



July 1997 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

July 22, 1997 8:30 a.m.

University of South Carolina-Aiken

Aiken, S.C.

Members Present

Members present included William Adams, Mary Elfner, Ken Goad, Brendolyn Jenkins, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Jimmy Mackey, Suzanne Matthews, Kathryn May, Lane Parker, Karen Patterson, Deborah Simone, P.K. Smith, Ed Tant, Beaurine Wilkins, and Becky Witter. Tom Heenan of the Department of Energy and Ann Ragan and Myra Reece of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control were also present.

Members absent were Arthur Belge, Tom Costikyan, Bill Donaldson, Thelonious Jones and JoAnn Nestor. Currently, there are four Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. J. Walter Joseph of Aiken, S.C. served as the CAB Facilitator.

The 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 announced that the CAB had recently lost a very valuable and devoted member, Dr. Kamalakar Raut, who passed away in June. A very devoted gentleman, Dr. Raut will be sorely missed by the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. She also noted that Jon Hollingsworth and Vernon Zinnerman both recently resigned as well.

Ms. Loadholt thanked Karen Patterson and all members and staff involved in the success of the recent Spent Fuel Forum. She also noted the CAB had been requested to provide a speaker to the upcoming meeting of the Health Effects Subcommittee of the Center for Disease Control Advisory Board in Charleston, S.C. Ed Tant will represent the CAB. Ms. Loadholt also asked Mary Elfner to give a brief recap of the July 17 meeting of the Savannah River Watershed Basin Project Policy Committee.

Key Decisions Made by the Board

- The Board passed a recommendation on the SRS Fiscal Year 1999 Budget.
- A 13-part recommendation on the National and SRS Accelerating Cleanup: Focus 2006 Discussion Draft plans were unanimously adopted by the Board.
- The Board unanimously adopted a recommendation regarding the Study on Nonproliferation Implications of Treatments of Aluminum-based Research Reactor Fuel.

- The Board adopted a recommendation to accelerate two high level waste tank closures and include the closure of the 1F Evaporator along with these closures.
- A recommendation not to postpone decommissioning activities at the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor was adopted by the Board and slightly favored an entombment alternative above a dismantlement alternative.
- A recommendation regarding review of environmental management integration was also approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 13, 1997 meeting were approved with no changes.

Agency Updates

Ann Ragan of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) commended the CAB for the Spent Fuel Forum. She also referred to the dialogue regarding privatization of the Consolidated Incinerator Facility, which was discussed during a joint subcommittee meeting on the previous evening, stating that SCDHEC is very much against privatization of CIF since it would lead to offsite commercial waste coming to SRS. Ms. Ragan also announced that SCDHEC is strengthening emergency response at SRS. She stated she recently attended the Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) annual meeting and was impressed by the number of people involved in CRESP. She was also impressed by the range of projects and resources and stated CRESP could serve as a real resource to the SRS CAB.

Tom Heenan referred to a brochure (see attached) on ISO 14001 International Standards for Environmental Management, a key step the site is taking to reinforce the quality of its programs. Meeting international standards is one more step toward excellence, being the site of choice and good environmental stewardship. This should also lead to a more efficient relationship with regulators, he said.

Mr. Heenan also referred to a press release (see attached) on the restart of H Canyon, to implement decisions made in one of last year's environmental impact statements. He also announced that the Defense Waste Processing Facility has completed 109 canisters to date with a goal of 150 this fiscal year.

Public Comments

The following public comments were made during the July 21 public meeting:

Charles Posey

Mr. Posey stated that everything is being brought to SRS for the love of money. Some states won't allow burial grounds, he said. Mr. Posey stated that SRS is not considering the cost of pain and death and that time is running out. He stated SRS is a terrible place and that his brother-in-

law had worked there and was now gone. He mentioned tritium in wells in Burke County and the potential for earthquakes and stated that SRS representatives should not be trusted.

Lee Poe, Aiken, S.C.

Mr. Poe stated he has followed the CAB since it was established and has seen significant improvements in the number of CAB members attending subcommittee meetings. He encouraged more CAB members to attend during public comment meetings, but commended the Board on its improvements.

Trish McCracken, Augusta, Ga.

