

**Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 24 - 25, 2008  
Columbia, SC**

**Monday, March 24, 2008, Attendance**

SRS CAB Members

Donna Antonucci  
Manuel Bettencourt  
Donald Bridges  
Edward Burke  
Leon Chavous  
Art Domby  
Mary Drye  
Alan Eckmyre  
Kathe Golden  
Judith Greene-McLeod  
Lee Harley-Fitts  
Kuppuswamy Jayaraman  
Ranowul Jzar  
Denise Long  
Wendell Lyon  
Madeleine Marshall  
Joe Ortaldo  
Beverly Skinner  
Skye Vereen  
John Roberson  
Sarah Watson  
Alex Williams

Agency Liaisons

Patrick McGuire, DOE  
Robert Pope, EPA  
Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC  
James Brownlow, SCDHEC

Regulators

Heather Cathcart, SCDHEC  
Carolyn Haugabook, EPA  
Kim Newell, SCDHEC

Stakeholders

Gary Benda  
Tom Clements  
Tiajuana Cochnauer, USFS-SR  
Karen Patterson

DOE/Contractors

Helen Belencan, DOE  
Soni Blanco, DOE  
Becky Craft, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
Dawn Gillas, DOE  
Sheron Smith, DOE  
Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Jenny Freeman, V3  
Rick McLeod, V3  
Eddie Watson, V3  
Debbie Wisham, V3

The Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB) Facilitator, Jenny Freeman, opened the meeting by stating the meeting rules and inviting participation from the public during the meeting. Members not in attendance were Mercredi Giles and Stanley Howard.

**Strategic and Legacy Management (S&LM) Committee, Madeleine Marshall - Chair**

Committee Chair Madeleine Marshall stated that the S&LM Committee would be covering the 2008 Work Plan topic during the upcoming year. Some of the topics are development and use of technology, the SRS budget and decision-making process, future land use, legacy management and long-term stewardship, historic preservation and relevant national environmental policy. She encouraged all members new and continuing to consider joining the S&LM committee. She stated that the February 12<sup>th</sup> S&LM committee meeting received a briefing on the SRS budget and at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting they received an update on the corporate performance measures. Ms. Marshall stated that budget briefing would be presented again on that day to the full board and the corporate performance measures update would be presented on Tuesday.

**Presentation – Budget Briefing – Jeanie Schwier, DOE-SR**

Ms. Schwier, Deputy Manager for Business, gave an overview of the SRS Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Her budget summary briefly described the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Budget area, Planned Accomplishments in 2009, and CAB Input to Integrated Priority List (IPL). She stated that the 2008 budget was exceptionally close to the 2007 budget line in comparison. In addition, she presented a summary of the year's 2007 to 2009 budget appropriation for Environmental Management (EM) and NNSA. She listed many of the EM planned accomplishments for FY 2009. Concluding her presentation, Ms. Schwier discussed the DOE Budget flow process.

Donna Antonucci asked if a Certified Baseline document was available for the CAB to review. Ms. Schwier indicated those should be possible.

Joe Ortaldo asked if the FY 2010 Project Baseline Summary (PBS) report could be redesigned into a report with three columns entitled: 1) submitted; 2) president agreed; and 3) congress appropriation. He asked this in order to show the delta's created in changes to the budget and the impacts.

Ms. Antonucci asked if the line showing the period for CAB review the EM Budget, on page 8 of the slide presentation, could be extended through the block "HQ CFO Review and Consolidate".

#### Draft Letter – FY2010 Integrated Priority List Input

Chair Madeleine Marshall presented the draft letter which offers comments on the DOE-SR FY 2010 (Integrated Priority List (IPL) and the Five-Year Plan.

CAB Members discussed and made changes to the draft letter and will vote on approval and submittal the following day.

#### Draft Recommendation Motion – FY 2010 Integrated Priority List and Budget Process Input

The SRS CAB finds it difficult to set priorities without a clear picture of what is actually been accomplished, what is in progress, and what needs to be accomplished. Therefore, an information product for the CAB that lists active PBS's, a brief activity description for each and their budgeted amounts for each relevant year including the amount requested by the DOE-SR, the amount requested by the President's budget, the amount approved by Congress would be extremely helpful.

