



May 1997 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

May 12, 1997 8:30 a.m.

Marriott Riverfront Hotel

Savannah, Ga.

Members Present

Members present included William Adams, Arthur Belge, Tom Costikyan, Mary Elfner, Ken Goad, Jon Hollingsworth, Brendolyn Jenkins, Thelonious Jones, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Jimmy Mackey, Suzanne Matthews, Kathryn May, Lane Parker, Karen Patterson, Kamalakar Raut, Deborah Simone, P.K. Smith, Ed Tant, Beaurine Wilkins. Tom Heenan and Lee Watkins of the Department of Energy, Jim Brownlow and Keith Collinsworth of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and Jeff Crane of the Environmental Protection Agency were also present.

Members absent were Bill Donaldson, Kathryn May, JoAnn Nestor, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Currently, there is one Board vacancy. The DOE Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. J. Walter Joseph of Aiken, S.C. served as the CAB Facilitator.

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

Board Chair Ann Loadholt opened the meeting with an introduction of all Board members. She also asked each subcommittee chair to give a brief overview of their subcommittee's activities and requested all Board members to sign a list to participate on at least one issues-based subcommittee and one administrative subcommittee. Board facilitator Walt Joseph discussed minority reports and abstentions. Minority reports will be provided to the agencies when requested by a Board member and individual abstentions with clarification will be recorded in the minutes.

Key Decisions Made by Board

The Board adopted a motion that the remedial alternative for the L Area Oil & Chemical Basin include insitu grout stabilization, backfill and capping, the preferred alternative negotiated by DOE, EPA and SCDHEC. A minority report was submitted regarding this recommendation.

A motion to initiate an early cleanup action at the SRL Seepage Basin and establish a schedule of events, including convening a focus group within 60 days to help develop a path forward, was adopted.

The Board requested an independent scientific peer review (ISPR) of the "Savannah River Integrator Operable Unit Study."

The Board approved funding for an ISPR by Joel Massmann of the A/M Area Groundwater Remediation Program and other projects such as the burial ground and tank closures.

The November Board meeting will be held November 17-18, 1997, in Barnwell, S.C. The 1998 meeting schedule was also established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 25, 1997 meeting were approved with no changes.

Agency Updates

Jeff Crane of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discussed the Savannah River Basin Project which is sponsored by EPA and a number of other agencies. This initiative, started in 1993 by EPA, assesses area-wide environmental impacts. It is intended to integrate the impact to the environment from a number of waste sites or releases. Mr. Crane will provide the initial assessment report to the Board by mail.

Tom Heenan of DOE highlighted several ongoing activities at SRS. Closure began on Tank 20 and will be completed by July; the Consolidated Incineration Facility completed its trial burn and is now actively burning low-level and mixed wastes; The F Area groundwater treatment unit began operating last month and the H Area unit will begin operating in the June; 1000 drums of transuranic waste have been processed in a vent and purge machine and a second machine has been installed which will double operations. Mr. Heenan also addressed the Ten Year Plan. He stated DOE is working to integrate all of the site plans and that it has taken longer than expected. He also stated SRS will redouble its efforts for more effective stakeholder involvement.

Public Comments

Trish McCracken, Augusta, Ga.

Ms. McCracken provided a copy of her public comments to the Inspector General, dated April 20, 1997 (see attached). She also questioned the process for submitting a Freedom of Information Act request.

Lane Parker, Graniteville, S.C.

Mr. Parker expressed concern that since the Three Rivers Landfill at SRS is privatized, then no agency has authority to oversee the work of city employees. He stated this injustice should be corrected to ensure proper protection.

The following comments were provided during the public meeting held May 12, 1997.

Fred Nadelman, Coastal Citizens for Clean Air and Water, Savannah, Ga.

Mr. Nadelman stated that SRS is not safe. He said Nevada does not want the plutonium wastes and for good reason because it is poison. He stated the citizens of Savannah are consumers who are slowly being poisoned by SRS. He stated SRS is directly above an earthquake fault and that plutonium, uranium and tritium are all pose dangerous threats. Mr. Nadelman stated that recycling tritium is a dangerous process and that nuclear materials are no longer needed. He said the public is being sold a false bill of goods restated that individuals living downstream of SRS are being poisoned. He stated the cancer rates in Savannah are higher due to SRS and said the public needed to do something before it is too late. He called for citizens to do all they can to shutdown SRS and cleanup.

Rob Tyson, Savannah, Ga.

