



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

November 1999 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

November 15-16, 1999
Sheraton Charleston Hotel
Charleston, SC

Members Present

Arthur Belge	Barbara Murphy	<u>Ex-Officio Representatives</u>
Tom Costikyan	Lane Parker	Ann Clark
Mel Galin	Karen Patterson	Julie Corkran
Ken Goad	Marie Reichmanis	Roy Schepens
Brendolyn Jenkins	Lola Richardson	Jim Brownlow (alternate)
Bill Lawless	Charlene Townsend	
Georgia Leverett	Bill Vogeles	
Ann Loadholt	Wade Waters	
Jimmy Mackey	Beaurine Wilkins	
Kathryn May	Beckie Gaston-Witter	

Members absent were Bill Adams, Earnest Marshall, Murray Riley, P.K. Smith and Ed Tant. Currently, there are no Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Roy Schepens. Mike Schoener served as facilitator.

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

Key Decisions Made by the Board

The Board adopted a recommendation that DOE continue to study the impacts of tritium on the health of workers at SRS and particularly examine the work history of those having excess cancers and the associations with tritium exposures.

The Board issued a recommendation that DOE-HQ publish Records of Decision for Low Level and Mixed Low Level Waste by December and provide to the CAB by March 2000, the estimated plan and scope of work that meets the SRS Waste Acceptance Criteria to dispose of orphan waste at SRS. The Board also requested a schedule for a draft plan that describes DOE's equity position regarding disposal of all waste types.

Regarding the DOE identified alternatives for operating and/or closing its three incinerators, the SRS CAB recommended that DOE choose the alternative that minimizes cost and balances equity across the DOE complex. The Board also recommended that DOE and SCDHEC discuss equity issues concerning SC with stakeholders. Receipt of future shipments of waste from other sites to CIF will not be acceptable until equity issues are satisfactory to stakeholders.

The SRS CAB recommended that DOE expedite the release of the Tank Closure EIS from DOE-HQ and expedite the waste removal from Tank 19 in FY00 and subsequent closure of the tank in FY01.

The SRS CAB requested that DOE, EPA and SCDHEC schedule and hold a public meeting with stakeholders in order to develop a "common sense approach" to remediating the Southwest Plume. The Board also requested a list of adverse health effects, the criteria used to determine these effects and the remediation costs and benefits based on the inventory of contaminants in the SW Plume today and at the end of institutional controls.

The Board recommended that SCDHEC fish advisory documents include comments that put the information in perspective; that the CAB be given the opportunity to review the draft 2000 fish advisories; and that once finalized the documents be given wide distribution including Spanish translations. The CAB also requested that SCDHEC continue developing information on salt water fish as well.

The Board passed four of six proposed bylaws amendments and determined it would award the Chair and Vice Chair position to the first and second place candidates in the 2000 officer elections.

Approval of the Minutes

The September 1999 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Agency Update

Ann Clark of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) provided copies of 1999 Fish Consumption Advisories and also presented the tri-party response to CAB Recommendation 93 (see attachments). Julie Corkran of the Environmental Protection Agency announced that Jeff Crane had been reassigned to Paducah and that Ken Feely is the new Federal Facility Agreement Project Manager for SRS. A new ex-officio member for the SRS CAB has not yet been selected, she said. Roy Schepens of DOE referred to the November Operations Update and several news releases regarding the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (see attachments). He also stated that the Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement Hearings had begun and that bus transport had been arranged for SRS CAB members to the Atlanta Hearing. Mr. Schepens also noted that the Defense Waste Processing Facility had been in a planned outage. He stated there had been problems with the melter, but that innovative solutions had been found. He also noted that new technology to improve the melt rate was being considered.

Facilitator Update

Board Facilitator Mike Schoener provided a recommendation status noting that 31 were pending responses, 33 recommendations are open and 37 closed. He also presented subcommittee recommendations to update the status of various recommendations and noted the Board would finalize the recommendation process at the January process retreat. The Process Retreat will be held January 14-15 at the Kiawah Inn near Charleston, S.C. Mr. Schoener requested Board members complete a survey in preparation for the retreat. Mr. Schoener also provided an attendance report (see attachment).

