



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Salt Processing Focus Group

Meeting Summary

March 6, 2000
Aiken Federal Building
Aiken, SC

The Salt Processing Focus Group met on Monday, March 6, 2000, at 3:30 p.m. at the Federal Building in Aiken, SC. Attendance was as follows:

Mike French	Lee Poe
Julie Petersen	Jim Fay
Kelly Way	Ken Rueter
Bill Lawless	Wade Waters

Lee Poe welcomed everyone and started the meeting.

The Focus Group discussed the following areas:

Caustic Side Solvent Extraction (CSEX): Ken Rueter informed the Focus Group (FG) that DOE has made a final decision on CSEX regarding work execution. SRS has received a letter from Roy Schepens, AM DOE-SR HLW, directing WSRC to take on the full programmatic role for CSEX, meaning the project will not be sent off to another group and worked. The decision was made at DOE-HQ. Ken detailed the up-front work required to achieve the solid work scope matrix that is required to technology selection, development, and road-mapping.

The department has continued to develop solvent extraction over the last two years and, as a result, some breakthroughs have been made at some of the labs. This shows that the process continues to work. If a technology is matured, then it should be included in the process until a final selection is made.

Ken explained that SRS is currently establishing a planning base for Solvent Extraction. A Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate (ROME) showed this technology would not drive the selection process. Each technology development completes out mid 2nd quarter Fiscal Year 01. None of the alternatives jeopardizes DOE's commitment to complete by 9/01. SRS continues to support DOE's making a decision earlier than that to use extra time to clear any HQ hurdles that may arise to obtain project approval by FY02.

SRS will design, engineer, and build a pilot plant during conceptual design phase, then use the pilot plant to confirm the basic data. This is consistent with the project management improvement initiative WSRC signed with DOE-Savannah River.

The FG expressed concern on the impact that the 9/01 date may have on tank space requirements. WSRC assured the FG that the 9/01 schedule would ensure that any of the three technologies could be completed in 2010 and would not require building new tanks for additional tank space. If the 2010 date

were not met, then around 2011, new tankage or reuse of old tanks would be required, and after 2012, regulatory commitments would be compromised.

Ken continued. The Salt Team will complete a planning base for science and technology work by April 1 for Solvent. There are team members from Argonne, Oak Ridge, and SRTC. Planning deliverables will be available by the next FG meeting, and experimentation can start the first week of April.

Ken discussed the CSEX process in detail. He noted the concentrated aqueous stream coming out of the solvent stripping units and pointed out the low nitric acid solution is very pure. It is pure cesium nitrate, requires no pre-processing, and is the optimum cesium feed obtainable for DWPF.

Ken outlined the advantages and disadvantages of this process, the engineering leads and points of contact for solvent extraction for each step in the process, the schedule, and the complexity of each part of the technology. He also discussed the potential savings that will be developed along the process.

The ROM estimate is provided in the preconceptual stage and then better refined in the conceptual design. This process allows constant refinement and improvement. When questioned about pilot plant cost, Ken pointed out that costs are comparable, at \$20M for each pilot, but the department has agreed to only one pilot. It will have the ability to run cold, trace, and hot for one technology.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been produced, reviewed and commented on by WSRC and DOE. It has not been released for public review. The present draft does not have CSEX and it will be added before the EIS is released for public review. No schedule is available at this time.

When the budget was questioned, Ken responded that DOE has money to cover the added scope. SRS will have a detailed integrated program schedule completed by the end of March.

Path Forward/Next Meeting: The FG discussed the best date for subsequent meetings. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday afternoon starting about 4:00 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. at the Aiken Federal Building. The April FG meeting will discuss Direct Disposal and Small Tank Tetraphenylborate Precipitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

For copies of meeting handouts call 1-800-249-8155.