



## SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

### July 2002 Meeting Minutes

#### SRS Citizens Advisory Board

July 22-23, 2002  
Adam's Mark Hotel  
Columbia, SC

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#### Members Present

David Adcock  
Meryl Alalof  
Nancy Ann Ciehanski  
Ann Shaw Dalton  
Beckie Gaston-Dawson  
Gerald Devitt  
Mel Galin  
Ken Goad  
Perry Holcomb  
William Lawrence  
J.G. Long

#### Stakeholders

Andrew Smith  
Craig Williamson  
Lynn Waishwell  
Todd Davis  
Mike French  
Howard Dawson  
Herman Mischner  
Tiajuana Cochnauer  
Brendolyn Jenkins

Jimmy Mackey  
Dorene Richardson  
Murray Riley  
Mary Stringer  
Jean Sulc  
Bill Vogele  
Wade Waters  
Gloria Williams-Way  
Bill Willoughby

#### Regulators

Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC  
Craig Mariner, SCDHEC

#### Ex-Officio Representatives

Charlie Anderson, DOE  
Tom Heenan, DOE  
Jim Barksdale, EPA  
Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC  
Jim Sanders, GA

#### DOE/Contractors

Jeff Allison, DOE  
Bill Brasel, DOE  
Becky Craft, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
Michele Ewart, DOE  
Virgil Sauls, DOE  
Jim Buice, DOE  
Karen Hooker, DOE  
Dave Amerine, WSRC  
Teresa Haas, WSRC  
Lyddie Broussard, WSRC  
Helen Villasor, WSRC  
Dawn Haygood, WSC  
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Kelly Way, WSRC  
Chris Bergren, WSRC  
Troy Donahue, WSRC  
Clay Jones, WSRC  
David Burke, WSRC  
Kim Hauer, WSRC

Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members Judy Barnett, Vera Barnes Jordan, Lola Richardson, Heather Simmons and Carolyne Williams 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.

Jim St. Clair, representative for Congressman Joe Wilson welcomed the SRS CAB to Columbia, S.C. noting the Congressman's interests in the same issues as SRS CAB.

### **Key Decisions Made by the Board**

#### **Recommendation 154- Full-scale Dynamic Underground Stripping**

The SRS CAB recommended that DOE approve and immediately appropriate the necessary funding to fully implement the DUS full-scale project at SRS and meet baseline schedules and milestones. It also asked DOE to promote exchange of DUS successes at other sites and to provide information to the SRS CAB by December 31 regarding the effects of elevated temperatures in the subsurface to the indigenous microorganisms in the soil.

#### **Recommendation 155-TRU Waste Shipment Acceleration**

The SRS CAB requested that DOE provide the resources to implement the accelerated schedule and for DOE to review DOE Order 435.1 and related documents and report to the SRS CAB by January 21, 2003 on the possibility of expected ramifications of raising the TRU waste threshold level. It also requests DOE review of the available disposal paths for newly defined waste streams and any potential disposal paths for current TRU wastes besides WIPP that are environmentally acceptable with no increase in risks to SRS workers or the public.

#### **Recommendation 156- F Canyon Suspension**

SRS CAB supports the suspension of F-Canyon operations but recommended that DOE only implement suspension activities that can be reversed until the concerns raised by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board have been resolved. The Board also requested a material management plan, which identifies the types of material requiring disposal, the proposed disposition path and the funding mechanism to accomplish the proposed treatment/disposal. The Board asked DOE to begin immediate planning for alternatives for future processing needs of the nuclear materials program as a replacement for the present stabilization process and dedicate funding for it in lieu of spending resources to maintain aging facilities.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

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

### **Agency Update**

Tom Heenan, DOE welcomed Jeff Allison, Acting Manager of SRS to address the Board. Mr. Allison has been at SRS for seven years primarily involved in Health and Safety. He stated he plans to be acting for three to six months. Assistant Secretary Roberson has posted the position for DOE-SR Site Manager. Mr. Allison thanked the Board for support and discussed DOE value for Board input. He noted how Board recommendations have helped DOE strengthen its programs. He also announced that SRS is to receive \$216 million in accelerated funding bringing the SRS FY2003 budget to \$1.3 billion, which he feels is sufficient to meet SRS goals. He discussed SRS interaction with DOE-HQ regarding the Performance Management Plan (PMP), noting a recent visit by Paul Golan. He discussed additional emphasis on the waste program and shipping waste offsite with the focus on the Transuranic Waste Program. Mr. Allison stated SRS would go after what he refers to as low hanging fruit to reduce the footprint, noting that DOE-HQ has stressed the need to get rid of inactive facilities. Tom Heenan provided the July Operations Update and discussed program performance (see handouts).

