Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) member Gloria Williams-Way was unable to attend. The meeting opened with Tom Heenan serving as Designated Federal Official. Mike Schoener served as facilitator and the Board’s Technical Advisory, Rick McLeod was also present. The meeting was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory
Committee Act.

Lola Richardson opened the meeting with a proposal to amend the bylaws to add the State of Georgia as an Ex-Officio Representative of the SRS CAB. Mel Galin moved the Board amend the bylaws and Meryl Alalof seconded the bylaws change. The motion passed with 22 member in favor of the modification. Board Chair Wade Waters introduced James Sanders, who was recently appointed by the Governor of Georgia as a representative to the SRS CAB.

**Key Decisions Made by the Board**

**Recommendation 150- Cleanup Reform Appropriation**

The Board supports SRS initiatives for environmental restoration and asked DOE-Headquarters to fund proposal requests. They also requested a plan of action from SRS and the opportunity to be involved in the review of integrated priority lists and scope revisions involved in ER cleanup effort for out-year budgets.

**Recommendation 151- General Separations Consolidation Unit**

The SRS CAB recommended that SRS utilize the Cleanup Reform Appropriation to request additional funds to accelerate ultimate closure of the General Separations Area Consolidation Unit and that SRS provide the CAB a briefing on the proposed plan including milestones and cost estimates by June 18, 2002. It also asks for a list of any and all additional areas where the consolidation unit cleanup approach can be utilized in an accelerated manner.

**Recommendation 152- PUREX Waste Alternative Treatment Evaluation**

The Board asked DOE to verify in writing its plan to blend PUREX aqueous waste into the Saltstone feed as soon as practical after the Saltstone Processing Facility is restarted and that the process be targeted for completion by the end of FY03. The motion also asked for an updated schedule of planned activities to treat PUREX organic waste by direct stabilization by August 27, 2002.

**Recommendation 153- TRU Waste Priority and Offsite Shipments**

The SRS CAB requested that DOE-HQ allocate the necessary number of TRUPACT II containers for SRS to meet its FY02 commitment of a minimum of 12 shipments. It also requests that DOE-HQ accelerate shipments of TRU waste from SRS by expanding capabilities such as HANDSS-55 and authorizations to package higher loading of Pu-238 and Pu239 to maximize SRS risk reduction.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The draft minutes of the January CAB meeting were approved with no changes.

**Agency Update**

Tom Heenan, DOE, welcomed Jim Sanders on behalf of DOE. He also announced that Charlie Anderson of DOE had been named as the ex-officio representative replacing Roy Schepens and should be attending on a regular basis. Mr. Heenan also announced the April 1 decision regarding plans to initiate closure of the Consolidated Incineration Facility. An alternative treatment for PUREX waste will be pursued and must be demonstrated prior to CIF closure. Mr. Heenan also provided the April Operations Update (see handouts) and noted the progress of various programs. He provided an
update on the Cleanup Reform Appropriation noting that WSRC President Bob Pedde and DOE-SR Manager Rudy had met DOE-Headquarters and the feedback had been very positive. A Red Team was reviewing SRS documentation later in the week.

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC, noted his agency’s involvement in the Cleanup Reform Appropriation. SCDHEC is reviewing proposals and working closely with site personnel to aid SRS in getting South Carolina’s share of money to expedite and invest in cleanup at SRS. He stated that Lewis Shaw had provided a letter to the Assistant Secretary supporting the Top-to-Bottom Review and agreeing to look at SRS differently to get past continued maintenance of site. Mr. Collinsworth noted that SCDHEC very much supports the initiatives coming out of SRS and is open to flexible and innovative approaches. He stated there is opportunity to make progress with this leadership.

Jim Barksdale, EPA, noted that a new section leader had been identified at EPA Region-IV. Jay Bassett will be filling the position formerly held by Camilla Warren. A new ex-officio representative should be identified shortly.