Ms. McCracken stated she backed up Mr. Poe's comments and stated she appreciated coming to the meeting and receiving materials from SRS. She suggested that more materials, such as documents out for public comment, are available at CAB meetings. She also invited Mr. Posey to join her when she tours SRS, stating she has her own monitoring equipment.

Pete Gray, Aiken, S.C.

Mr. Gray commended the CAB and urged them to continue the good work.

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Suzanne Matthews stated that subcommittee members had met on June 17, and by consensus provided guidelines for budget priorities to DOE. She stated these comments were well received by DOE and had been incorporated. The guidelines were forwarded to DOE-Headquarters and shared with the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Al Alm, during his July 15 visit. She then read the subcommittee's draft recommendation on the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget (see attached).

Much discussion revolved around the first section of the recommendation and the fact that when the CAB discusses concerns with higher risk items, they are not referring to those items within the Federal Facility Agreement. Ms. Matthews suggested the Federal Facility Agreement may need to be renegotiated. Ann Ragan stated SCDHEC would not be in favor of this. The State has had to fight very hard for environmental restoration dollars and in ten years there would be even less money, she said. Bill Lawless clarified that the CAB did not want the (ER) budget reduced, however they wanted high risk items addressed first, both within and outside the framework of the Federal Facility Agreement.

Mr. Heenan stated renegotiation of the Federal Facility Agreement would not be required since higher risk items are currently being addressed. The Board amended the first recommendation to read "DOE should re-evaluate resources being allocated to low risk items and allocate dollars to higher risk items." The Board also removed the sixth recommendation. Karen Patterson moved the Board accept the motion as amended. Bill Lawless seconded. **The motion passed with 15 members in favor and one opposed.**

Suzanne Matthews next gave a brief overview of the Accelerating Cleanup: Focus 2006 plans, stating that DOE is trying to cleanup the majority of the complex in ten years. She asked Walt Joseph to present the subcommittee's motion on both the National and SRS plans. Mr. Joseph stated the recommendation reflects the input of many people, both subcommittee members and the public and that it contains 13 subsets (see attached). Mr. Joseph made the following observations in presenting the draft recommendation.

1. Both plans are based on optimistic assumptions and to improve the plans' credibility, DOE should develop contingency plans should funds not be available or productivity enhancements not attainable as assumed.
2. The documents should be written as sales and marketing documents.
3. The executive summaries are wordy and cumbersome and filled with apple pie and motherhood and should be more simply written.
4. The plans clearly address end states, however end state descriptions are not readily accessible in the text or executive summary and should be included.
5. Examples in the plans do not describe how DOE intends to resolve issues and clarify decisions to be made, who the decision-maker is or what public involvement opportunities are available.
6. The CAB is apprehensive about privatization. The financial incentive is understood but the Board is concerned about risks that may arise.
7. The Board suggests five strategic approaches, noting that risk reduction should be the primary consideration when DOE plans its activities. The last four are a means to an end, not individual strategies.
8. The plans should evaluate the effect of Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversight which will begin prior to 2006.
9. The Board recommends opportunities for national review and consensus on complex-wide issues.
10. SRS CAB members and other stakeholders should be able to provide input to DOE on operations and funding at other sites that impact SRS.
11. The CAB should participate in the SRS regulatory "workouts."
12. The documents should be more "reader-friendly."
13. The present schedule is an unacceptably short time frame to produce reasonable documents.

The Board discussed a few very minor modifications and Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the motion as amended. Ken Goad seconded. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Ken Goad presented the subcommittee's draft motion (see attached) on a Study on Nonproliferation Implications of Treatments of Aluminum-based Research Reactor Fuel. This study was commissioned by DOE-HQ following a Record of Decision on the Foreign Research Reactor Fuel Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Originally, this study was to focus on the chemical processing spent fuel management alternative. The scope of this study has increased to now address all management alternatives. The Secretary of Energy will use this study, cost and

technical studies and the SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel EIS to make the final decision of how to treat aluminum-based spent fuel.