Jim Barksdale noted EPA has looked at the PMP and remarked that it is very ambitious and multi-faceted, however it does not speak directly to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). He stated there is no reason that the FFA cannot be dovetailed with the PMP. He noted that one of the performance measurements of EPA is Records of Decision and how well federal facilities are doing as a whole. He stated SRS is ahead and setting the standard for the number of RODs issued.

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC noted the recent additional funding to the Environmental Restoration program and plans to accelerate cleanup, which he considers exciting. The challenge is the PMP, which has ambitious goals that involve innovative thinking and regulatory support, he said. Mr. Collinsworth stated that SCDHEC looks forward to working with the site to meet PMP goals.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were received on Monday, July 22 or during the morning session of the July 23 meeting.

### **Facilitator Update**

Mike Schoener provided a recommendation status report noting that 15 recommendations are pending, 10 are open and 128 are closed. He also presented the proposed agenda for an Education Retreat to be held September 23-24 in Charleston, S.C. Bill Vogele requested committees to look at the following recommendations for status consideration: 27, 108, 113 and 128. Jimmy Mackey announced the following status changes: Recommendations 150 and 122 from open to closed. He noted a letter from EPA which stated SRS is coming off the impaired waters list.

Mike Schoener also discussed a change in the CAB meeting structure for 2003. The Executive Committee suggested a bi-monthly meeting schedule for 2003 with committees meeting in a combined session on Mondays from 1-6 p.m. followed by public comments. Sixteen members were in favor of the proposed change and no one opposed.

A Site Specific Advisory Board Transuranic Waste Workshop will be held in Carlsbad, NM January 29-February 1. Wade Waters asked Board members who are interested in attending to submit their name for consideration.

Jean Sulc presented a draft letter to provide to DOE-Headquarters regarding the Cleanup Reform Appropriation. The Board voted to provide the letter by a show of hands with 17 members in favor.

### **Environmental Remediation Committee Report**

Chris Bergren, BSRI, provided a briefing on a Dynamic Underground Stripping (DUS) project (see handouts). He discussed the remediation history of A/M area where approximately 3.5 million pounds of chlorinated solvent was discharged. A phased remediation program has been ongoing since the 1980's. To date, over 1.2 million pounds of solvents have been extracted from the subsurface. Technologies used include Pump & Treat, Soil Vapor Extraction and recirculation wells for plume containment. DUS was developed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley with DOE funding. It greatly accelerates groundwater cleanup schedules. Mr. Bergren discussed the DUS project noting full operations began in September 2000 and was completed one year later. Success criteria were met and extraction concentrations were protective of groundwater. Post remediation characterization has started at the Solvent Storage Tank Area. A second project for the Western Sector is being designed to reduce the effort and schedule of pump-and-treat and vapor extraction methods. The source area is a high-risk impact to the regional aquifer and received an estimated 2 million pounds of waste volatile organic compounds. Mr. Bergren presented a conceptual flow diagram of the project.

Committee Chair Jimmy Mackey presented the ER Committee draft motion regarding the full-scale DUS project (see handouts). The motion recommended that DOE approve and immediately appropriate the necessary funding under the Cleanup Reform Appropriation to fully implement the DUS full-scale project at SRS and meet current schedules and milestones. It also requests DOE to promote exchange of DUS successes at other sites and asks SRS to provide information to the SRS CAB by December 31 on the effects of elevated temperatures in the subsurface to the indigenous microorganisms in the soil and the length of time the soil may remain sterile and perform an analysis on the potential long term effects on the DUS project being considered under the CRA. Following brief clarifications and modifications, Bill Voegel moved the Board adopts the motion and Perry Holcomb seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 20 members in favor.

Jimmy Mackey announced that Dorene Richardson is co-chair of the Environmental Restoration Committee.