**Public Comments**

Wade Waters recognized Gerri Flemming, who had been awarded "Woman of the Year," a federal program diversity award.

Trayon Thomas and Alexus Best presented essays and were awarded certificates by the Board.

**Facilitator Update**

Mike Schoener presented the current recommendation status report noting 15 recommendations are pending, 10 are open and 124 are closed (see handouts). The Board is awaiting two responses from EPA. He also presented the Groundwater Workshop Statements, which were approved by the Chairs of the Site Specific Advisory Board Members (see handouts).

**Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee**

Mel Galin welcomed Jim Sanders and noted his biography (see handouts). Mr. Galin mentioned that another committee was being considered for approval regarding Long Term Stewardship and encouraged participation. He announced plans to host a workshop on the Integrated Priority List in May, however it is uncertain if budget information will be available. Recommendation 149 was a request for a schedule of budget activities with public involvement opportunities. Mr. Galin noted that unfortunately, the CAB is unable to follow the suggested schedule due to the new structure of the budget process. He stated his hope to institutionalize the process in the future. Mr. Galin commented that the S&LTI Committee voted to close Recommendation 149 and will provide a letter to DOE noting displeasure with budget process in recent years.

Bill Vogele, S&LTI Vice Chair for budget and planning issues, noted meetings with site personnel regarding the planning process, which he thinks is a well-structured process that is limited to the funding provided. He discussed the need for all CAB committees to become financial thinkers and to consider these issues along with the scientific and technical issues. Perry Holcomb suggested that the budget process should be addressed in board recommendations as a matter of practice.

Mel Galin discussed the need to improve CAB involvement in technology development and deployment. He stated this has been lacking and hopes to improve the infusing of substantive technical information in committee work. He was unaware there were 32 innovative technologies deployed in the
Environmental Restoration Division last year until he read of them in their annual report.

David Adcock, S&LTI Vice Chair for Science and Technology solicited the comments and advice of the CAB members regarding how to infuse more technology information in CAB activities. He suggested a checklist for presenters to the Board to highlight technologies considered within the various projects. If the Board is better informed of the technologies considered they hopefully can better influence project direction. He noted a draft checklist to be provided to the CAB Committee Chairs. Tom Heenan is responsible for integration of technology within programs and noted a quarterly review of technologies conducted by DOE and its various contractors. He invited CAB participation in the quarterly review.

**Environmental Remediation Committee Report**

Ed McNamee, Bechtel Savannah River Inc., provided a briefing regarding accelerated Environmental Restoration activities to close ER high risk sites (see handouts). He discussed accelerated closure of five of ER’s highest risk waste sites as a single action. Contaminated soil would be consolidated from four waste sites in the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground. This would reduce the project completion schedule by three years and achieve over 99% risk reduction from the four waste site cleanups. Mr. McNamee also discussed accelerated contaminant reduction in Fourmile Branch by using two alternate and innovative technologies-Base Injection and Phytoremediation with spray irrigation. This would accelerate stream cleanup by three years and achieve an 80% reduction to human health and the environment at the stream. Mr. McNamee next discussed accelerated risk reduction through innovative technologies and improved regulatory processes. Implementation of aggressive source remedial technologies will reduce both the cost and time to achieve cleanup.

Nancy Ann Ciehanski presented the ER Committee’s draft motion regarding Cleanup Reform Appropriations (see handouts). The motion supports the SRS initiatives and asks DOE-Headquarters to fund proposal requests. It also requests a plan of action from SRS and the opportunity to be involved in the review of integrated priority lists and scope revisions involved in ER cleanup effort for out-year budgets. Bill Vogele moved the Board approve the draft motion and Murray Riley seconded. The motion passed unanimously with 24 members in favor.

Ed McNamee provided a presentation regarding the use of the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground as a consolidation unit (see handouts). He discussed the remedial strategy and described the four waste units being cleaned up as part of this consolidated effort and discussed the scope and benefits of the remedial strategy.