Mr. Goad read the subcommittee's motion which recommends the study begin with a clear statement of the current U.S. nonproliferation policy; endorses the DOE decision to broaden the scope of the study; recommends the study explore alternative concepts that would reduce the risk of compromising classified information; and requests that an explanation of the uncertainty of costs and scheduling and affects on nonproliferation advantages and disadvantages be provided for each management alternative. Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the recommendation and Lane Parker seconded. Discussion revolved around the need for oversight by the International Atomic Energy Agency to assure that material is not diverted. **Following discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the recommendation as presented.**

Administrative Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins read a proposed bylaws amendment (see attached) which would allow each subcommittee chairperson to name a vice chair or co-chair to have full authority to act in the chair's absence or incapacity. Ken Goad moved the Board accept the proposed amendment and Suzanne Matthews seconded. The amendment was approved by a unanimous vote. The following Vice Chairpersons were named:

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee	Ken Goad
Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee	P.K. Smith
Administrative Subcommittee	Lane Parker
Outreach Subcommittee	Beaurine Wilkins

Note: The Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee currently has co-chairpersons.

Brendolyn Jenkins commented that being a new member does not relegate a waiting period before serving and any place at the table should not be delegated by a member's time on the Board.

Members also discussed the four current vacancies on the Board. It was determined that an Administrative Subcommittee meeting would be held to review the need for a bylaws amendment to allow for special elections in unusual circumstances.

National Dialogue Discussion

Ann Loadholt announced the pilot workshop for the SR region would be held on Sept. 7-8 (see attached agenda) in Oak Ridge, TN. Board members participating will include P.K. Smith, Bill Lawless, Brendolyn Jenkins, Suzanne Matthews and Tom Costikyan. Dawn Haygood was asked to attend as well.

Facilitator Update Board Facilitator Walt Joseph provided surveys to all Board members. The data collected from the surveys will be used to develop the Board's 1997-98 workplan and annual report.

Outreach Subcommittee Report Subcommittee Chair Lane Parker provided a form for Board members to list several organizations that they would be willing to give a presentation on CAB activities. Mr. Parker then presented the Board's canned overview. Many suggestions were made by Board members to improve or enhance the presentation. Board member comments will be incorporated and the final presentation will be given by Walt Joseph at the September joint subcommittee meeting.

Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Co-Chair Kathryn May introduced Tim Henderson of DOE who gave a presentation on High Level Waste Tank Closures at SRS (see attached). Closure of Tank 20-F is expected by the end of July and closure of Tank 17-F is expected by the end of September. Tank 19-F is expected to be closed in 1998. These three tanks are part of what is referred to as a four-pack of tanks, he said. In the center of these tanks are an evaporator. Mr. Henderson provided a description of the 1F/1H Evaporator, discussed past use and the basic evaporation principles. The 1H Evaporator was decommissioned in 1995. The 1F Evaporator was shut down in 1986 and then walked away from leaving contamination in the lines and buildings, he said. Characterization of this contamination is to begin this summer.

Kathryn May read the subcommittee's motion on the High Level Waste 1F and 1H Evaporators (see attached), which recommends the closure of Tanks 18 and 19 be accelerated and that the 1F Evaporator, Condensate Transfer System and Control Room building be closed along with the tank closures. Becky Witter moved the Board accept the motion and Karen Patterson seconded. Discussion revolved around the transfer of the tanks to the ER program and funding for the tank closures. **The motion passed with all members in favor and one abstention from Lane Parker, who refrained from voting due to his affiliation with the labor union.**

Subcommittee Chair Bill Lawless gave an update on the SRL Seepage Basin Focus Group meeting held July 21. Around September 1, an ER&WM Subcommittee meeting will be held to review commitments. Draft conclusions will be reviewed by October 1, and documents on remedial activities at the SRL Basins will be submitted to regulators by December 2, 1997. EPA and SCDHEC review is expected to be concluded by early March 1998.

Rod Rimando of DOE next provided a presentation on the decommissioning of the Heavy Water Components Research Reactor (HWCTR). HWCTR was a 60-megawatt heavy water moderated reactor that was operated to test fuel assemblies between 1961 and 1964. It was shutdown and abandoned in 1965. Decommissioning activities began in early FY 1995 and is expected to be completed in five phases by FY 2000. Funding of decommissioning of HWCTR is provided from a special account, called the EX20, non-defense funding which is approved through 2002, he said. This funding is not interchangeable and does not compete with other defense-related projects or priorities.