Mr. Tyson requested information on the Russian Hybrid Melter project, particularly costs associated with the project and a status of the project.

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

Subcommittee Co-chair Bill Lawless introduced Larry Ling of DOE who gave an update on the High-Level Waste Tank Closure activities (see attached). He provided a history of the planning for closure activities and discussed the closure of Tank 20. Closure of Tank 20 began on April 24, 1997. Waste is currently being removed from Tank 17 and closure planning is beginning for Tank 19. The first four-pak of waste tanks is scheduled for completion by fiscal year 1999. Waste tank closure includes removing 99 percent of the tank's waste, performing modeling on residual wastes, developing an individual tank closure module; gaining regulatory approval, stabilizing residual waste and filling the tank with controlled-low-strength-material and then capping with a strong grout.

Bill Lawless next introduced Les Germany of DOE who gave a presentation of the L-Area Oil and Chemical Basin and the L-Area Acid/Caustic Basin (see attached). Mr. Germany showed photos of both units which are unlined seepage basins used from 1961 to 1979. The L Area Acid/Caustic Basin (LAACB) is very small (.06 acres) and DOE is recommending backfilling the basin with clean soil and no remedial activities at this unit. The L Area Oil & Chemical Basin (LAOCB) is a much larger unit (.45 acres) and is ranked as the second highest risk site listed on Appendix C of the Federal Facility Agreement. Mr. Germany discussed characterization of the unit, the radiological contamination in the basin, the risk assessment performed and the remedial alternatives for the basin. He concluded that the LAOCB soil poses a significant risk to human health and the environment and that in-situ stabilization with a soil cover is recommended.

Bill Lawless next read the subcommittee's draft motion for the LAOCB and LAACB (see attached). The motion supported no remedial action at the LAACB and provided two alternatives for the LAOCB since the subcommittee could not reach agreement regarding a preferred alternative. Thelonious Jones moved the board accept the subcommittee's motion and Lane Parker seconded. Discussion revolved around the risks associated with the LAOCB, the risk of migration of contaminants and costs associated with remedial alternatives (see attachment).

Several board members stated that although the LAOCB is the second highest ranked risk in the Federal Facility Agreement within the Environmental Restoration Program, it is not one of the highest risks at the Savannah River Site.

Alternative A within the draft motion recommended that the LAOCB only be backfilled with clean dirt at this time due to no significant risk to workers and the fact that the basin is in a designated industrial area. **Alternative B of the draft motion recommended that the preferred alternative negotiated by DOE, EPA and SCDHEC insitu grout stabilization, backfill and capping be implemented.** The Board first voted on a decision to recommend Alternative A. Three members were in favor of this alternative, 14 opposed and Lane Parker abstained due to labor union representation of site workers. P. K. Smith moved the Board strike Alternative A and Mary Elfner seconded the motion. **The Board adopted the motion as amended with 17 members in favor, none opposed and one abstention from Lane Parker as stated above. Suzanne Matthews requested that Alternative A be submitted to the agencies as a minority report.**

Following a brief refresher on the SRL Seepage Basins, **Bill Lawless read a draft subcommittee motion to initiate an early cleanup action at the basins and establish a schedule of events including convening a focus group within 60 days to help develop a path forward (see attached).** Lane Parker moved the Board accept the motion and Karen Patterson seconded. Discussion revolved around the location of the basins and characterization needs for the waste unit. **The Board adopted the subcommittee's recommendation with 17 members in favor.** Jon Hollingsworth abstained due to lack of knowledge regarding the unit.

Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's next draft motion (see attached) requesting an independent scientific peer review of the "Savannah River Integrator Operable Unit Study." This report summarizes the risks to human health and to ecosystems from SRS operable units, which are grouped by watershed/streams into which any effluent from the operable unit will discharge via surface or groundwater. There are seven integrator operable units for SRS and this is the first report to be completed. Karen Patterson moved the Board accept the motion and Lane Parker seconded. **The motion was accepted unanimously.**

Bill Lawless next read a draft motion for Watershed Remediation and Integrator Operable Units (see attached). This motion was tabled until after the July meeting.

Bill Lawless next introduced Will LaVielle who provided an update on the Technology Deployment Initiative (see attached). Following a briefing and recommendation in support of this initiative in March, the Board's Technical Advisor Todd Crawford participated in a red team review of SRS proposals to be submitted. SRS is the lead site on 11 proposals and is teaming with other sites on five additional proposals. Twenty-six million dollars has been requested for fiscal year 1998. Executive summaries of each of the proposals were provided (see attached) as well as letters of support from EPA, SCDHEC and the CAB.