Jimmy Mackey presented the committee’s draft motion regarding the General Separations Area Consolidation Unit (see handouts). The motion recommended that SRS utilize the Cleanup Reform Appropriation to request additional funds to accelerate ultimate closure of the General Separations Area Consolidation Unit and that SRS provide the CAB a briefing on the proposed plan including milestones and cost estimates by June 18, 2002. It also asks for a list of any and all additional areas where the consolidation units cleanup approach can be utilized in an accelerated manner. Beckie Dawson moved the Board adopt the motion and Nancy Ann Ciehanski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 24 members in favor.

**Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee met on March 12 in Allendale, S.C. Wade Waters discussed how that meeting transpired and the purpose of the meeting, which was to review the Board’s Bylaws and operations and to determine if any changes were appropriate. The Committee discussed the need to establish a Long Term Stewardship Committee. Jimmy Mackey moved the CAB establish a Long Term Stewardship Committee and Carolyne Williams seconded. Perry Holcomb asked how this committee
would impact the operation of the current LTS Subcommittee and the logistics involved in developing a new committee. Following brief discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Waters stated Nancy Ann Ciehanski had volunteered to Chair the Long Term Stewardship Committee for the remainder of the year. Later during the Administrative Committee Report, Perry Holcomb moved the Board elect Nancy Ann Ciehanski as Chair of the Long Term Stewardship Committee. Following a call for any other nominations, Carolyne Williams second the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Waters noted other issues discussed by the Executive Committee including the transfer of educational duties to the Executive Committee, several bylaws amendments to clarify board procedures, focus groups, the extension of the technical assistance contract for two years and EPA representation.

Jean Sulc presented a draft proposal for a two-day educational retreat (see handouts). Board members agreed the two-day retreat should be held on a Monday and Tuesday in September in a location to be determined.

SSAB Chairs Trip Report

Wade Waters provided a brief trip report of the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs Meeting held April 12-13 in Cincinnati, Ohio (see handouts). Attendees included Mr. Waters, Jean Sulc, Dawn Haygood, Mike Shoener and deLisa Bratcher. He noted the top three issues of concern discussed by each board. The signing of the Groundwater Statements was a notable achievement of the meeting, he stated. He also discussed a presentation by Gene Schmitt, DOE-HQ, regarding the FY03 budget and the Top-to-Bottom Review. He noted the frustration of Hanford, Idaho and Oak Ridge regarding lack of involvement in the Cleanup Reform Appropriation and stated that fortunately he was in a better position to report SRS CAB involvement in the process. Mr. Waters noted discussion regarding concern for DOE’s value of public participation and frustration regarding the Environmental Management Advisory Board. The EMAB has been disbanded and all indications are that it will be a much smaller board. Mr. Waters reported on the Long Term Stewardship presentation provided at the meeting and announced the next SSAB Workshop will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico regarding transuranic waste and will be hosted by the Northern New Mexico CAB.

Jean Sulc commented on the positive relationship the SRS CAB shares with its regulators and further discussed the Cleanup Reform Appropriation process. Wade Waters presented a draft letter (see handouts) for Board consideration to be provided to DOE-SR Manager Greg Rudy in support of SRS initiatives for CRA funding. Following minor modifications, the Board approved the letter by a show of hands.

Administrative Committee Report

Lola Richardson presented proposed bylaws amendments (see handouts). The bylaws amendments clarified several voting procedures, disbanded the Education Committee and reduced the number of years a former Board member must wait before reapplying for Board membership.

Following a few minor clarifying modifications the bylaws amendments were voted on individually as follows:

- Section 3.2 Beckie Dawson moved the board adopt this amendment and Carolyne Williams seconded. The amendment passed by a vote of 22 members in favor.
- Section 4.2 Bill Vogele moved for the adoption of the amendment and Nancy Ann Ciehanski seconded. The amendment passed by a vote of 22 members in favor.
- Section 4.3 Jimmy Mackey moved for the adoption of this amendment and Bill Willoughby
seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 20 members in favor. Meryl Alalof and Carolyne Williams abstained stating they believed the change was redundant and unnecessary.