SRS Criticality Issues

John Dickenson, WSRC Program Manager for the Nuclear Materials Stabilization Program provided a review of the September 30 criticality incident in Japan and discussed lessons learned to prevent such an incident from happening here. A U.S. team led by Frank McCoy, Deputy Manager of SRS had visited the site in Japan and met with Japanese government and regulatory officials. Mr. Dickenson explained that the incident occurred in a uranium processing facility that employs 135 people and is 40 acres in size located next to retail warehouse. The workers were taking solid uranium oxide and dissolving it in an acid solution and accumulated more uranium in one place than should have been. There was an initial burst of radiation that settled to low levels of radiation. The reaction was stopped by a cooling water jacket that was broken to allow the water to drain out and the reaction shut itself down. Workers also put boron-neutron poison in the tank and sandbags around the tank. Three workers were exposed to high levels of radiation. Two of the three exposures were life threatening and the worker's conditions remain critical. Although the workers exited the room immediately, they received the exposure from the initial burst and showed immediate signs of illness. Fourteen additional workers involved in controlling the incident also received lower levels of radiation. Seven individuals offsite in the nearby building warehouse were also exposed during a four hour period following the initial burst.

Mr. Dickenson discussed lessons learned stating the following could be improved:

- Assure all personnel know what criticality is and are properly trained
- Assure all personnel understand the limits and controls important to safety
- Assure appropriate regulatory oversight and public notification is in place
- Assure emergency response procedures are in place
- Continually upgrade training and assess the efficacy of training

Mr. Dickenson noted there have been six criticality incidents in the U.S. The last was 20 years ago in 1978 in Idaho. Mr. Dickenson noted there has never been a criticality at SRS.

Medical University of South Carolina Cancer Registry Update

Dr. Dan Lackland, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Medical University of South Carolina provided an update regarding the MUSC Cancer Registry. Dr. Lackland explained that the cancer registry is a data collection tool and is not designed to demonstrate how or why cancer occurs. The registry began in 1991 and was funded by DOE. Data was collected in a 20-county area surrounding SRS to identify unusual changes occurring in population subgroups defined by geographic, demographic and social characteristics. Sources for the data collected include hospital records, pathology lab records and vital records.

Dr. Lackland presented the data for four race and sex groups for invasive stomach cancer, colorectal cancer, melanoma, esophageal cancer, ovarian cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, prostate, breast, bladder and cervical cancer. (Cancer Incidence reports are on file with the SRS CAB Administrator or can be accessed at www.musc.edu/srrhis). Dr. Lackland noted that cervical and esophageal cancer needs further research. He also stated that in most cases, the cancer incidence in this area is what is to be expected or lower than expected. He also noted that no geographic patterns or hot spots had been identified. Board member Bill Lawless encouraged DOE to continue funding this project stating it was valuable information for everyone.

Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee Report

Health Studies

Dr. Dan Wartenberg of the Consortium for Risk Evaluation & Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) presented findings from an SRS Worker Morality Study (see attached). Previous study findings had noted excess leukemia and suggestive dose effect for SRS workers. Therefore further study was required. The CRESP Mortality Study improved on previous studies by reviewing more workers, longer followup of deaths through 1995, included women and minorities and used regional reference rates. The results are reassuring, stated Dr. Wartenberg. Overall, SRS workers have lower mortality rates than average Americans. Reported leukemia excess in white males in the late 1960s has reverted to normal rates and prostate cancer is not in excess. Dr. Wartenberg noted that newly observed cancers warranting in-depth evaluation are skin cancer and breast cancers.

Jimmy Mackey presented the subcommittee's draft tritium health motion that DOE continue to study the impacts of tritium on the health of workers at SRS and particularly examine the work history of those having excess cancers and the associations with tritium exposures (see attached). **Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the recommendation and Lane Parker seconded. The motion was adopted by a vote of 19 in favor and one opposed.**

Alternative High Level Waste Salt Solution/ITP Focus Group

Ethan Brown, Public Focus Group (PFG) Lead discussed the PFG's purpose and objectives and Maria Reichmanis presented a draft motion to conduct a public education program on the salt waste processing technology being considered to replace In-Tank Precipitation for Cesium-137 (see attached). This education program would assist the public in better understanding the selection process and technology alternatives and to prepare them to provide DOE with relevant comments during the NEPA process. The PFG requested \$15,000 from the CAB to support the program. There was discussion regarding why a

concentrated public education effort was needed and the value of the program, in addition to discussion regarding the educational program budget. **Lane Parker called the motion and Bill Lawless seconded. Following much further discussion on the futility and necessity of the effort, the motion was withdrawn and tabled until the January 2000 Board meeting.**

Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Orphan Waste

Sonny Goldston of BNFL provided a brief update of environmental management integration and the structure in place to review integration initiatives (see attached). He briefly discussed the Program Area Integration Teams and their history and then discussed the disposition of orphan waste with no path for disposal. This waste category consists of several different waste streams that cannot meet waste acceptance criteria for disposal at the SRS E-Area Low Level Waste Disposal Facility and includes tritium contaminated debris, reactor deionizer vessels containing resin contaminated with carbon-14; and ion exchange resins and carbon filter media contaminate with iodine-129. Mr. Goldston explained how it would be possible to dispose of the SRS orphan waste at the Nevada Test Site. SRS cannot ship LLW radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site until the WMPEIS ROD is issued and it includes SRS as a potential shipper to Nevada, he said.

Wade Waters presented the draft recommendation that DOE-HQ publish Records of Decision for Low Level and Mixed Low Level Waste by December and provide to the CAB (by March 2000), the estimated plan and scope of work that meets the SRS Waste Acceptance Criteria to dispose of orphan waste at SRS (see attached). The motion also requested a schedule for a draft plan that describes DOE's equity position regarding disposal of all waste types. **Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the motion and Becki Witter seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously with 20 members in favor.**

Hazardous Waste Combusters-Consolidated Incineration Facility

Maxcine Miles of DOE provided a presentation on a DOE Complex Incineration Opportunity (see attached). She discussed the three DOE incinerators at SRS, Oak Ridge and Idaho and the ability of each to meet maximum achievable control technology (MACT) emission standards and provided a brief background on the MACT Rule as mandated by the Clean Air Act. The final rule signed by EPA Administrator Browner on July 30, 1999 marked a major programmatic shift from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to the Air program. All incinerators must be in compliance by April 2003. The Consolidated Incineration Facility at SRS meets the MACT emission standards. DOE is reviewing twelve alternatives for operation and/or shutdown of the three incinerators. These alternatives include: keeping all three operational to keeping none operational and utilizing vendors; and, keeping one operational while others shut down at varying times. Ms. Miles discussed several alternatives and the cost associated with each in detail.

Karen Patterson presented the draft recommendation stating that DOE choose the alternative that minimizes cost and balances equity across the DOE complex (see attached). It also recommended that DOE and SCDHEC discuss equity issues concerning SC with stakeholders noting that receipt of future shipments of waste for CIF from other sites will not be acceptable until equity issues are satisfactory to stakeholders. **Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the recommendation and Arthur Belge seconded. The motion was adopted with 18 members in favor and two abstentions by Tom Costikyan and Ken Goad who noted passive resistance.**

High Level Waste Tank Closure

Larry Ling of DOE briefly noted that Tank 17 and 20 had been closed and that Tank 19 was expected to be closed in 2003. Mr. Ling also discussed the Tank Closure Environmental Impact Statement and its current schedule. Jimmy Mackey presented the subcommittee's motion that DOE expedite the release of the Tank Closure EIS from DOE-HQ and expedite the waste removal from Tank 19 in FY00 and closure of the tank in FY01 (see attached). **Ken Goad moved the Board accept the recommendation and Bill Lawless seconded the motion. The recommendation was adopted by a vote of 18 members in favor. Karen Patterson and Lane Parker abstained due to potential conflict of interests.**

Permit Modifications for the Mixed Waste Management Facility

Board Member Karen Patterson provided background information on the remediation of the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG); the public focus group work regarding the burial ground to date; and CAB Recommendations 75 and 87 regarding this issue (see attached). She also discussed a letter sent by the focus group lead's to go on record as being opposed to initiating long term remediation action at the ORWBG where there is no significant risk to humans or the environment (see attached). Ms. Patterson then presented a draft recommendation proposing that SCDHEC, SRS and the Focus Group meet to discuss SCDHEC responses to CAB recommendations; that SCDHEC present adverse human health effects posed by not remediating the southwest plume; and that SCDHEC and SRS provide life cycle cost benefit analysis for remediation efforts at the plume. Following discussion regarding laws and regulations and the perceptions related to challenging law and discussion related to negotiations of the point of compliance, **Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the recommendation and Bill Vogele seconded. The recommendation was adopted unanimously with 20 members in favor.**