Several alternatives were considered and included a public involvement opportunity. Dismantlement was DOE's preferred alternative and bids were solicited to conduct the work. Proposals were received by July 11, and are currently being reviewed by WSRC. Mr. Rimando discussed why DOE preferred dismantlement of HWCTR stating that funding is available and will cost less to do now as opposed to later and will also lessen the cleanup burden for future generations.

Pete Gray, a private citizen and former SRS employee who worked at HWCTR provided a presentation favoring entombment of HWCTR (See attached). Mr. Gray stated he believed the radioactivity is better contained in HWCTR. ALARA (As low as reasonably achievable) is enhanced by leaving HWCTR behind in entombment and it wouldn't have to be broken down into small packages and moved to E Area, he said. Mr. Gray also stated the costs would be approximately half to entomb HWCTR as opposed to dismantling.

Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's motion regarding the decommissioning of HWCTR, which stated the Board prefers DOE take action and not postpone decommissioning. It also concludes that entombment is a slightly better alternative, however the Board will support the dismantlement option only if DOE assures the Board that this option will be completed once undertaken. Ken Goad move the Board accept the recommendation and Jimmy Mackey seconded. **The motion passed with fourteen members in favor and one abstention.**

Karen Patterson presented the next motion regarding Environmental Management Integration, stating the subcommittee had reviewed A Contractor Report to the DOE on Environmental Management Baseline Programs and Integration Opportunities, a companion document to the Focus 2006 documents. She stated this document focuses on ways to accelerate cleanup from a complex-wide perspective. Also, it was written from a purely technical perspective and does not consider political and funding impacts. **Ms. Patterson read the draft motion recommending a national review of the feasibility of the EM Integration Plan as a whole and a review of the impacts to SRS of each of the elements in the plan which would effect SRS.** Bill Lawless moved the Board adopt the motion and Lane Parker seconded. **The recommendation was unanimously adopted by the Board.**

Afternoon Public Comment Session

Trish McCracken, Augusta, Ga.

Ms. McCracken stated she appreciated Mr. Gray's and Mr. Lawless attempt to save money however she was frustrated with the late input (on HWCTR) as was the DOE staff. Ms. McCracken also asked for an explanation of why her questions, which were faxed from a satellite location during the Spent Fuel Forum, were not addressed. (Technical questions were addressed and others will be addressed within the forum proceedings.)

Pete Gray, Aiken, S.C.

Mr. Gray gave his plea for thoughtful and full answers to comments given by citizens on documents. He stated many of the responses he received to his 31 comments on the

decommissioning of HWCTR were "Your comment is acknowledged. However,..." He also asked that DOE invite retired employees from other facilities slated for decommissioning to return and provide valuable knowledge of the facility,, now,, before they disappear.

Handouts

- ISO 14001 at SRS, Environmental Management Principles for the 21st Century
- DOE News, release dated July 17, 1997
- Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Draft Recommendation
- FY 1999 Budget
- Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Draft Recommendation on the National and SRS Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006 Discussion Drafts
- Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Draft Recommendation on the Study on Nonproliferation Implications of Treatments of Aluminum-based Research Reactor Fuel
- Memo from Beaurine Wilkins to SRS CAB, dated June 18, 1997
- Draft National Dialogue Pilot Field Workshop Agenda, dated July 3, 1997
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board June/July Highlights
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Overview
- U.S. DOE SRS High Level Waste Tank Closure slides, Tim Henderson, DOE
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Motion on the: High Level Waste 1F and 1H Evaporators
- The Heavy Water Components Test Reactor Decommissioning Project, Supplemental Information, Rod Rimando, Jr., DOE
- The Heavy Water Components Test Reactor Decommissioning Project, The Dismantlement Alternative, Rod Rimando, Jr., DOE
- The Entombment Alternative for Decommissioning HWCTR, Pete Gray, retired
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Motion on the: Decommissioning of the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Motion on the: EM Integration Plan
- NEPA Monthly Operating Report, June 1997
- SRS Public Involvement Calendar, August/September
- SRS CAB Recommendations Summary
- CFEJ/Xavier Environmental Health Education Workshop Series, flyer
- The National Environmental Research Park at Savannah River Site

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