



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee

Meeting Record

March 19, 1998

North Augusta Community Center, N. Augusta, SC

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee met on March 19, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, S.C. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure and the Fiscal Year 2000: Integrated Priority List. The member of the CAB in attendance was P.K. Smith. Members of the public in attendance were Trisha McCracken, Russ Messick, Bill Rajczak, Mike French, Lee Poe, Murray Riley, and Donna Martin. Bill Bengtson attended representing the Aiken Standard. Tom Polka attended representing the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Gary Little from the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) attended as the Associated Deputy Designated Federal Official. Don Scott attended from DOE-SR. The Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) representatives were Gary Percival and Jim Moore.

P. K. Smith, Chairperson, opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and explaining the purpose of the meeting. She then had all in attendance introduce themselves. P. K. Smith then introduced the first speaker, Don Scott, DOE-SR.

Don Scott explained that the National and Site Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure (ACP) were released for public review and comment on March 2, 1998. He stated the public comment period will end on May 1, 1998. He stated that copies of both ACP's were mailed out to stakeholders and were on the internet. The internet addresses are as follows: National ACP: <http://www.em.doe.gov>, Site ACP: www.srs.gov. He stated that submission of comments could be e-mailed to garyb.little@srs.gov or jim02.moore@srs.gov. Comments could be mailed to: Attention - Gary Little, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, S.C. 29802.

Mr. Scott reviewed the CAB Recommendation #41. Recommendation #41 contained the comments concerning their review of the National and SRS Accelerating Cleanup Plan - Focus 2006 Discussion Drafts submitted to DOE-HQ from CAB on July 22, 1997. The Accelerating Cleanup Plan - Focus 2006 Discussion Drafts has been renamed the Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure. Mr. Scott started with the first comment concerning Contingency Plans. He stated that the site baselines now reflect realistic project costs and reasonable performance enhancements. Mike French commented that the concern of the CAB was the level funding during the out years and the unrealistic efficiency improvements. He stated that the level funding would not allow the necessary work to be accomplished in the projected time limit and therefore

they recommended contingency plans be included to allow for additional unforeseen work. In addition, the large efficiency improvements projected could not be attained in out years resulting in a need for more funding, e.g. associated with the In-Tank Precipitation Facility. Mr. Scott continued with the next three comments involving the documents being more clear and concise, inclusion of Executive Summaries and Final End States being clearly described along with the work scope, cost and schedule. Lee Poe asked if the new edition specifically addressed the process used to identify the Action Plans? Mr. Scott said he could not find the process used to identify the Action Plans in the ACP. Mr. Scott went on explaining the protection of workers and the public will be incorporated into contracts involving privatization. Mike French stated the concern about bad language in the contracts. Mr. French stated that Congress was not happy with the language either. Mr. French stated that some of the language used in the Lockheed Martin contract and Idaho Falls made the Department of Energy look very bad. Mr. Scott assured Mr. French that the language in the new contracts for privatization would be an improvement based on lessons learned. Mr. Poe was concerned that privatization could not be accomplished at a low cost without compromising safety and especially if DOE required the vendors to meet the same requirements. Mr. Poe asked if the ACP addressed the trade off of regulations versus compliance versus risk. Mr. Scott stated that we may want to have a contracts person address the Subcommittee to see how dollars can be saved in privatization and address the risk/compliance aspect. In relation to the CAB concern of the probability of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) taking over regulatory oversight, Mr. Scott stated that a working group has been established to analyze the potential impacts on the program and associated funding needs if the NRC took over oversight of the program. Mr. Scott stated that it is not anticipated that such a change would significantly alter the cleanup approach. Mr. French asked when the report would be complete? Mr. Scott stated that he was not sure of the date. On the CAB concern for opportunities for National review and consensus on complex-wide issues, Mr. Scott stated they anticipated that cross-sites and regional workshops will assume an increasingly important role. Mr. Scott stated that the public, individuals and groups are encouraged to participate in National Environmental Policy Act activities and budget planning sessions. Mr. French stated that it would be great if comparable sites such as Hanford, Rocky Flats and SRS which had similar problems could get together with representatives of the public to discuss issues. P. K. Smith stated that she met with others in Tennessee where they had local and national dialog. In addition, she and some others from SRS met in Dallas with the Board Presidents. P. K. Smith said that there was to be another meeting sometime in April but she wasn't sure of the date. Mr. Poe stated that there was a potential problem. He stated that this kind of information needed to be fed back into the loop. Mr. Poe requested that a summary of the regional and Dallas meeting be fed back to the group with some dialog. It was stated that at the March 31 meeting P. K. Smith would make a presentation. P. K. Smith stated that both Ann Loadholt and she had made presentations at a meeting but wasn't sure if it was in Barnwell or not. P. K. Smith said she would make a presentation on March 31. P. K. Smith stated that the League of Woman Voters had a summary of meetings also. A copy of this would try to be obtained for the March 31 meeting also. Mr. French suggested that with the satellite cable hookups, there could be discussions with the other sites at relatively small costs. Mr. Poe stated that the CAB was putting out information from other sites and this was good. The above discussions took into account concerns of the CAB for input to operations and allocation of funds at other sites and their impact to SRS. Moving on to other CAB concerns, Mr. Scott stated that the public is encouraged to participate in regulatory "workouts". Mr. Scott also stated that the documents were more