Subcommittee Co-Chair Bill Lawless also presented a draft letter to EPA regarding its lack of responsiveness to CAB recommendations. The Board agreed the letter should be sent to the EPA Administrator. Bill Lawless also announced that the contract to conduct an independent scientific peer review of the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground remediation had been awarded to the Education Research & Development Association of Georgia Universities.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan announced that the subcommittee had reviewed DOE's response to Recommendation 100 and considered this recommendation closed. He then introduced Charlie Anderson, DOE Manager of the Nuclear Material Disposition Division, who provided a report on the K-Area Material Storage Project (see attached).

Mr. Anderson explained that the 105-K Building previously housed a reactor and was modified to store plutonium, some of which was originally produced by K Reactor. The \$27M capital project will facilitate early deinventory of Rocky Flats excess plutonium and save taxpayers \$1.3 billion by shortening the time to keep Rocky Flats material secure. The project will also provide sixty new jobs at SRS and put existing infrastructure to effective use. Mr. Anderson noted that the project was conceived and built in 1.5 years due in part to early-buy in of external groups such as DOE-Headquarters and the DNFSB.

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Co-Chair Wade Waters provided a trip report of the National SSAB Meeting on Stewardship (see attached). The Stewardship Workshop was sponsored by the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board on October 25-27, 1999. All active SSABs participated and panelists included DOE-Headquarters, EPA Headquarters, and various regulatory agencies. Ten statements were developed and forwarded to DOE Assistant Secretary Carolyn Huntoon for consideration.

Mr. Waters also reported that the RM&FU Subcommittee had reviewed the FY00 budget for SRS and noted that it appeared to meet the needs of the site. Mr. Waters mentioned that a final draft of the SRS Strategic Plan would be available after November 17, 1999, as well.

Jimmy Mackey presented a draft motion on Fish Consumption Advisories by SCDHEC (see attached). It recommended that SCDHEC fish advisory documents include comments that put the information in perspective; that the CAB be given the opportunity to review the draft 2000 fish advisories; and that once finalized the documents be given wide distribution including Spanish translations. It also requested that SCDHEC continue developing information on salt water fish as well. **Becki Witter moved the Board adopt the motion and Bill Lawless seconded. The motion was adopted by a vote of 18 members in favor.**

Administrative Subcommittee Report

Beaurine Wilkins provided public comments from Wade Waters and Bill Adams on the proposal to amend the bylaws. The following amendments were proposed:

Section 3.2 Terms of Appointment

The terms of office for Members of the Board shall be for two-years with new appointments made annually on a staggered schedule as the Members' terms of office expire. A Member shall serve no more than three consecutive terms of office. After a *lapse of ~~one three~~ or more years, a Board Member may be re-elected. To serve consecutive terms of office, current Board members will be subject to all selection criterion and re-elected by the full Board as set forth in Section 3.3.

This amendment was tabled pending guidance from DOE-Headquarters.

Section 4.3 Election of Officers

All officers of the Board shall be elected by the Membership of the Board and shall hold office for two-year terms. An officer may serve a maximum of two *consecutive ~~terms~~ years in the same office but may not hold more than one Board office at a time. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term of his or her predecessor in office. Elections of officers shall be held ~~bi-~~ annually in January.

Jimmy Mackey moved the amendment be accepted and Bill Lawless seconded. The amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote of 20 members in favor.

Section 5.6 Subcommittees

Delete section b); change c) to b); and modify the sixth paragraph to read: "All duties and responsibilities previously encompassed by the Budget, Membership Replacement, Bylaws and Nominations/Elections Subcommittees Shall henceforth reside within the Administrative Subcommittee.

Bill Lawless moved the amendment be accepted and Wade Waters seconded. The amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote of 20 members in favor.

Section 6.1 Regular Meetings

*Regular meetings of the Board shall be held ~~at least quarterly every other month~~ at such place and hour as may be determined from time to time by the Board Members. In order to afford broad public access to the Board, the locations of regular meetings shall be set in communities within Georgia and South Carolina that are affected by SRS with an effort to provide equal and reasonable access to these areas.

Karen Patterson moved the amendment be adopted and Ken Goad seconded. The proposed amendment failed with 14 members in favor and six objections.

