



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

April 27, 1999
Holley House Inn
Aiken, SC

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) subcommittee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 6 p.m. at the Holley House Inn in Aiken, SC. Items on the agenda included the DOE-SR 2001 Budget Overview, the Integrated Priority List, specific High Level Waste (HLW) and Environmental Restoration (ER) Project Baseline Studies and a draft recommendation on risk summaries.

CAB Members

P.K. Smith
Wade Waters
Murray Riley
Jimmy Mackey

Stakeholders

Tom Rolka, SCDHEC
Mike French
Jerry Devitt
Pat Miles
Todd Crawford

DOE/Contractors

Jerry Nelson, DOE
Howard Gnann, DOE
Joan Baum, DOE
George Mishra, DOE
Julie Petersen, DOE
Kelly Way, WSRC
Mike Griffith, WSRC
Donna Martin, WSRC
Don Toddings, BSRI
Gerry Stejskal, WSRC
Paul Huber, BSRI

DOE-SR Budget Overview and Integrated Priority List

Jim Buice, Director, Planning and Budget Division, DOE-SR, provided the subcommittee with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Integrated Priority List summary sheet sent to DOE-HQ the week prior. Buice said DOE-HQ gave SRS a target number of \$1,222.5 billion. The activities at the target level and above are activities SRS must perform to ensure the health and safety of the public and workers and the environment. Activities to identify an Alternative Salt Disposition process do fall within the target funding. SRS will need an additional \$300 million to fund activities below the target level. Placing H Canyon in cold standby, reducing the number of Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) canisters per year, not meeting some Environmental Restoration Program regulatory commitments and delay of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility are potential impacts of those activities below the target level. Buice emphasized that the work is not being cancelled, but deferred until a later date.

Issues: The current target funding does not allow for SRS to meet regulatory commitments in the Site Treatment Plan and the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA).

Actions: Buice will continue to keep the subcommittee informed about changing numbers throughout the budget process.

Paths to Closure

Matt Zimmerman, Manager, Baseline Integration, WSRC, presented an update on the FY 2001 Budget and Paths to Closure (PtC). Zimmerman pointed out that all information in the presentation is preliminary until the PtC document is released in July. Improvements in the PtC include major reformatting, a closer look at program, health and safety risks and waste disposition maps. Zimmerman said SRS projects will increase by 50% with life-cycle cost changes such as increased scope for Wackenhut, Environmental Restoration, and Nuclear Materials Storage and Stabilization, and Solid Waste, canyon deactivation delays, infrastructure restoration needs, and new waste and vault facilities. Of 409 projects listed complex-wide, SRS has 90 projects. Zimmerman also said SRS has 23% of all EM projects and receives 21% of EM funding. In comparison, Hanford has 11% of EM projects but receives over 20% of EM funding.

Issues: Work scopes throughout SRS programs are increasing but funding is staying flat. The amount of funding provided to SRS is not proportionate to funding given to other sites.

Actions: SRS will keep the CAB updated on input for the PtC document and provide the draft for CAB comment in July.

High Level Waste Project Baseline Summaries

Vitrification Project Baseline Summary (PBS): Howard Gnann, Director, HLW Programs Division, DOE-SR, presented a brief review of the vitrification PBS. The total canister count as of 4/27/99 was 630, with 147 of those poured in FY99. It is important to maintain 200 cans a year. Presently, there is enough sludge available to run through 2001, even with a budget shortfall. Sludge batch 2 is funded in '99 and '00. Melter #2 is in standby. The High Level Waste System Plan, Revision 10 is due after budget submittal. This plan documents the current operating strategy of the HLW System at SRS to receive, store, treat, and dispose of high-level waste. The document includes schedules, forecasted budget, milestones, cost estimates and operation plans.

Issues: Maintain (at least) 200 canisters/year rate.

Actions: Keep subcommittee apprised of the cost to operate DWPF and of the budget situation.

Salt Disposition Project Baseline Summary

This PBS is a FY01 New Start Line Item that will construct a facility to replace the In-Tank Precipitation process. The cost is estimated at 1.3 billion. Research and development continues on the small tank precipitation, ion exchange and grout options. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared. A preferred alternative will be selected late FY99/early FY00 with a Record of Decision (ROD) planned for the second quarter of FY 2002. Operation of the new salt processing facility will begin by FY 2010. This Line Item is critical to maintaining Tank Farm Space for ongoing site operations and for pre-treatment of the salt component of approximately 30 million gallons of HLW.

Issues: None

Actions: Keep board apprised of cost and schedule of the Salt Disposition process.

Environmental Remediation (ER) Baseline Summary

Paul Huber, Manager, ER Projects, BSRI, said the SRS Environmental Restoration Program has identified 477 waste sites for remediation. Funding for cleanup of these sites is located in six different project baselines, defined by watershed. For the RM&FU meeting, Huber focused on the Upper Three Runs Project. Within the Upper Three Runs Project are 33 operable units called subprojects. (example...SRL Seepage Basin). ER performs preliminary risk ranking for each site using assumptions. As characterization work is completed, assumptions are replaced with actual data. As a result, estimates and schedules exist as living documents. The scheduling of work for operable units is also developed in close coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of

Environmental Control to meet FFA requirements. The ER goal is to remediate and close 90% of the highest risk waste sites by 2006.

Issues: Some items in the FFA may need to be renegotiated if SRS does not receive sufficient funding.

Actions: ER specific recommendations will be addressed through the Environmental Remediation & Waste Management subcommittee.

Risk Summaries Draft Recommendation

P.K. Smith, RM&FU subcommittee chair, reviewed a draft motion on a risk summary developed by DOE's Center for Risk Excellence. The subcommittee agreed with the seven major risk challenges at SRS listed in the fact. The draft recommendation will be shared with the Center by the early week in May, although it will not be finalized until the May 25 full CAB meeting. In the recommendation, the CAB suggests that (1) existing Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) be used to quantify probabilities and consequences associated with nuclear facilities now and under proposed hazard reductions; (2) prepare risk reduction graphs as a function of time with units on the axis; (3) include risk reduction graphs for ER programs for facility workers, non-facility SRS worker and the offsite public.

Issues: Develop/improve graphs in the summary.

Actions: Make two editorial changes in the recommendation: (1) change 75 million to 34 million in the first bullet, page 1; (2) change the word spend to spent in the second bullet, page one.

Other Business

Smith said a letter from Greg Rudy, DOE-SR manager, to DOE-HQ concerning insufficient funding to support the HLW program in FY2000 was included in the handouts. In the letter, Rudy highlights a recommendation by the SRS CAB requesting additional funds for the HLW program and makes a statement that SRS will work with DOE-HQ to identify funding to keep its Site Treatment Plan commitment. Smith said Lee Poe, public stakeholder, had requested the letter be distributed to the RM&FU subcommittee.

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