



# January 1997 Meeting Minutes

**SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

**January 28, 1997 8:30 a.m.**

**The Hilton**

**Hilton Head Island, S.C.**

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## **Members Present**

Members present included Arthur Belge, Ann Brown, Tom Costikyan, Bill Donaldson, Brendolyn Jenkins, Thelonious Jones, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Mildred McClain, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, Karen Patterson, Kamalakar Raut, Deborah Simone, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Ed Tant, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Tom Heenan of the Department of Energy, Ann Ragan of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and Camilla Warren of the Environmental Protection Agency were also present.

Members absent were Aundria Cheever and Suzanne Matthews. Board Facilitator Walt Joseph was present. Currently, there are three Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan.

This meeting was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Bob Slay introduced Todd Crawford and David Porter, both recently hired as technical advisors to the Board.

## **Key Decisions Made by Board**

All current subcommittee chairpersons were re-elected to serve in 1997.

A quorum will be the presence of 50 percent plus one of members serving.

The Board accepted a motion on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS on Aluminum-clad Spent Nuclear Fuel at SRS, recommending that DOE expand the scope of this NOI to include a full evaluation of chemical processing as an alternative for spent nuclear fuel management.

The Board recommended that DOE carefully evaluate employing SRS facilities and personnel to manage plutonium residues and scrub alloy currently stored at Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site as an alternative in the Rocky Flats Plutonium Environmental Impact Statement. Any decision to utilize SRS should include a commitment for the necessary fiscal support.

The Board provided a six-part recommendation on the river water system shutdown at SRS.

Recommendations regarding the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Draft SEIS-II were adopted.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November Board meeting were approved with one minor change.

## **Agency Updates**

Ann Ragan of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) announced that seven Records of Decision are pending for environmental remediation work at SRS and that much progress is being made. She also announced the schedules in Appendix E of the Federal Facility Agreement are nearing completion.

Camilla Warren of the Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV announced a new way of conducting business in the southeast called community-based environmental protection, which is a movement toward working more closely with the public throughout the region. Ms. Warren stated she would also be working with other community groups in the area more frequently.

Tom Heenan of DOE announced that Deputy Manager Ernie Chaput has retired and was replaced by Greg Rudy, who headed the plutonium disposition program for DOE-Headquarters and participated in the CAB's Plutonium Forum. Mr. Heenan also discussed the Secretary of Energy's announcement regarding plutonium disposition, which basically outlines a two-track approach to burn some of the plutonium in mixed-oxide reactors as well other approaches. Mr. Heenan also announced that the recent workforce restructuring resulted in just under 600 involuntary separations, with a total of approximately 2,000 separations this year.

## **Public Comments**

**Lee Poe, Aiken, South Carolina resident** Mary Flora read a letter that was faxed by Mr. Lee Poe, dated January 27, 1997, regarding accommodation for the CAB "Plutonium Disposition Educational Forum." (See attached letter.)

### **Jimmy Mackey, Beaufort, S.C.**

Mr. Mackey introduced himself as a candidate under consideration for the March membership elections and stated he was an 18-year government employee and Vietnam veteran from Beaufort. He stated he was currently employed by the Department of Navy on Parris Island, S.C. handling construction contracts.

### **Lane Parker, Graniteville, S.C.**

Mr. Parker questioned the training section of the SRS Environmental Report for 1995 stating some of the standards were redundant and that he had been unable to determine which standards

prevailed. In particular, he asked for a response from the Department of Energy on which standard, 29 CFR 1910-120 or DOE CFR Part 835, prevailed. (In a later discussion with Mr. Parker, Mr. Heenan explained that these requirements were for two separate sets of standards Occupational Safety and Health Association standards and Radioactive Worker Safety standards each of which may equally apply to an activity.)

## **Facilitator Update and Review of Recommendations**

Board Facilitator Walt Joseph presented a review of the CAB's recommendations to date (see attached handouts). He provided a summary of the recommendations including the number produced, accepted, the issues addressed and the an overall summary of the impacts of Board recommendations. He also discussed agencies responses and identified unresolved issues. Mr. Joseph next provided a review and status of each individual recommendation (see attached handouts). During the presentation it was noted that several clarifications were needed. Mr. Joseph agreed to meet with the issues-based chairpersons and agency representatives to address the various comments and issue a final tracking report. Due to time constraints, Mr. Joseph was only able to present Recommendations 1-17. He will complete the presentation at the March Board meeting.

## **Administrative Subcommittee Report**

Administrative Chair Beaurine Wilkins conducted the annual election of subcommittee chairpersons. All current subcommittee chairpersons were nominated for re-election in 1997 and ran unopposed. The board accepted the nominations by acclamation with a vote of 22 in favor and one opposed.

The following subcommittee chairpersons were elected to serve in 1997:

Administrative Subcommittee - Beaurine Wilkins  
Budget Subcommittee - Thelonious Jones  
Education Subcommittee - P.K. Smith  
ER&WM Subcommittee- Bill Lawless and Kathryn May  
Nuclear Materials Management - Tom Costikyan  
Risk Management & Future Use - Vernon Zinnerman  
Outreach Subcommittee - Lane Parker

Ms. Wilkins also provided applications for 42 candidates running for 14 membership positions in March.