The SRS CAB recommends the following concerning the budget process:

1. By May 19, 2008, or before, the onset of the embargo date, whichever occurs sooner, DOE-SR provide the SRS CAB with any new budget information that is available including the information requested above, as well as an assessment of project impact if the amounts for each PBS change significantly as the budget evolves.
2. DOE-SR investigate cost saving efficiencies within each PBS and inform the SRS CAB when significant funds (greater than \$500,000) can be reallocated.
3. With the considerable success and momentum of the legacy TRU Waste Disposition program, DOE-SR investigates expediting the funding to complete the program ahead of schedule.
4. DOE-SR provides adequate and sustained funding to continue the utilization of H-Area's capability for all current and planned future missions. The unique capabilities of H-Canyon were recognized by the SRS CAB back in 1999 and since then the SRS CAB has recommended that it be retained in an operational status as a process for current and future stabilization missions.
5. DOE-SR ensures that all established regulatory milestones can be accomplished through the PBS structure. Since regulatory commitment cycles may be different from the DOE budget cycle, if reallocation between PBS categories is required to meet these commitments then ensure that enough flexibility exists in the PBS description and scope to make the necessary transfer of funds.

**Nuclear Materials Committee**, Manuel Bettencourt - Chair  
Judith Greene McLeod – Vice Chair

Committee Chair Manuel Bettencourt reported that the Nuclear Materials committee had a meeting on March 11, 2008 the meeting had an update from NNSA MOX update by Bill Clark and Sam Glenn. He also requested that Recommendation 177 be closed based on the disposal of plutonium

**Waste Management Committee**, Joe Ortaldo – Chair  
Art Domby – Vice Chair (Liquid Waste)  
Alex Williams – Vice Chair (Solid Waste)

Committee Chair Joe Ortaldo gave an overview of the SRS areas and building the Waste Management committee monitors. He reported that on February 26, 2008 the committee held a meeting and a joint committee meeting was held on March 11, 2008 with the Nuclear Materials committee. Mr. Ortaldo stated that the meeting mentioned at the

January 2008 board meeting scheduled for February 26, 2008 with representatives from NRC, EPA, SCDHEC, DOE-HQ, and DOE-SR was postponed until April 15, 2008. He stated that the meeting will be an interesting meeting with topics such as waste disposition, scheduling, and points of compliance. He added that representatives from NRC, EPA, SCDHEC, DOE-HQ, and DOE-SR should be present and invited anyone who is interested to attend.

**Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee**, *Mary Drye - Chair*  
*K. Jayaraman – Vice Chair*

Committee Chair Mary Drye reported that P-Reactor Workshops have been occurred and she, with the concurrence of Chairperson, Donna Antonucci, moves to close Recommendation 248 which requested the workshops to take place. She also stated the Mr. Ray Hanna will give an update to the group on the status of the P Reactor Workshops on the following day.

**Administrative Committee**, *Sarah Watson – Chair*

Committee Chair Sarah Watson reported that six new members of the board were approved recently by DOE Headquarters (HQ) and two members were approved locally by Mr. Jeff Allison because they were alternate for members who resigned from the board. In addition, she stated that member Franklin Boulineau recently resigned from the board due to health reasons therefore the total number of members on the board stands at twenty-four.

She stated that the Administrative committee meeting was held earlier that day and that Mr. Joe Ortaldo presented information to the committee concerning institutional memory members. She said that the decision was made that the board currently provides for attendance of former members at meeting and budget information will be investigated further in the future. She said members are encouraged to provide topics and articles for the CAB Newsletter. She stated that Mr. Chris Woods presented information concerning online committee meeting and the CAB Website and more information will be provided earlier.

Ms. Watson stated that each member will receive a personal notebook with a copy of the CAB Standard Operating Procedure, Work Plan, Internal Processes, and other relevant CAB member information. She also stated that the notebooks will be updated occasionally and members should try to bring them to all board meetings.