"reader-friendly". In reference to the CAB concern that the time schedule for publication of the ACP was unacceptable short to produce reasoned documents, Mr. Scott stated that this is a strategic document and will continue to be refined and modified. Mr. Poe stated that a strategic document should not have to be changed every 6 months. Mr. Scott stated that he felt the changes in the ACP were due to budget changes. Mr. French stated that the National and Site documents last summer had many inconsistencies. Mr. French asked if these inconsistencies were found and corrected. Mr. Scott stated that many of the inconsistencies were found. He stated that DOE-HQ did a quality analysis of the documents to make sure they fit.

Following Mr. Scott's presentation, P. K. Smith asked those in attendance if there was a particular part of the ACP that they would like review at the March 31 meeting. Mr. Poe stated that they would like specifics on the CAB recommendation. He said that Mr. Scott gave a general overview, but he would like specifics as to where in the ACP the CAB recommendations were incorporated.

P. K. Smith stated that there was not time for the Subcommittee to make a recommendation to be approved by the CAB for the March 24th meeting in Charleston. Mr. Poe recommended that the Subcommittee provide a recommendation to the CAB that requests DOE-HQ to extend the public comment period long enough to except the recommendation of the CAB at their May meeting. P. K. Smith stated that everyone should get their comments into either Gary Little, Jim Moore or herself. From the comments, a proposed CAB recommendation will be developed and forwarded to DOE-HQ before the May 1 public comment period closes. At the May CAB meeting, the proposed recommendation will be taken before the CAB for approval. The approved CAB recommendation will then be forwarded to DOE-HQ.

P. K. Smith introduced Gary Percival to talk about the Fiscal Year 2000: Integrated Priority List (IPL). Mr. Percival started out asking those in attendance if they had budgets at home. He stated that the site was no different. The site has a budget and must decide where it would spend its available funding. He stated that the IPL helped the site make funding decisions. Mr. Percival reviewed the model and process used to develop the IPL. He stated that there was very little change from last year and that it was based on stakeholder input from last year. Mr. Percival stated that this was not totally a risk based priority list. He stated the IPL was based on a process used by Oak Ridge and Rocky Flats. Mr. Poe stated that the Subcommittee has never went back and reviewed the criteria to see if there were any changes. Mr. Poe suggested that over the next year, the subcommittee review the criteria before the next iteration of the IPL. Mr. Percival reviewed the necessity to determine how the funds should be utilized based on safety, risk and compliance. The question came up about the Environmental Restoration (ER) Program and how it may be funded before higher risk items. Mr. Percival stated that the ER Program was regulatory in nature and was being reduced this year from last year. Mr. Percival stated that the IPL was based on management judgment as well as national guidance. Mr. Poe pointed out that some of the projects were so large that it was not only difficult to know but also highly unlikely that the whole project should be ranked so high due to risk. Mr. Percival stated that the site was in the process of validating projects at this time, however, it was up to the programs to define the specific projects. P. K. Smith requested a schedule of when the IPL was due next year. Mr. Percival reviewed the handouts of the IPL and stated that there were additional items requiring funding at the bottom of the IPL that had just become known. These new items would have to be

worked into the IPL. Mr. Poe recommended that some members of the Subcommittee be assigned to review one or two Project Baseline Summaries (PBS) and then report back to the Subcommittee. He said that some of the PBS's were so large and cover so much that it was hard to say that some part justified funding and others not. No action was taken on the recommendation at this time.

P. K. Smith asked if there were any comments on the next meeting. There were none.

P. K. Smith asked each of the Subcommittee members present to try to help get some additional members to attend the meetings. There was a consensus that more interest was needed on the Subcommittee. P. K. Smith asked if there was any other public comment at this time. There were none.

P. K. Smith adjourned the meeting.

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