Ms. Wilkins next discussed a proposal to amend the Board's Bylaws. Following is a summary of the amendments proposed:

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- Board members may serve no more than two consecutive terms, but may be re-elected after a lapse of two years.
- There shall be eight Board members (plus or minus one) who are African American.

- There shall be 12 females (plus or minus one)
- All efforts will be made to ensure exact numbers above.
- A quorum will be the presence of 50 percent plus one of members serving.

Much discussion pursued regarding the lack of candidates on file necessary to ensure that elections will result in a manner that fulfills all bylaws requirements. Many Board members acknowledged that this is a problem, but did not feel that amending the Bylaws was the way to resolve the issue. The Board addressed each of the five amendments above individually.

Bill Lawless moved the Board amend the first statement to allow a Board member to be re-elected after a lapse of one year. This change was approved by 19 in favor and one abstention.

Mildred McClain moved that Section 3.3 c of the bylaws remain as is rejecting the second and third bullet above. This motion passed with 13 in favor six opposed and one abstention.

Brendolyn Jenkins moved that bullet four above be dropped in light of the last vote not to accept the proposed changes in bullets two and three. The motion passed with 14 members in favor and six abstentions.

The last bulleted item regarding an amendment of the quorum requirements passed with 19 members in favor and one abstention.

Following the individual motions, the Board voted on the modified bylaws amendments proposal. With a vote of 16 in favor, three opposed and one abstention, the vote failed since the Board's bylaws requires a favorable vote of three-fourths of the full board to amend the Bylaws. More discussion pursued resulting in another vote to accept the amendment regarding quorum requirements. This amendment was accepted unanimously.

## **Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum**

Karen Patterson, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Educational Forum, presented a status regarding the planning of the forum. She stated that the following forum sponsors are confirmed:

Citizens for Environmental Justice  
 American Nuclear Society  
 Physicians for Social Responsibility-Atlanta  
 Sierra Club-CSRA  
 Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness  
 Health Physics Society  
 League of Women Voters-Augusta and State Office

A potential date and location for the forum is Thursday, June 12 at the Augusta Technical College, she said. The proposed agenda for the forum includes an introduction to spent nuclear fuel, transportation, treatment alternatives and final disposal discussions. A reception in the early evening will be followed by a keynote speaker and panel discussion. Planning committees for the forum include:

Program & Format Tom Costikyan, chair  
Publicity Brendolyn Jenkins, chair  
Internet Bill Lawless, chair  
Education Gwen Ford, GA/SC Technical College Consortium, chair

## **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan stated the Board has been following foreign spent fuel management issues for the past year or more and referred to board recommendations 6 and 26 as an example. He noted that the Record of Decision on the NonProliferation Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Receipt of Foreign Fuel states approximately 20,000 spent fuel rods will be returned to SRS and that DOE would engage in further studies regarding the management of these materials, including reprocessing. He noted that there was one curious variation between that Record of Decision and the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS on Aluminum-clad spent nuclear fuel at SRS, and that chemical processing of this fuel would be considered only if required solely for health and safety reasons. He stated the Subcommittee was very concerned and wanted to ensure that chemical processing receives a full and fair evaluation.

Mr. Costikyan next presented a draft recommendation regarding this issues (see attached). The draft recommendation noted with extreme alarm that the scope of the proposed alternative actions within the Notice of Intent to prepare the SRS spent fuel EIS excludes consideration of conventional chemical reprocessing and recommends that DOE expand the scope to include a full evaluation. The recommendation provides four reasons for expanding the scope. Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the subcommittee`s recommendation and Lane Parker seconded. Karen Patterson moved the Board amend the recommendation to refer to "chemical reprocessing." Bill Lawless seconded. The amendment passed with 19 in favor and one abstention. The recommendation passed with 18 members in favor and two abstentions.

Mr. Costikyan also presented a second motion regarding the scope of the Rocky Flats Plutonium Environmental Impact Statement recommending that the DOE carefully consider the evaluation of employing SRS facilities and personnel to manage plutonium residues and scrub alloy currently stored at Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (see attached). He stressed that any decision to bring the residues to SRS should include a commitment for the necessary funding to support the activity. Bill Lawless moved the Board adopt the recommendation and Ann Loadholt seconded. The recommendation was accepted unanimously.

## **Cancer Registry Presentation**

Dr. John Dunbar of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) introduced Dr. Daniel Lackland to provide a presentation on the Savannah River Region Health Information System (SRRHIS). Dr. Lackland, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, MUSC, stated the cancer incidence registry began in 1991 and is funded by the Department of Energy. SRRHIS is a collaborative effort between MUSC in Charleston, S.C. and Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. that monitors cancer incidence in a 20-county area surrounding SRS to identify unusual changes occurring in population subgroups defined by geographic, demographic and social

characteristics. Sources for the data collected include hospital records, pathology lab records and vital records.