**Public Comments**

Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth, stated that DOE and the Bush administration is proposing program to reprocess spent commercial fuel called Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

*~ End of Public Comments ~*

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, March 25, 2008, Attendance

### SRS CAB Members

Donna Antonucci  
Manuel Bettencourt  
Donald Bridges  
Edward Burke  
Leon Chavous  
Art Domby  
Mary Drye  
Alan Eckmyre  
Kathe Golden  
Judith Greene-McLeod  
Lee Harley-Fitts  
Kuppuswamy Jayaraman  
Ranowul Jzar  
Denise Long  
Wendell Lyon  
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Joe Ortaldo  
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James Brownlow, SCDHEC

### Regulators

Heather Cathcart, SCDHEC  
Van Keisler, SCDHEC  
Carolyn Haugabook, EPA  
Kim Newell, SCDHEC

### Stakeholders

Gary Benda  
Tom Clements  
Tiajuana Cochnauer, USFS-SR  
Karen Patterson

### DOE/Contractors

Helen Belencan, DOE  
Soni Blanco, DOE  
Becky Craft, DOE  
Sylvia Ellis, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
Dawn Gillas, DOE  
David Hel, DOE  
Sheron Smith, DOE  
Jean Ridley, DOE  
Linda Quarles, DOE  
Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Mtesa Wright, WSRC  
John Occhipinti, WSRC  
Jenny Freeman, V3  
Rick McLeod, V3  
Mindy Mets, V3  
Eddie Watson, V3  
Debbie Wisham, V3

SRS CAB members Mercredi Giles and Stanley Howard were unable to attend. Al Frazier, Agency Liaison for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources was also unable to attend. The meeting opened with Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR, serving as Deputy Designated Federal Official. Jenny Freeman served as facilitator and Rick McLeod was present as the CAB's Technical Advisor. The meeting was open to the public and posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

### Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the January 28-29, 2008 Full Board meeting were approved by the CAB with no changes.

### Agency Updates

#### Department of Energy

Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO) to the CAB, announced recent management assignments within DOE-SR as follows:

- Zack Smith - Federal Project Director for Salt Waste Processing Facility
- Sandy Johnson - Acting Deputy Manager for Clean Up
- Helen Belencan - Acting Assistant Manager for Closure Projects
- Terry Spears – Remains Assistant Manager of Waste Disposition project, but has also been selected to serve as Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official for the CAB along with Patrick McGuire.

Additionally, Mr. McGuire addressed three main areas: *Waste Disposition, Nuclear Materials Stabilization and Disposition, and Soil & Groundwater and D&D*. He also provided an update on the *A-Area Powerhouse Replacement* project as described below.

#### *Waste Disposition*

Mr. McGuire discussed Salt Waste Disposition. He noted that SRS is the only site in the DOE complex disposing of salt waste. Mr. McGuire explained that SRS met a Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) commitment to demonstrate the viability of its Deliquification, Dissolution and Adjustment (DDA) process by dispositioning 100,000 gallons of DDA salt solution in the SRS Saltstone Facility. Over 1,000,000 gallons of DDA salt waste have been processed in the SRS Saltstone Facility.

Mr. McGuire addressed the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Extraction Unit (MCU). He explained that the ARP/MCU processes will enable efficient treatment and disposal of liquid salt waste contained in SRS waste tanks prior to the startup of the Salt Waste Processing Facility. Mr. McGuire said that DOE completed the Operational Readiness Review in February 2008 and is validating the closure of all corrective actions from the process. Washington Savannah River Company declared readiness to begin hot operations on March 18, 2008. DOE-SR approval of startup of ARP/MCU is expected on March 31, 2008. The project will complete on schedule and approximately \$27M below cost. Mr. McGuire expects deliberate operations to begin mid-April with the introduction of waste from Tank 49.

Regarding the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), Mr. McGuire explained that site demolition and grading activities continue. Procurements and construction activities are progressing on schedule. Construction of the Administrative Building is scheduled to begin in April. Final approval for the start of full construction activities (Critical Decision 3) is scheduled for August. Currently, the project is on schedule to meet the baseline completion date of November 2013.

#### *Nuclear Materials Stabilization and Disposition:*

Mr. McGuire addressed the processing of Plutonium/Beryllium (PuBe) material completed in the H-Canyon facility March 13, 2008. Though the actual amount processed was less than 1% of the 12.8 metric tons (MT) of surplus Pu, Mr. McGuire noted the significance. He explained that neither the Mixed Oxide Facility nor Plutonium Disposition Projects were being designed to handle this material. The majority of PuBe solution (as well as other surplus plutonium solutions) have been transferred from H-Canyon to the liquid waste system for inclusion in the Defense Waste Processing Facility sludge batch #5. Mr. McGuire reported that transfers will be complete by June 2008.