Bill Lawless also requested funding approval for Joel Massmann of the University of Washington to conduct an ISPR of the A/M Area Groundwater Remediation Program this summer. The ISPR may also include the Burial Ground, the Tank 20 four pak, and the

Management Action Plan. The review is not to exceed \$50,000. Sixteen Board members were in favor. P.K. Smith and Mary Elfner abstained due to lack of knowledge base.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan introduced John Dickenson of Westinghouse Savannah River Company who provided a presentation on Canyon Utilization (see attached). Mr. Dickenson is the 94-1 Program Manager in the Nuclear Materials Stabilization Division and his presentation addressed the following: what the canyons are and what they are designed to do; what materials are being stabilized in the canyons; what part of the program is complete, what remains and what decisions need to be made. Mr. Dickenson provided a list of materials and stated the entire list had been categorized as either stable, unstable or potentially unstable by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) in Recommendation 94-1. He discussed the purpose of the DNFSB, an agency of the executive branch of the government set up by Congress to oversee activities. The DNFSB surveyed DOE sites for all legacy materials and provided a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy for managing these nuclear materials (94-1). Mr. Dickenson then discussed the SRS materials and how these materials are being addressed.

Efforts are focused on restarting the H Canyon in July and 9000 gallons of Plutonium 239 are scheduled to be stabilized within this canyon, he said. The H Canyon creates an oxide plutonium which will remain stable for 50 years, an adequate amount of time to complete and implement all decisions on ultimate disposition of these materials. Various other nuclear materials are also scheduled for stabilization in H Canyon and the HB-Line. Mr. Dickenson stated that 23 of the 43 SRS milestones in the 94-1 Implementation Plan are complete and provided a forecast for completion of the remaining milestones, which should take place by 2003. He also presented the canyon utilization strategy with established missions including handling all SRS 94-1 materials and Taiwan Research Reactor Fuel and potential missions including "Table 5.2.1" Spent Nuclear Fuel and Rocky Flats existing scrub alloy and residues, all of which are dependent on National Environmental Policy Act decisions. A Record of Decision on the SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel Environmental Impact Statement is expected in late 1997 or early 1998.

Solid Waste Program Overview

Sam Kelly, president of BNFL-SRC, a subsidiary of British Nuclear Fuel Limited, Inc. gave an overview of BNFL and the SRS solid waste program. British Nuclear Fuel, Inc. is owned by British Nuclear Fuel plc (BNFL), a private company whose stock is solely owned by the United Kingdom Government. BNFL has over 30 customers in nine countries including Europe and the Far East. Mr. Kelly stated the company has a worldwide reputation in managing radioactive waste and other nuclear programs, with nearly 50 years of experience in nuclear-related technology, facility operations and waste handling. Mr. Kelly discussed operations at Sellafield, a commercial nuclear facility in England and described the regulatory oversight processes in place in the United Kingdom, many of which are very similar to the U.S.

Mr. Kelly discussed the Solid Waste Program and gave an update of the transuranic waste retrieval schedule, Container Examination and Evaluation Program processing and progress at

the Consolidated Incineration Facility which has burned approximately 20,000 pounds of low-level wastes. Mr. Kelly explained that over 200 employees are assigned to the Solid Waste Division which are managed by BNFL. BNFL has nine employees on its payroll, six of whom came from the U.K. and three U.S. citizens. The Solid Waste Division budget is \$40-50 million.

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report<P> Subcommittee Chair Suzanne Matthews described the past activities of the subcommittees including future use planning and the future use study provided with the subcommittee's recommendation. She stated the subcommittee was going to begin deliberations on the budget process and concentrate on extended planning tools, such as the DOE Ten Year Plan. The Ten Year Plan is a DOE initiative to clean up most DOE sites within the DOE complex in a decade, she said. She explained how funding is tied to the plan and the subcommittee's primary role will be to help ensure dwindling funds are spent on highest priority items at SRS. Prioritization will be a major focus of the subcommittee. The subcommittee will also look at privatization and the Annual Environmental Report as well. Clay Jones gave a status of the Ten Year Plan. DOE sites submitted a draft of their individual plans to DOE-HQ on February 28 and HQ is now evaluating all site submittals and trying to integrate them into a cohesive plan from a national perspective, a daunting task due to the number of issues involved. The national plan should be completed by the end of May and a kickoff meeting will be held including a complex-wide videoconference. This will begin the public involvement process. A longer public comment period is planned through September and Mr. Jones encouraged Board input in the public involvement process.

