



# **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

## **Old Rad Waste Burial Ground Focus Group**

### **Meeting Record**

January 4, 1999  
Aiken Federal Building  
Aiken, S.C.

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) Focus Group met on January 4, 1999 at the Aiken Federal Building, Aiken, S.C. The purpose of the meeting was to review the background of the focus group, determine the goal, discuss initial tasks, discuss information available and determine path forward for the next meeting. Attendance was as follows:

#### **CAB Members**

Karen Patterson, Admin.  
Lead

Bill Lawless, Tech. Lead

Wade Waters

#### **Stakeholders**

John Litton, DHEC

Shelly Sherritt, DHEC

Keehna Frasier,  
DHEC

Mihir Mehta, DHEC

Lee Poe

Theresa Lawless

Todd Crawford

William Willoughby II

Gerald Devitt

#### **DOE/Contractors**

Ed McName, WSRC

Mary Flora, WSRC

Mike Griffith, WSRC

Sonny Goldston, WSRC

Elmer Wilhite, WSRC

John Seaman, SREL

Paul Bertsch, SREL

Jim Moore, WSRC

Mike Schoener,  
Facilitator

Karen Patterson, ORWBG Focus Group Administrative Lead, welcomed those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves. Ms. Patterson introduced Mike Schoener to facilitate the meeting. Mr. Schoener reviewed the agenda and gave some general direction for the meeting. Mr. Schoener then introduced Lee Poe, ORWBG Technical Lead, to review background information.

Mr. Poe presented a background on the ORWBG Focus Group in order to orient the focus group on the history of the burial ground and seepage basins, the consequences, Tritium concentrations, history of CAB and focus group, scope discussions, the matrix or strawman from the December 8 meeting, groundwater flow directions, and suggested focus group tasks. The presentation included the following:

- In the history of the burial ground and seepage basins, Mr. Poe presented the estimated years waste was actually stored in the burial ground and basins and the remediation that has been performed since.
- The consequences of the burial ground releases are estimated at 4,000 curies of tritium per year. SRS released 11,400 curies in 1995 to the Savannah River. Included in the consequences were the maximum individual dose versus the established standard.

- The tritium concentrations were highlighted in the groundwater as well as Four-Mile Branch and Upper Three Runs. Included were the tritium concentrations at Highway 301 and Port Wentworth and Beaufort-Jasper.
- The sequence of CAB and focus group briefings was listed.
- A discussion of the anticipated scope built on the strawman presented by Mr. Poe at the December 8 meeting. The matrix presented at that meeting was reviewed.
- A sketch of the groundwater flow directions in the Upper Three Runs Aquifer Unit or "Upper" zone was displayed and discussed.
- A list of nineteen anticipated tasks was presented to the focus group for discussion.

Mr. Schoener requested the focus group attempt to define its goal. During this discussion, Shelly Sherritt, DHEC, stated that there were four items of interest to DHEC. They were risk to human health, source control, the impact to the ecological system and cumulative impacts downstream. Discussion concluded that the following elements should be included in the final study. A goal will be written based on these elements. The elements are:

- Is there a risk?
- What is the source of the risk?
- What is the timing of the risk?
- Who would receive the risk (people, environment)?
- What actions should be taken?

To establish the actual part of E-Area and surrounding land that the focus group would concentrate on, the sketch of the groundwater flow directions in the Upper Three Run Aquifer Unit was reviewed. Upon extensive discussion, it was determined that the initial scope of the focus group would concentrate on the Old Burial Ground, the H Area Seepage Basin and groundwater migrating south towards Four-Mile Branch from these areas. If during the course of review, other factors dictate, the scope could be expanded to include other areas.

Mr. Poe gave a thumbnail description of the suggested nineteen tasks for the focus group. He suggested that members of the focus group work on different tasks and report back to the focus group as a whole in order to complete the work in a reasonable amount of time. While there was little suggested changes to the list, it was pointed out by both WSRC and DOE personnel that many of the tasks on the list were already in the process of being defined by the site in the Feasibility Study.

There was some concern expressed about meeting the DHEC schedule for the interim action of the burial ground but a majority of the focus group members felt that the schedule should not drive the focus group. It was felt that getting the right information, risk impacts and determining actions should be the driver for the focus group.

There was a suggestion that the Center for Disease Control be contacted to determine if they had any information that may be relevant to the focus group. Mr. Lawless agreed that the Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee would do this.

It was suggested and agreed that at the next meeting, the site personnel would review the information they have and are developing in the Feasibility Study in comparison with the nineteen tasks as noted above. The focus group can then decide what additional information may be needed and assign team members to the specific tasks.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 1:00 p.m. at the SRS in building 724-7E. The meeting will last all afternoon. Individuals who do not have badges will need to be at the Badge Office in 703A at 12:30 p.m. Also, anyone who wants to ride in a van to the site location should also be at the Badge Office at 12:30 p.m. Those members of the focus group who do not have site badges and plan on

attending the January 13 meeting, should call Jim Moore, (803) 725-5663, and give him your social security number and knowledge of U.S. citizenship so that badges will be available when you arrive.

In other action, Mike Griffith, WSRC, gave the White Paper entitled, "Interim Measures Plan For Mixed Waste Management Facility (MWMF) Groundwater Southwest Plume (U)" and the "Southern Sector Recirculation Wells Monthly Status Report for November 1998" to several members of the focus group. It was stated that the additional modeling data on the mixed waste Southwest plume by Geotrans would be available on January 11.

Ms. Patterson adjourned the meeting.

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