### **Waste Management Committee Report**

Bill Willoughby provided a trip report on the Alternative Technologies to Incineration Stakeholder Forum held June 7-8, 2002. The purpose of the forum was to facilitate an exchange of information among technical experts, regulators and concerned stakeholders and identifying stakeholder values and concerns that DOE should consider in its technology development and evaluation process. There were two major parts to the agenda including a half-day session on background presentations and a full day session on facilitated stakeholder discussion focused on "values and concerns." The following alternative technologies are under DOE consideration:

- Plasma Arc Systems and DC Arc Melters
- Reverse Polymerization
- Steam Reforming
- Supercritical Water Oxidation
- Mediated Electrochemical Oxidation
- Solvated Electron Dehalogenation
- Thermal Desorption

The product of the form is a brief summary document of the presentations and facilitated discussion (see handouts). The document includes 613 suggested action items for DOE, 60 values and 20 concerns which represent the thoughts of individual participants. SRS participants felt that incineration should not be abandoned out of hand and that DOE should keep an open mind when dealing with individual low-level waste and mixed low-level waste disposal. None of the alternatives have been compared to incineration, therefore, it is not possible to determine a preferred alternative. Perry Holcomb's personal observations were provided as well (see handouts).

### **Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipments**

Virgil Sauls, DOE, provided an update of the SRS Transuranic Waste Shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (see handouts). WIPP and DOE-Headquarters have committed to providing the necessary resources to meet the shipping commitment of 16 shipments in FY02. Two shipments have been completed and starting in August, 1-2 shipments will be provided per week. In FY03, shipments are scheduled to continue at 1-2 per week ramping up to 2-3 per week. At the end of FY03 the number of shipments made will be equal to the number of shipments originally planned to be complete by FY10. If momentum continues in FY04 and beyond, this accelerated schedule will reduce risk 20 years earlier for low activity waste and 19 years earlier for high activity waste.

Bill Willoughby presented the committee's draft motion regarding transuranic waste shipments (see handouts). It requests DOE to provide the funding to implement the accelerated schedule and for DOE-HQ to review DOE Order 435.1 and report to the SRS CAB by January 21, 2003 on the possibility of

expected ramifications of raising the TRU waste threshold level. It also requests DOE-HQ review of the available disposal paths for newly defined waste streams and any potential disposal paths for current TRU wastes besides WIPP that are environmentally acceptable with no increase in risks to SRS workers or the public. Following discussion regarding DOE Order 435.1 and waste definition and minor modifications to the motion, Bill Voegel moved the Board approve the recommendation and Jimmy Mackey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 20 members in favor.

#### Americium Curium Disposition

Kim Hauer, WSRC, provided a briefing on the Americium Curium (Am/Cm) Disposition (see handouts). The goals of the AmCm program are to safely reduce risk and immobilize AmCm material in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and to transfer AmCm material from F-Canyon to Tank 51H for early immobilization. Mr. Hauer discussed the F-Canyon transfer route, the high level waste AmCm transfer route and AmCm disposition. One hundred percent of AmCm material goes to DWPF as direct feed with 70 percent of Tank 51 material fed to DWPF as Sludge Batch 3 and 30 percent of Tank 51 material reserved to blend with Tank 11 sludge for Sludge Batch 4. Risks are evaluated and managed at multiple levels for the program, project and operations. The AmCm safety strategy is a combination of two base operations: base receipts and inter-area line transfers. AmCm disposition creates no new hazards. Mr. Hauer discussed AmCm project scope and the transfer interface schedule, which is scheduled for completion March 30, 2003. AmCm project cost is forecasted at \$19 million. Mr. Hauer summarized that AmCm transfer to high level waste is safe, similar to base operations, reduces AmCm risk via immobilization and is on schedule with no showstoppers.

#### **Nuclear Materials Committee**

Ken Goad asked the Board to close the following four open recommendations: 139, 127, 128 and 109.

David Burke, WSRC, provided a presentation regarding plutonium storage in K-Area (see handouts). He discussed the plutonium storage concept and then showed a video regarding K-Area Material Storage (KAMS). The KAMS storage concept is stable material in robust containers, stored in a hardened and secure facility, with virtually no risk of release of plutonium to the public, worker or environment. Mr. Burke discussed the DOE 3013 standard for material stabilization and containment. He also discussed Department of Transportation Certified 9975 Storage Packaging and the nested configuration of containers. He discussed accident analysis in which 26 credible events were analyzed from natural phenomena to process/handling accidents. He also discussed safety controls to prevent release, multiple surveillance programs and security. Board member questions revolved around storage capabilities, quality assurance and controls, assaying, Savannah River Acceptance Requirements and the metric tons expected.