Administrative Subcommittee Report

In the absence of Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins, Dawn Haygood explained the motion being renewed by the Administrative Subcommittee to look at one portion of the bylaws amendments proposal made in January that received enough votes to pass but was inadvertently dropped from discussion in January. The amendment suggested was that Board members may serve no more than two consecutive terms, but may be re-elected after a lapse of two years. Lane Parker moved the Board accept the proposed bylaws amendment and Bill Adams seconded the motion. Karen Patterson reminded the Board that Bill Lawless had suggested Board members may be re-elected after a lapse of only one year. Becky Witter moved the Board accept this amendment and Karen Patterson seconded. The amendment passed with 17 members in favor and one abstention by Jon Hollingsworth. The proposed bylaws amendment failed with a vote of 16 in favor and two opposed. A bylaws amendments requires approval of three-fourths of the entire Board.

Spent Fuel Forum Update

Karen Patterson gave an update on the Spent Fuel Forum scheduled for June 12 at the Augusta Technical Institute in Augusta, Ga. She stated the Forum Home Page was almost complete and would be available shortly. Four satellite locations are planned for the forum including Midlands College in Columbia, S.C., Chattahoochee Tech in Atlanta, Ga., Armstrong State College in Savannah, Ga. and Trident Technical College in Charleston, S.C. Thirteen forum sponsors have been confirmed, she said. She provided an update regarding speakers and moderators for the forum and an essay contest with several middle schools in Aiken, S.C. She asked Board

members to please help distribute flyers about the forum and requested volunteers for logistical support during the meetings.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Lane Parker highlighted CAB outreach activities in April and May (see attached). P.K. Smith presented to the Cancer Registry Board on April 17 in Sylvania, Ga. Board members staffed displays at two business expos in Aiken and Augusta and the Board's display was provided at meetings hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina in Barnwell, Jackson, New Ellenton and Waynesboro.

National Dialogue Discussion

Board Chair Ann Loadholt discussed the National Dialogue, a DOE initiative to provide a comprehensive overview of DOE's nuclear waste and materials decisions. This initiative would provide an opportunity for intersite stakeholder discussions and will focus on inter-site transfers of nuclear materials and waste to accommodate treatment, storage, disposal or disposition. A cooperative agreement with the League of Women Voters was established in May 1996 to design, implement and evaluate a series of workshops on nuclear waste and material decisions. Ms. Loadholt asked if the Board was interested in hosting one of these workshops as well as a meeting of the site specific advisory board chairs. No members were opposed.

Meeting Schedule

The November Board meeting date was changed from November 24-25 to November 17-18 for 1997. The following schedule was established for 1998:

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- January 26-27 Hilton Head, S.C.
- March 23-24 Charleston, S.C.
- May 18-19 Savannah, Ga.
- July 27-28 Aiken, S.C.
- September 28-29 Beaufort, S.C.
- November 16-17 Waynesboro, Ga.

Handouts

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, May 13, 1997
- Savannah River Site High-Level Waste Tank Closure slides, Larry Ling, DOE
- L Area Oil and Chemical Basin and L Area Acid/Caustic Basin slides, L. G. Germany, DOE
- Evaluated Alternatives and Estimated Costs for L Area Oil & Chemical Basin, L. G. Germany
- Draft Motion for the SRS CAB, L Area Oil & Chemical Basin and L Area Acid/Caustic Basin, Bill Lawless
- Draft Motion for the SRS CAB, SRL Seepage Basins, Bill Lawless

- Technology Deployment Initiative Update slides, Will LaVeille, DOE
- Technology Deployment Initiative Proposal Summaries, Will LaVeille, DOE
- Letters from EPA, SCDHEC, CAB to DOE supporting Technology Initiative
- Draft Motion for the SRS CAB, Watershed Remediation and Integrator Operable Units
- Draft Motion for the SRS CAB, Savannah River Integrator Operable Unit Study
- Savannah River Site Canyon Utilization Strategy, John E. Dickenson, WSRC
- Solid Waste Program brochure
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Fiscal Year 1997 Budget Summary
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board April/May Highlights
- Letter to Ann Loadholt from Mario Fiori, dated May 7, 1997
- CAB Recommendations Summary
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report
- SRS Public Involvement Calendar

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.