Section 7.4 Individuals Ineligible for Board Membership

Add c) Spouses; immediate family members; or other individuals residing with current members serving on the Board shall not be eligible for Board membership.

Bill Lawless moved the amendment be accepted and Wade Waters seconded. The amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote of 20 members in favor.

Section 8.1 Effectiveness

*The Board, in cooperation with the Agencies, shall publish an *bi*-annual status report evaluating the board's effectiveness. This report shall be made available to the public, and the results shall be discussed publicly at a regular or special meeting of the Board.

Bill Lawless moved the amendment be accepted and Barbara Murphy seconded. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 18 members in favor.

Beaurine Wilkins also announced that the 2000 membership review would be held on December 4 and requested that any member Board member who wanted to participate let Board Administration know by the end of the week. She also noted that officer and subcommittee chair elections would be held in January and suggested a new voting technique for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Instead of running the two offices as separate offices, she suggested that all members interested in these positions apply for Chair and that the positions be awarded to the first and second place candidates. She noted this would be beneficial to the Board in that a productive member with much to contribute would not be eliminated. **Bill Lawless moved the Board award the position of Chair and Vice Chair to the first and second place candidates in the upcoming election. Ken Goad seconded the motion. The motion passed with 17 members in favor and two opposed.**

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Lane Parker thanked Lola Richardson for her participation in the Sister-to-Sister Expo. He also thanked Tom Costikyan for his recent outreach efforts as a panelist at the Southeastern Management Association Conference and as a guest speaker for a Methodist Men's group in Beaufort, S.C. Mr. Parker announced speaker certification would be provided December 3 and 13. He also noted the draft SRS CAB Bi-Annual Report (see attached) and requested any comments from Board members by November 23, 1999.

Public Comments

Mr. William Willoughby commented on the Japan criticality incident noting the lack of worker training contributed to the incident. He also encouraged the CAB to increase interactions with the Center for Disease Control Health Effects Subcommittee noting that liaisons from the Boards could advise each Board of significant actions taken and facilitate information exchange.

Other Administrative Items

Ann Loadholt presented a draft letter of recommendation requesting that Dr. Bill Lawless be considered for the Environmental Management Advisory Board (see attached). The Board agreed to endorse Dr. Lawless.

Handouts

November 16, 1999 Meeting Agenda
Letter to Ann Loadholt from DOE, EPA and SCDHEC, dated September 29, 1999
1999 South Carolina Fish Consumption Advisories
Operations Update, November 1999
DOE News Release, dated October 28, 1999
DOE News Release, dated November 2, 1999
DOE News Release, dated November 3, 1999
SR CAB Recommendation Summary Report, dated November 10, 1999
SRS Citizens Advisory Board Attendance Chart, Mike Schoener, CAB
SRS CAB Process Improvement Retreat Survey-2000, Mike Schoener, CAB
Motivation for SRS Worker Mortality Study, Dan Wartenberg, CRES
Tritium Health Motion, Jimmy Mackey, CAB
Final Draft Motion for the Salt Processing Focus Group, Maria Reichmanis, CAB
Environmental Management Integration LLW PAIT Orphan Waste, Sonny Goldston, BNFL

Motion, Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Wade Waters, CAB
DOE Complex Incineration Opportunity, Maxcine Miles, DOE
Motion, Hazardous Waste Combustors Clean Air Act, Karen Patterson, CAB
Motion, Tank 19 Closure, Jimmy Mackey, CAB
Comment on Permit Modifications for MWMF at SRS, Karen Patterson, CAB
Letter to John Litton, SCDHEC from Karen Patterson and Lee Poe, dated October 18, 1999
Motion, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit Modification for MWMF, Karen Patterson, CAB
K Area Material Storage Project Report, Charlie Anderson, DOE
National SSAB Meeting on Stewardship, Wade Waters, CAB
Draft Motion, Fish Consumption Advisories-DHEC, Jimmy Mackey, CAB
Summary of Proposed Bylaws Amendments, dated September 23, 1999, Beaurine Wilkins, CAB
SRS CAB 1998-1999 Bi-Annual Report
SRS CAB Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Summary
Letter to Jeff Crane from Ann Loadholt, dated November 8, 1999
Letter to James Melilio from Ann Loadholt, dated November 16, 1999
Monthly NEPA Report
1999 SRS CAB Activity Calendar

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