- Section 5.2 Bill Vogele moved for the adoption of the amendment and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The amendment passed by a vote of 22 members in favor.
- Section 5.6 Jimmy Mackey moved for the adoption of the amendment and Beckie Dawson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 22 members in favor.

**Waste Management Committee Report**

Bill Willoughby proposed to extend the work of the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) Focus Group for an additional year. The Board agreed to the extension by a show of hands.

**Alternatives to Incineration**

Helen Belencan, DOE-HQ provided an update on alternatives to incineration (see handouts). She discussed the DOE-Headquarters evaluation of the complex-wide need for incineration, the evaluation of alternatives for CIF, the creation of the ATIC committee, and stakeholder activities in alternatives to incineration. She provided a timeline from the first evaluation in May 1997 through the upcoming stakeholder forum to be held in June 2002. The HQ evaluation looked at whether there are viable commercial-sector alternatives for waste streams currently targeted for DOE incinerators. Ms. Belencan noted that 1.36 million cubic meters of low-level and mixed-low-level wastes require treatment. She discussed a peer review of the CIF alternatives process and presented the conclusions in the five following areas: approach; weighting factors, technical issues, questions and path forward recommendations. She noted that when the cost factor was removed, the same conclusions were reached. The peer review panel concurred with the selection of a stabilization process for treating organic wastes.

The mission of the Alternative Technologies to Incineration Committee is to examine emerging candidate technologies identified by the Department for treatment for disposal of mixed TRU and low-level wastes previously scheduled for incineration at Idaho. The ATIC facilitates stakeholder comment and communication on issues related to emerging alternative technologies to incineration of these wastes. Although the committee focus is Idaho material, any technologies identified may be applicable elsewhere.

A Stakeholder Forum is scheduled for June 7-8, 2002, in Denver, Colorado to understand the concerns and values of stakeholders regarding technology development and the evaluation process. Bill Willoughby and Perry Holcomb will attend from the SRS CAB.

**CIF Focus Group Update**

Ray Hannah, DOE, provided a CIF Focus Group update. CIF was the treatment option for PUREX and 5,300 gallons were treated prior to CIF suspension in November 2000. There are 37,700 gallons remaining. SCDHEC issued a permit modification placing CIF in suspension mode but it required a decision by April 1, 2002 whether an alternative treatment method would be pursued or if CIF would be restarted. The SRS CAB recommended that CIF remain a viable option until an alternative treatment technology is demonstrated for site PUREX waste. WSRC recommended pursuing alternative treatment and delaying CIF closure until the alternative treatment is demonstrated. This is defined as treating ten percent of the organic. DOE accepted this recommendation and notified SCDHEC of the decision to pursue PUREX alternative treatment and not restart CIF. SRS will continue to further develop stabilization as the treatment alternative and will optimize formulation and scale up testing.

Perry Holcomb presented the committee’s draft motion requesting DOE to verify in writing its plan to
blend the PUREX aqueous waste into the Saltstone feed as soon as practical after the Saltstone Processing Facility is restarted and that the process will be targeted for completion by the end of FY03. The motion also asked for an updated schedule of planned activities to treat PUREX organic waste by direct stabilization by August 27, 2002. Jimmy Mackey moved the Board adopt the motion and Nancy Ann Ciehanski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 22 members in favor.

**SRS Transuranic Waste Shipments to WIPP**

Sonny Goldston, WSRC, provided a presentation regarding SRS transuranic waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (see handouts). SRS plans 12 TRU shipments per year to WIPP through 2014 and increased shipping rates are planned from 2015 through 2034. DOE-Savannah River and the DOE Carlsbad Office negotiated accelerated SRS shipments in exchange for receipt of Mound Site waste. SCDHEC agreed to two drums of waste shipped in exchange for each Mound drum equivalent received. This 2-to-1 ratio agreement is for drums shipped over and above the baseline 12 shipments per year already planned. Eighty shipments are planned in FY02.

