



# May 1998 Meeting Minutes

**SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

**May 19, 1998 8:30 a.m.**

**DeSoto Hilton**

**Savannah, GA.**

## **Members Present**

Bill Adams	Barbara Murphy	<i>Ex-Officio Representatives</i>
Arthur Belge	Lane Parker	Tom Heenan
Tom Costikyan	Karen Patterson	Ann Clark
Bill Donaldson	Maria Reichmanis	
Mary Elfner	Lola Richardson	
Ken Goad	P.K. Smith	
Barbara Gordon	Ed Tant	
Debra Hasan	Wade Waters	
Brendolyn Jenkins	Beaurine Wilkins	
Ann Loadholt	Becky Witter	
Jimmy Mackey		

Members absent were Thelonious Jones, Bill Lawless and Kathryn May. Currently, there are two Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. Mike Schoener of Aiken, S.C. served as the Facilitator. Environmental Protection Agency ex-officio members were not in attendance.

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

## **Key Decisions Made by the Board**

The Board approved a Proposal to Amend the Bylaws.

The Board adopted a recommendation regarding the National and SRS Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure documents.

The Board adopted a recommendation in support of utilizing an Integrator Operable Units approach to remediation if it is used to ensure protection of human and environmental health; reduce the time to initiate remedial actions in the field; and reduce the costs of remedial actions.

The Board endorsed a proposed preferred remedial alternative of natural attenuation and groundwater mixing zone with institutional controls at the D Area Oil Seepage Basin at SRS.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The March 1998 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Agency Update**

Tom Heenan of DOE presented an Operations Update (see attached). He also noted that an issues matrix (see attached) was provided to the Executive Committee. This matrix identifies where DOE believes CAB input would be most beneficial. Mr. Heenan also gave a brief update on progress with the SRL Seepage Basin waste unit. He commented that the CAB has been provided status reports and that due to the many significant implications, the three agencies did not want to make decisions in haste.

Ann Clark of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provided responses to thirteen past CAB Recommendations.

### **Public Comments**

During the public comment session, the Board awarded a plaque and savings bond to Heather Clark of Meyers Middle School in Savannah. She won an essay contest piloted by the CAB Outreach Subcommittee. Her essay, which was focused on environmental stewardship, was selected from 35 entries. The savings bond was provided by Citizens for Environmental Justice.

CAB Member Arthur Belge submitted a letter regarding CAB participation (see attached).

### **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan provided an update on the Surplus Plutonium Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which is expected in June or July. Subcommittee Vice Chair Ken Goad then provided an update on the canyon needs assessment, an effort to define all the materials requiring canyon utilization. He discussed the purpose of the study, which is to identify any additional nuclear materials that may require canyon facilities for stabilization or disposition prior to canyon decommissioning. He also provided background information regarding the needs assessment (see attached) and discussed the conclusions and path forward. Mr. Goad noted that issues have been identified with current plans that may require a processing capability (not necessarily a canyon) for several years past 2004. An integrated DOE disposition strategy is necessary to assure current, projected and future processing needs are met in a cost effective, low risk manner. A final report is expected to be issued by the end of May 1998, he said.

Tom Costikyan discussed the Nuclear Materials Integration Plan, the nuclear materials piece of the Environmental Management Integration effort. The subcommittee received a briefing on the plan and recommended resolutions to various issues, he said. He noted that the Rocky Flats EIS

which would bring residues and alloys to SRS is an excellent example of integration. The receipt of this material is dictated by the completion of an actinide/finishing plant at SRS (not yet built), however the K Reactor is being proposed for interim storage of the Rocky Flats materials at a cost of about \$50 million. This could accelerate the shutdown of Rocky Flats and thus save many more millions, he said. This action will require a NEPA Supplemental Analysis.

Charlie Anderson of DOE provided a briefing on the findings of a recent National Academy of Sciences report on research reactor spent nuclear fuel (see attached slides). DOE requested the Academy examine the set of technologies chosen by DOE; examine the waste package performance criteria developed by DOE; and evaluate cost and schedule estimates. Regarding technologies the Academy scientists provided a "qualified yes" that all appropriate technologies had been considered, however questioned the back-up technology choice. They also suggested that reprocessing be considered as a viable alternative. The NAS team also found the waste form and package program acceptable however there is uncertainty regarding final waste acceptance criteria. No major problems are expected however. Mr. Anderson stated the NAS team found the cost estimates complete and suitable for comparison, however they were not suitable for budget purposes. Unrealistic schedules based on preconceptual design and normal delays are not recognized. Mr. Anderson explained that the NAS review was based on privatization, an avenue DOE would not be pursuing. Mr. Anderson reviewed a few observations of the team as well.

Discussion revolved around the credibility of the program and its implementation and the need for DOE to reconsider reprocessing. It was noted that the canyons will not be around forever, whether this is due to technology or politics.

### **Proposal to Amend the Bylaws**

Administrative Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins read the proposed amendments to the various sections of the Board Bylaws (see attached). Voting was conducted by Section following discussion. **The Board unanimously approved all proposed amendments to the Bylaws Sections 3.3, 3.5, 9.1 and 9.2.**

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

Subcommittee Chair P.K. Smith presented the Subcommittee's comments on the National and SRS Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure documents. The subcommittee provided these comments on May 1 due to a public period comment deadline and requested full board endorsement. Ms. Smith read the Subcommittee motion (see attached). Board members suggested several modifications and the following changes were made:

- 1. Add the following sentences: "In the event additional studies are needed, then written rationale should be provided to stakeholders. Duplication of efforts should also be eliminated."
- 5. Add the sentence "If contingency costs and plans are not provided, provide an explanation why they are not."

