The CAB ER&WM subcommittee met on February 12, 1998 at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC. Bill Lawless opened with introductions of the WSRC Public Involvement Team for the ER&WM Subcommittee. CAB members present included, ER&WM subcommittee Co-Chairs Bill Lawless and Kathryn May and CAB member Karen Patterson. Attending from DOE-SR were James O’Connor, William Noll, Larry Ling and Ray Hannah. Attending from WSRC/BSRI/BNFL were Greg Peterson, Edward Stevens, Welford T. (Sonny) Goldston, Gerry Stejskal, Jim Cook, Gary Cannell, Sandra Carroll, Robert Hinds, Bruce Hewitt, Jeff Newman, William Boettinger, Paul Sauerborn, and Helen Villasor. Dr. J. W. Joseph and Mary Beth Reed of New South Associates also attended. Public attendees included Ethan Brown, Jim Pope, William Watt, Natalie Caesar, Walt Joseph, William Pitka, Mike French, Gerald DeVitt, Dale V. Kemp, Patricia McCracken, Ron Campbell and Charles Irvine. Gerri Flemming attended as the Associate Designated Deputy Federal Official (ADDFO).

During the public comment period Mike French explained that the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee had previously provided the public with a discussion on High Level Waste (HLW) In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) and suggested a matrix be used to prevent duplication of topics at CAB subcommittee meetings. Bill Lawless explained that this presentation was requested by the ER&WM Subcommittee so that people who were unable to travel to the full CAB meeting in Hilton Head, SC in January could be provided with the same information.

Larry Ling provided a brief overview of the budget impacts on ITP and explained that the money that would have been used to operate ITP mostly likely could be applied to other HLW activities. He also stated that SRS has committed to close the first 4-pack with the money not used by ITP. Mr. Ling added that out of 51 tanks, four were being used as processing tanks. Mr. Ling added that a new plan had been submitted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), and that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been asked to review the tank closure process. James O’Connor concluded the ITP presentation by providing a current ITP status report. Mr. Lawless requested that a status update on ITP be provided at the April 6, 1998 ER&WM Subcommittee meeting.
Sonny Goldston and Jim Cook gave an overview of the Composite Analysis for low-level radioactive waste (LLW). Since 1988, DOE has required a radiological performance assessment for each LLW disposal facility to provide an assessment showing that future needs for disposal can be satisfied. Recently, DOE instituted a requirement for a "Composite Analysis" to account for all sources of radioactive material expected to be left at a DOE site and to evaluate the impact to a hypothetical future member of the public. Within the concept of Composite Analysis and Performance Assessments, Mr. Lawless asked if SCDHEC has had an opportunity to review the process. Mr. Goldston responded that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and SCDHEC have copies of the documents but a review by the regulators has not yet been provided. Mr. Lawless asked that EPA and SCDHEC be invited to attend an ER&WM Subcommittee meeting on March 17 so that there will be an opportunity for the regulators to participate in future discussions on this topic.

In response to a previous request from private citizen Patricia McCracken, Bill Boettinger provided a presentation on the Beneficial Reuse Program, which has fabricated products such as 100 cubic feet boxes, 55- and 85-gallon open lid drums, vitrification system containers, shielding bricks and heavy water (D2O) storage drums from excessed radioactive scrap metal (RSM) stored at SRS. Mr. Boettinger also discussed the demonstrated technical feasibility and the avoided disposal costs of the program to date. Mr. Boettinger provided an example cost comparison between using RSM products versus standard metal drums and reviewed the future activities of the program. Mr. Boettinger also noted that for the program's future success, there is a need to consider avoided disposal costs in making recycle decisions, a need to develop a market for beneficial reuse products within the DOE complex, and the need to process one of the existing heat exchangers (out of an inventory of 93) to obtain real cost data.

Dr. J. W. Joseph of New South Associates of Stone Mountain, GA presented the SRS History Project to the group. Dr. Joseph discussed the need for SRS to document its built legacy since it is approaching its 50th birthday. Bill Lawless said the subcommittee was appreciative of being kept apprised of the project. Bill Lawless suggested to make the site's history more accessible to the widest possible audience, as well as to historians and future environmental engineers, by assembling the history on a home page on the world wide web at a site linked with the SRS home page and the SRS CAB. Bill Lawless also suggested that this home page would be accessible by one of two means; a larger area viewable to the public but managed by SRS and the History Project team; and a smaller area viewable by the public but set aside specifically for public input. The area for public input would provide an opportunity for former and present employees or interested members of the public to contribute SRS histories by inserting oral comments in a written form. The resulting database should include multimedia presentations and be accessible to electronic searches.

No final public comments were made and Bill Lawless closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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