explained that TDI was a multi-year program with an allocation of \$50 million dollars for FY98. TDI is specifically targeted for technology deployment to help expedite cleanup at DOE sites, reduce the EM mortgage, and enhance achievement of Ten-Year Plan goals. Dr. Hooker discussed the TDI schedule and the screening criteria which includes public involvement with a 15% weighting. Tom French, SRTC, discussed some of the technologies which SRS would be proposing and the site needs the technologies would address as well as the planned review and approval process. Bill Lawless asked if there were any technologies to recover tritium. Bob Aylward noted the site was actively seeking such technologies. A planned TDI motion was discussed and arrangements were made to finalize the motion and presentation materials for the next subcommittee meeting.

**Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling the SRS CAB toll free number at 1-800-249-8155.**