WIPP currently is limited to approximately 25 shipments per week. DOE commitments to Rocky Flats and Idaho have obligated virtually all shipping capacity in FY02, therefore availability of TRUPACT II shipping containers is limiting near-term SRS shipments to WIPP. The entire TRU program could be accelerated through additional funding under the Cleanup Reform Appropriation. Mr. Goldston discussed the accelerated schedule being proposed and the risk reduction achieved by the proposal.

Jerry Devitt presented the committee’s draft motion requesting that DOE-HQ allocate the necessary number of TRUPACT II containers for SRS to meet its FY02 commitment of a minimum 12 shipments. It also requests that DOE-HQ accelerate shipments of TRU waste from SRS by expanding capabilities such as HANDSS-55 and authorizations to package higher loading of Pu-238 and Pu239 to maximize SRS risk reduction. Jimmy Mackey moved the Board adopt the motion and Meryl Alalof seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 22 members in favor.

**Nuclear Materials Committee Report**

Ken Goad announced that William Lawrence will Vice Chair the Nuclear Materials Committee.

William Lawrence announced that a workshop to be held May 20 to discuss F-Canyon suspension.

**Depleted Uranium Oxide Disposition**

Phil Breidenbach, WSRC, provided a presentation regarding depleted uranium oxide disposition (see handouts). Depleted uranium oxide is Uranium 238, a byproduct of the plutonium separation process that is a yellowish solid similar to sand. It has been stored at SRS for many years without incident. The hazards associated with this material are radiological, toxicological and industrial and are well understood and the risks are low. There is a large quantity of these materials, approximately 36,000 drums stored onsite. Mr. Breidenbach showed pictures of the building used to store these materials in typical storage arrays. He discussed storage improvements and the inspection program, which includes monthly habitability surveys, quarterly inspections of all drums and buildings, annual review of drum movements and annual inspections of the building roofs. Water intrusion is causing building structural corrosion and worsened conditions for some drums. Results from a recent corrosion study recommended the elimination of standing water, repair to buildings and increased corrosion monitoring frequency. Options to resolve storage issues for 3000 drums include disposal at Envirocare of Utah, the Nevada Test Site or through the High Level Waste System. Mr. Breidenbach presented cost associated
Board members questioned drum integrity, shipment of drums, what other sites have similar materials, the current costs for storage (approximately $300,000 a year), and what factors impact the final disposition decision, which will primarily be based on costs.

**H-Canyon Tank Space Management**

Ron Oprea, WSRC, provided a presentation regarding H-Canyon tank space management (see handouts). He provided background information regarding H-Canyon, which has operated since 1955. It recovers uranium-235 from fuel rods from on and off-site reactors and also can recover neptunium-237 and plutonium-238 & 239. H Canyon is now preparing for a mission to blend down highly enriched uranium that will eventually be used as fuel in commercial power reactors. Mr. Oprea briefly described the H-Canyon process and completed stabilization activities. He discussed the disposition path for uranium and the mission to blend down highly-enriched uranium (HEU) with natural uranium to be used as fuel by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). He also discussed capital improvements necessary to execute the HEU blendown interagency agreement with TVA and key milestones for the program. Board members questioned why HEU uranium could not be blended with depleted uranium, which was not acceptable to TVA.