Dr. Lackland presented the data for four race sex groups for invasive stomach cancer, colorectal cancer, melanoma, esophageal cancer, ovarian cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, prostate, in-situ bladder and cervical cancer. (Cancer Incidence reports are on file with the SRS CA B Administrator) When asked the question, "Do you see leukemia rates higher than expected?," the answer is no, he said. Dr. Lackland stated the leukemia data is consistent with metropolitan areas of this size in other regions. He noted that increased rates are, however, found in cervical cancer data. He said there are high rates of incidence in black females and attributed this to lower use of early detection methods such as preventative health examinations.

Mr. Lackland responded to several members' questions, stating that currently AIDs-related incidence is not monitored, however that capability exists and that funding is currently available through April 1997. A application to continue the work is under consideration, he said. One member commented that the data collected should be compared to an area more like the region and not data from Atlanta counties.

### **Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Vernon Zinnerman reviewed the activities of the Risk Management & Future Subcommittee in 1996 and then presented a schedule of proposed meetings for 1997 including topics to be discussed (see attached).

### **Environmental Remediation & Waste Management (ER & WM) Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Co-Chair Kathryn May introduced Kim Sidey of DOE to provide a presentation on the River Water System Shutdown at SRS (see attached). Mr. Sidey briefly described the need for an environmental impact statement to shutdown the riverwater system and addressed the primary issues which include the reduction of L Lake and the potential need for the river water system to conduct future missions. Discussion revolved around the cost implications of shutting down the riverwater system and the ecological effects to L Lake, which would not be able to maintain its levels without the riverwater system. Ms. May read the subcommittee's motion to place the river water system in a minimum cost standby condition following investigation of water rights withdrawal restrictions that might be required prior to reactivating the water system (see full recommendation attached). The subcommittee also requested that National Environmental Policy Act data be considered as sufficient to fulfill the remedial investigation/feasibility study requirements under the Federal Facility Agreement. Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the motion and Lane Parker seconded. One minor change was accepted to distinguish that Cesium-137 fallout referred to in part 5 of the recommendation is from prior atmospheric testing. The motion passed with 19 members in favor and one abstention.

Subcommittee Co-Chair Bill Lawless next explained that there is a two-track approach to disposition of transuranic wastes at SRS. One is to incinerate or vitrify combustible waste matrices that contain Pu238 and Pu239 at SRS, then transport the final waste forms to the Waste

Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which the Board addressed in its Recommendations 4, 11 and 27 and two blue ribbon panels reviewed. The second is to transport all SRS Tru wastes to WIPP without heat treatment, he said. Mr. Lawless then read the subcommittee's motion on the WIPP Disposal Phase Draft SEIS-II (see full recommendation attached). The following amendments were made with 18 members in favor and 1 abstention:

- delete "less than one death per year for all DOE sites; however" from line six of opening paragraph
- delete "a best case" and "a worst case" in the last sentence of part 2 under recommendations to WIPP
- Part 4 was modified to read "In the SEIS-II, document the unique characteristics of Pu-238 relative to Pu-239 (see SRT-MTS-96-3026, or SR1-6-MW-51). This means that Pu-238 is roughly 400 to 500 times more dangerous than Pu-239. Although the chemical and physical properties of the two nuclides are identical, their radioactive properties are significantly different. Our concerns are more related to the possibility of inhalation as a valid pathway and should be considered."

Kamalakar Raut moved the Board accept the subcommittee's motion and Karen Patterson seconded. The motion passed with 18 members in favor and one abstention.

## **Handouts**

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, Jan. 28, 1997
- DOE News Release, dated Jan. 15, 1997, subject: Intent to Prepare EIS on Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel at SRS
- DOE News Release, dated Jan. 14, 1997, subject: Decision on Storage and Disposition of Surplus Nuclear Weapons Materials
- DOE News Release, dated Jan. 9, 1997, subject: SRS Issues Reduction Notice
- Letter to Robert Slay from Lee Poe, dated Jan. 27, 1997, subject: Accommodation for Plutonium Forum
- Implementation of SRS CAB Recommendations, 1996 Tracking Report and slides, Walt Joseph
- Bylaws Amendments Proposal, Administrative Subcommittee, dated Jan. 28, 1997
- SRS CAB Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee CAB Draft Recommendation Rocky Flats Plutonium EIS Scope
- CAB Draft Recommendation for the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS on Aluminum-clad Spent Nuclear Fuel at SRS
- Draft SRS CAB Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee 1996 Activities and 1997 Proposed Meetings
- River Water System Shutdown at the SRS, presentation slides, Kim Sidey, DOE
- Motion for the SRS CAB Shutdown of the River Water System at SRS, Kathryn May
- Motion on the WIPP Disposal Phase Draft SEIS-II, Bill Lawless
- 1997 Issues Under Consideration by the ER&WM Subcommittee of the SRS CAB, May/Lawless
- Letter to Robert Slay, dated Jan. 28, 1997, subject: Recommendation 28
- CAB Recommendation Summary

- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report

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