In his update to the CAB, Mr. McGuire said that H-Canyon began receiving and processing Super-Kukla material in support of Y-12 (Oak Ridge) de-inventory efforts. He explained that this material represents about two-thirds of the 7.5 MT of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) materials that will be dispositioned in H-Canyon as part of the Enriched Uranium Disposition Project. The uranium will be blended down to less than a 5% low-enriched uranium solution and sent offsite to be fabricated into reactor fuel. As Mr. McGuire discussed, the Super-Kukla campaign is approximately 10% complete.

Another topic discussed by Mr. McGuire was the Plutonium Disposition (PuD) Project. He noted that DOE-SR is revising the *Pu Disposition Alternatives Analysis* to evaluate options for meeting the mission need for disposition of the 12.8 MT of surplus excess plutonium. Mr. McGuire explained the reason for the analysis revision as follows. The full scope of the Plutonium Disposition Project may no longer be needed because of the H-Canyon operational extension and proposed increase in Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) throughput. Some options under consideration are:

- Eliminating the vitrification process and optimizing dispositioning through MOX and H-Canyon
- Providing a small vitrification process and continuing MOX and H-Canyon
- Including a plutonium stabilization (furnace) and packaging (container welding) capability to all options

McGuire expects the analysis to be completed by May 2008.

#### *Soil & Groundwater and D&D:*

Mr. McGuire described the placement of South Carolina historic markers at R and P Reactors. As he explained, on March 17, 2008, DOE-SR placed two South Carolina historic markers inside its protective fence, recognizing the prominent role the site's first two nuclear production reactors played in winning the Cold War. He said that this is the first time historic markers were erected inside SRS's fence. He noted that R and P were two of five production reactors at SRS. They were the first two reactors at SRS to begin operations – R in 1953, P in 1954. Both reactors produced plutonium and tritium for the national defense, leading to increased national strength and the eventual end of the Cold War. Mr. McGuire discussed deactivation and decommissioning work in both reactor areas. P Area is targeted to be the first reactor area, and third area overall, to undergo Area Closure at SRS. Mr. McGuire explained that P Area is expected to be complete in 2014, with R Area following in about 2015.

#### *A-Area Powerhouse Replacement*

Mr. McGuire concluded by updating CAB members on the A-Area Powerhouse. He recalled that some CAB members were at the A-Area ground-breaking ceremony last year. Mr. McGuire explained that the powerhouse will provide steam, heating, and process loads for A-Area. The Savannah River National Laboratory will be primary user of the steam. Mr.

McGuire reported that Honeywell Building Solutions, the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) contractor for the project, has installed the biomass (wood chip) boiler and an oil-fired back-up boiler, and the installation of support structures is in progress. The new plant should be in operation by August 2008.

During questions, Donna Antonucci, CAB Chair, noted that the prime contractor of SRS recently received several important safety awards, namely the South Carolina Manufacturers' Alliance Plant Safety Award, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Commendation of Excellence, and the URS Washington Division President's Award.

#### South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)

Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC Liaison, addressed four main topics in her update to the CAB. Specifically, she discussed the SRS budget, Saltstone facility observations, advisories for SC water bodies and new SCDHEC personnel.

Ms. Sherritt said that under the current FY09 budget plan, SRS is in jeopardy of missing five cleanup milestones. She explained that DOE is likely to be successful in realigning the SRS budget to meet the milestones in question. She noted historical examples in FY07 and FY08 when even larger numbers of milestones were in jeopardy, and SRS adjusted the budget to successfully support the milestones. She stated that Savannah River Site is in good shape compared to other DOE sites and complimented DOE-SR's management decisions to support meeting milestones.

Ms. Sherritt updated the CAB on activities at the Saltstone Facility, the SRS disposal facility for residuals from High Level Waste. She explained that the facility is permitted by SCDHEC for disposal and that by law (Section 3116) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has a monitoring role for Saltstone. She said that the NRC is at Saltstone the week of March 24, 2008 along with SCDHEC to observe how well the Saltstone Facility meets performance objectives.

Ms. Sherritt discussed the method of public notification that SCDHEC uses to communicate water body advisories regarding public consumption of fish and bacteria that could harm swimmers. She explained that the driver in SC for regulating the amount of fish consumed by an individual is Mercury, which is a global problem. Also, she noted that bacteria have causes such as animal droppings and septic tank leakage. Ms. Sherritt stated that SCDHEC has recently expanded its method of notification to include placement of detailed signs at the affected water bodies.