- Add the following statement to SRS document comments: "Since extensive work has been done by the agencies on the Federal Facility Agreement, we strongly urge linkage between Federal Facility Agreement and this document."
- The last sentence should be modified to read " Protect the public, protect the worker, protect the offsite environment and cost effectively remediate and protect the onsite environment."

**Karen Patterson moved the Board accept the Subcommittee's comments. Brendolyn Jenkins seconded. The Board adopted the recommendation by a unanimous vote.**

P.K. Smith also briefly discussed the formation of a Risk Working Group, an extension of the Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee that plans to define risk and determine how it is defined and determined per program. The objective of the group is to recommend improvements in risk communication and in the risk management process.

### **DOE National Transportation Program**

Mona Williams of the DOE-Albuquerque Operations Office gave an overview of the DOE National Transportation Program (see attached slides). She discussed the program's mission, which is to provide policy, guidance and a transportation infrastructure to ensure the availability of safe, efficient compliant and timely transportation of material for all Departmental programs, except weapons and weapons components. The goal of management is to improve coordination, communication and integration among DOE programs, with stakeholders and with other federal agencies, she said. Management also wants to improve the level of confidence in transportation safety and significantly reduce future costs.

Ms. Williams discussed the role of transportation in EM integration and program integration. DOE is currently transporting radioactive materials, other hazardous materials, mixed wastes, coal and other fuels, maintenance materials and supplies. She discussed the number of DOE radioactive shipments and the mode of transportation, which may be by barge, train, airplane or truck. Annually, DOE ships about 4,584 shipments of radioactive wastes and 10,280 shipments of non-radioactive hazardous materials. DOE ships less than one percent of all 100 million annual hazardous shipments, she said. Ms. Williams presented the schedule for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant shipments and the 1998 schedule for shipments of spent nuclear fuel. Discussion revolved around emergency preparedness, established routes and modes of transportation.

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

Ron Malanowski of WSRC gave a presentation regarding Integrator Operable Units (see attached slides). An operable unit is an area that encompasses a waste unit and IOUs are defined as site streams, the Savannah River and associated surface water bodies and wetlands that are the integrator of the operable units in a watershed, he said. The IOU strategy is to develop a workplan that presents the current condition of the IOU and continue monitoring and evaluating the condition until all contributing operable units are completed. Then remedial activities may be completed for the IOU. Workplans are being completed for each of the seven IOUs at SRS. This

consists of a historical description of known releases, a preliminary risk assessment, data gaps, a remedial strategy and schedule.

Karen Patterson read the subcommittee's motion on SRS IOUs (see attached) to support the IOUs if they are used to ensure protection of human and environmental health; reduce the time to initiate remedial actions in the field; and reduce the costs of remedial actions. **The motion requests that the three agencies illustrate how the benefits of performing the IOUs justify the costs as compared to other remedial programs. Ken Goad moved the Board accept the recommendation and Mary Elfner seconded. The recommendation was adopted by a unanimous vote.**

Cliff Cole of WSRC gave a presentation regarding the D Area Oil Seepage Basin (see attached). A proposed remedial action plan for this waste unit is currently available for public comment. The basin was operated from 1952 –1973 and received oils, solvents and debris. It was backfilled in 1975 and interim remedial actions were conducted in 1996. Mr. Cole briefly discussed the interim remedial actions, a bio-vent technology utilized at the basin and contaminants of concern. He discussed DOE's proposed preferred remedial alternative of natural attenuation and groundwater mixing zone with institutional controls. Karen Patterson read the subcommittee's motion endorsing the proposed remedial alternative. Ken Goad moved the Board accept the subcommittee's recommendation and Mary Elfner seconded. The recommendation was adopted by a unanimous vote.

### **Intersite Workshop Discussion**

Tom Costikyan was designated to represent the SRS CAB at an upcoming national meeting regarding nearterm DOE decisions on nuclear materials and waste disposition. The Intersite Workshop will be held on June 21-23 in San Diego, Ca. Lane Parker will also attend as a labor representative. Ann Loadholt requested that any other members interested in participating please let her know.

### **Public Comments**

Lynn Waishwill of CRESA announced that teacher training regarding risk is available at Ruth Patrick Science Center and encouraged Board members to request more information.

### **Administrative Items**

Ann Loadholt encouraged Subcommittees to be careful in preparing agendas for subcommittee meetings. She cautioned that the CAB not be blindsided by outside organizations interested in using the Board.

### **Handouts**

SRS CAB Meeting Agenda, May 19, 1998

Operations Update, Tom Heenan, DOE

Letter to Ann Loadholt from DOE dated April 17, 1998 (received May 15, 1998)

National Academy of Sciences Report on Research Reactor SNF, Charlie Anderson, DOE  
Processing Needs Assessment slides, Ken Goad, SRS CAB  
Draft Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the SRS CAB, Beaurine Wilkins, SRS CAB  
CAB RM&FU Motion Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure, P.K. Smith, SRS CAB  
Risk Management Workshop Objectives slide, P.K. Smith, SRS CAB  
National Transportation Program slides, Mona Williams, DOE  
Political, Regulatory and State Equity Issues and Treatment, Storage and Disposal of Defense  
Related Nuclear Wastes and Materials, Karen Patterson, SRS CAB.  
Integrator Operable Units slides, Ron Malanowski, WSRC  
Motion SRS Integrator Operable Units, Karen Patterson, SRS CAB  
D Area Oil Seepage Basin Proposed Plan Scoping, Cliff Cole, WSRC  
Motion D Area Oil Seepage Basin, Karen Patterson, SRS CAB  
Issues for SRS CAB Consideration, Tom Heenan, DOE  
SRS CAB Recommendation Summary  
SRS CAB April/May Highlights  
SRS CAB Public Involvement Calendar  
Monthly National Environmental Policy Act Report  
Draft "Board Beat," Spring 1998

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