Ken Goad presented a draft motion regarding F Canyon Suspension, which recognized the potential merits and cost savings of discontinuing an already old operation that has limited materials to process and limited life expectancy. At the same time, the SRS CAB wants assurance that disposition paths for potential materials that could be processed in F Canyon are clearly defined. The motion stated that the SRS CAB supports the suspension of F-Canyon operations but recommended that DOE only implement suspension activities that can be reversed until the concerns raised by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board have been resolved. The Board also requested a material management plan, which identifies the types of material requiring disposal, the proposed disposition path and the funding mechanism to accomplish the proposed treatment/disposal. The motions asks DOE to begin immediate planning for alternatives for future processing needs of the nuclear materials program as a replacement for the present stabilization process and dedicate funding for it in lieu of spending resources to maintain aging facilities. Beckie Dawson moved the Board accept the motion and William Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of twenty members in favor.

#### **Long Term Stewardship Committee**

Nancy Ann Ciehanski provided a committee update noting a meeting held July 10 and the interest in having long term stewardship addressed in all presentations to the CAB. She also noted the committee's interest in the PMP, the End State Plan, and new technologies. She announced committee meetings will be held August 7 and August 26.

### **Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee**

Mel Galin announced a name change for the Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee to Strategic Initiatives. He announced a draft motion regarding presentations to the SRS CAB and guidelines to DOE for topics for inclusion in CAB presentations such as budget information, technologies, planning, and long term stewardship.

Clay Jones, WSRC, provided a presentation on Program Planning, Prioritization and Decision Making (see handouts). Mr. Jones noted that decision making is ultimately a management responsibility. DOE provides execution guidance. Contractors make recommendations and then Savannah River submits requests to EM Headquarters. DOE-HQ submits requests to OMB and then OMB submits to Congress. The decision making process utilizes multiple processes and tools to facilitate reaching good decisions. The bottom line is a balancing act between competing drivers and pressures. Mr. Jones discussed key types of decisions, examples of recent decisions and decision criteria. Decisions are influenced by stakeholder considerations, regulatory acceptability, national priorities, congressional support, local political support, and SRS credibility.

Mr. Jones discussed the federal budget process and SRS budget development. He discussed prioritization processes and tools and a EM budget categories, a new tool with this administration that breaks down activities by:

1. Established pathways for closure and/or cleanup
2. Waste, materials and facilities disposition operations
3. "Caretaker" activities
4. DOE-wide environmental services and missions
5. Other

Mr. Jones discussed the Integrated Priority List (IPL) and IPL criteria. Another tool, the Peer Review Project List (PRPL) was developed from a cross-complex peer review process and is used by HQ to evaluate site submittals and budget allocations. The PRPL provides another way of looking at project/program and site priorities. Mr. Jones discussed the drivers and compliance categories for the PRPL and showed a sample list matrix and described the relationship of IPL to the PRPL.

In summary, Mr. Jones stated that decisions are made at many levels with opportunities for CAB participation. Tools facilitate decision making and provide a means to compare different programs.

### **Administrative Committee Report**

Beckie Dawson reported that the 2002-03 membership selection process began in June. Membership candidate selection will be conducted on Monday, August 26 in Beaufort, S.C. Elections will be held in January 2003.

### **Closing Comments**

Tom Heenan provided closing comments to the SRS CAB noting he will be leaving the Board in 2002 to retire from the Department of Energy. Mr. Heenan was honored for his nine years of support with an award presentation.

## **Handouts**

Agenda, July 23, 2002  
Operations Update, July 2002  
DOE News Release, dated July 12, 2002  
SRS CAB Recommendation Status Report  
Proposal for two-day Education Retreat  
Letter to The Honorable Spencer Abraham from SRS CAB, dated July 23, 2002  
Dynamic Underground Stripping Project, Chris Bergren, BSRI  
Full-Scale Dynamic Underground Stripping, Jimmy Mackey, CAB  
Trip Report, Alternatives Technologies to Incineration Stakeholders Forum, Bill Willoughby, CAB  
Trip Report Summary, Bill Willoughby, CAB  
Alternative Technologies to Incineration Forum, Perry Holcomb, CAB  
SRS Transuranic Waste Shipments to WIPP, Virgil Sauls, DOE  
TRU Waste Shipment Acceleration, Bill Willoughby, CAB  
Americium Curium Disposition, Kim Hauer, WSRC  
Safe, Secure Plutonium Storage in K Area Material Storage, David Burke, WSRC  
F-Canyon Suspension, Ken Goad, CAB  
White Paper, Long Term Stewardship, Nancy Ann Ciehanski, CAB  
Program Planning, Prioritization and Decision Making, Clay Jones, WSRC  
SRS CAB 2002-03 Membership Selection Process Schedule  
SRS CAB Calendar  
NEPA Monthly Status Report

***Approved October 22, 2002***

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