**Public Comments**

Sarah Barczak, Georgians for Clean Energy, stated she is the Safe Energy Director for her organization in the Savannah field office where she resides. Georgians for Clean Energy is a statewide organization with members through Georgia and have focused on energy and nuclear concerns for 18 years. Georgians for Clean Energy, along with many other organizations and citizens, is very concerned about the number of significant changes that have occurred in the plutonium disposition program planned for SRS. She urged the Board to investigate these changes and support the need for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to be conducted before any plutonium shipments are sent to SRS. She stated her organization is gravely concerned about the recent amended Record of Decision filed by DOE listed in the Federal Register on April 19, 2002 in which DOE cancelled the immobilization portion of the program; selected an alternative of immediate implementation of long-term storage at SRS of surplus non-pit plutonium now stored at Rocky Flats; and adjusted the manner in which surplus plutonium pits will be stored at the Pantex Plant in Texas. Additionally, the DOE’s February 15 Report to Congress: Disposition of Surplus Defense Plutonium at SRS, essentially recommends the need to add at least two additional, unnamed nuclear reactors for MOX use. Ms. Barczak stated that these substantial changes, among other not commented on, underscore the need under the National Environmental Policy Act regulations to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement that needs to be completed prior to the shipment of plutonium to SRS, which are now being so hotly protested by South Carolina’s own Governor Jim Hodges along with other citizens. Ms. Barczak also read a March 14, 2002, letter from Georgians for Clean Energy sent to General John Gordon requesting the supplemental EIS (see handouts).

Following Ms. Barczak’s comments there was discussion regarding clarification of the plutonium issue as a non-proliferation issue that was not within the SRS CAB’s purview.

Perry Holcomb provided written comments regarding the March 12 Executive Committee meeting and lack of notification regarding the meeting (see handouts). He stated his displeasure with how this meeting had occurred and requested that all SRS CAB members be notified of future meetings.

**Monday, April 22, 2002 Public Comment Session**
Billy Grayson, Sierra Club, noted he had worked for DOE in Oregon and looked at many of the concerns of the site specific advisory boards. He noted the Sierra Club had 20,000 members. He stated they don’t feel that Yucca Mountain is adequate for disposal. He stated SRS should not be burdened with nuclear waste from other states. He commented that the Sierra Club does not want trucks on state roads. He also announced that a public meeting to protect public health and not the polluters would be held Tuesday, April 23 at the Savannah Civil Rights Museum at 7 p.m.

**Handouts**

Agenda, April 23, 2002  
Summary of Proposal to Amend the SRS CAB Bylaws on April 23, 2002, Lola Richardson, CAB  
James G. Sanders, Director Skidaway Institute of Oceanography  
Operations Update, April 2002  
SRS CAB Recommendation Status Changes  
SRS CAB Recommendation Summary  
Letter to Ms. Jessie H. Roberson, dated April 16, 2002  
Accelerate Environmental Restoration Risk Reduction and Program Completion, Ed McNamee, WSRC  
Cleanup Reform Appropriations, Draft Motion  
Use of the Old Radioactive Waste Burials Ground as a Consolidation Unit, Ed McNamee, WSRC  
General Separations Area Consolidation Unit, Draft Motion  
SRS CAB EM Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs Meeting Trip Report, April 12-13, 2002  
Draft Letter to Greg Rudy, dated April 23, 2002  
Rough Draft, Proposal for Two-Day Education Retreat  
SRS CAB Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Summary  
Update: Alternatives to Incineration, Helen Belencan, DOE-HQ  
18600 Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 73, April 16, 2002  
Letter to Gerald Boyd, dated January 16, 2002  
Criteria for Technology Demonstration and Implementation, Helen Belencan, DOE-HQ  
SRS Transuranic Waste Shipments to WIPP, Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
TRU Waste Priority and Offsite Shipments, Draft Motion  
Consolidated Incineration Facility Focus Group Update, Ray Hannah, DOE  
PUREX Waste Alternative Treatment Evaluation, Draft Motion  
Depleted Uranium Oxide Disposition, Philip Breidenbach, WSRC  
H Canyon Tank Space Management, Ron Oprea, WSRC  
NEPA Monthly Report  
SRS CAB Calendar  
Comment Presented to SRS CAB, Perry Holcomb  
Comments of Georgians for Clean Energy

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

*Approved July 23, 2002*