



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

September 27, 1999
Savannah Rapids Pavilion
Evans, GA

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) Nuclear Materials Management (NMM) subcommittee held a meeting on Monday, September 27, Savannah Rapids Pavilion to review a draft recommendation on canyon utilization and spent nuclear fuel melt and dilute technology. In addition, the subcommittee discussed developing a statement to be read at the upcoming Yucca Mountain draft environmental impact statement public meeting on October 21 in Atlanta, Ga.

CAB Members

Tom Costikyan
Barbara Murphy
Ken Goad
Karen Patterson
Beaurine Wilkins

Stakeholders

Mira Malek, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractors

Donna Martin, WSRC

Introduction

Tom Costikyan, NMM chair, opened the meeting by referring to a draft motion previously distributed to subcommittee members for their review and comment. Brief discussion on the draft motion dealing with canyon utilization and spent nuclear fuel melt and dilute technology followed. Costikyan emphasized that although the CAB acknowledges DOE's confidence in the melt and dilute technology, it believes there will be at least several years before the technology is actually demonstrated.

Costikyan also said that DOE and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) had differing opinions on which nuclear materials should be processed through the canyons first. David Huizenga, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Integration and Disposition, stated at the August 26 CAB NMM subcommittee meeting that the canyon were full for several years and there was no room to process SNF. The DNFSB's opinion at the same meeting was that the SNF posed a higher risk and it should be processed before some other materials such as uranium.

Ken Goad, NMM subcommittee vice chair, said he believed bringing a new technology online would cost much more than processing the SNF in the canyons. He also added that he had concerns that the product form of the melt and dilute process may not be suitable for disposal in a federal geologic repository.

One small change in the draft motion was made and the committee agreed to take it before the full CAB.

Karen Patterson, CAB, brought up a second item dealing with the Yucca Mountain Draft EIS public meeting. She felt the CAB members should attend the October 21 meeting in Atlanta and make a public

statement urging DOE to proceed with its schedule to open a federal repository so that SRS could properly prepare its high-level waste, spent fuel and plutonium for disposal.

Costikyan questioned if a general statement would make an impact. Patterson said she felt it important for DOE to hear the voices of stakeholders in other states, rather than continuously hearing from Nevada stakeholders. She felt the CAB would make an impact if they attended the meeting and read a statement.

The subcommittee members then discussed how the statement should be worded. Several said the statement should emphasize how the delay impacts SRS's progress on preparing materials for final disposition. They also said the amounts of high-level waste, SNF and plutonium being stored at SRS should be included in the statement.

After general wording was developed, CAB members discussed who should read the statement. Costikyan said Earnest Marshall was a member of the subcommittee and lived in Atlanta. Patterson said she planned to attend the meeting and could read the statement if needed. When Goad said he also planned to attend, Costikyan suggested that he read the statement since he was the NMM subcommittee vice-chair.

At the close of the meeting, it was agreed that the statement would be prepared for the subcommittee to review by Tuesday morning.

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