Ms. Sherritt introduced Van Keisler as the new project manager for the cleanup section (Federal Facility Agreement Section) within DHEC. She explained that CAB members will likely see him in attendance at CAB meetings.

Also in attendance for SCDHEC was Jim Brownlow, who works out of the Aiken Regional office. Mr. Brownlow explained that his office often is involved with environmental monitoring in and around SRS. He updated the CAB on the recent annual waste water inspection for permit compliance of all outfalls, explaining that there were no major findings. Mr. Brownlow also announced that SCDHEC Regional Director and CAB Liaison, Rick Caldwell, has been promoted and is now working out of Columbia.

#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

For the benefit of new members, Rob Pope, the EPA Liaison to the CAB and Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Manager for EPA, explained his role in cleanup work at SRS. He explained that EPA's involvement at SRS comes under the FFA because SRS is a National Priorities List Site in the Superfund Law, which focuses on the cleanup of hazardous waste. Mr. Pope works out of the Atlanta regional office. He introduced Carolyn Haugabook, also out of the Atlanta office, whose responsibilities include EPA community involvement. Mr. Pope explained that at SRS, EPA is primarily involved in area cleanups (soil and groundwater work) and high level waste tanks.

Mr. Pope announced that Mr. David Williams, formerly the FFA manager at Paducah, is the new EPA Section Chief and will be in attendance at times. Others on the SRS EPA team include Turpin Ballard, Jim Barksdale, and Hugh Hazen.

Mr. Pope explained that Appendix E of the FFA lists enforceable milestones that Shelly Sherritt referred to earlier. He stated that recently, EPA, SCDHEC and DOE completed negotiations on Appendix E and approved enforceable milestones for FY09 and FY10 including planning milestones for beyond. According to Mr. Pope, SRS is one of the few sites within the DOE complex that has reached this agreement and he commended the working relationship between EPA, SCDHEC and DOE.

Mr. Pope updated the CAB on the issue of inadvertent disposal of TRU waste in the slit trenches. He stated that DOE has completed its root cause analysis and made a presentation to EPA and SCDHEC. EPA is taking the information under advisement and Mr. Pope anticipates resolution on the issue including closing it out in the near future. Mr. Pope said that official documentation will be published.

Mr. Pope noted an upcoming FFA milestone to release the first performance assessment with regard to high level waste tank work. He also discussed his attendance at the Denver technology event, particularly a tank cleaning application with new technology called the Sand Mantis.

Mr. Pope highlighted future activities planned for the soil and groundwater side of work. He noted that the third P-Reactor workshop is expected in May. During the April/May timeframe the first proposed plan documenting the decision about P-Reactor will be coming out. Mr. Pope explained this as precedence-setting for the DOE complex and the world since it is the first nuclear weapons reactor to be fully addressed under Superfund. He also stated that the M-Area proposed closure plan should be coming out this summer. Mr. Pope also stated that the C-Area burning rubble pit will be closed out this year, so the final proposed plan and record of decision are forthcoming. Other areas being worked are D-Area and R-Area.

In conclusion, Mr. Pope shared news that Mr. Eddie Wright, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, recently passed away. Mr. Wright attended CAB meetings and contributed to the process that led to the SRS CAB receiving the 2007 Excellence in Community Involvement Award.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Tom Clements from Columbia, SC commented on the view of P and R Reactors as favorable and supportive in winning the Cold War. He questioned whether the Cold War really existed and also if the United States really won it. He recalled participating in blast drills as a school-aged child and the Cuban missile crisis fears. He conveyed how he felt the world was on the edge of nuclear war. He explained that we should be mindful that all of the public does not praise the role of these reactors.

Mr. Clements also cited the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Report addressing transfer of the MOX program from NNSA to the Nuclear Energy Office of DOE. He explained that DOE has been directed to pass the program to the Nuclear Energy Office. He stated that the MOX program could be considered within the CAB's scope. According to Mr. Clements, the Defense Authorization Act of 2003 directed that a MOX program progress report be made by February 15 each year and encouraged CAB members to obtain it when possible.

Mr. Clements encouraged CAB members to obtain another report required by the Energy and Water Appropriations Committees from the Government Accountability Office (GAO). According to Mr. Clements, the quarterly report should provide a revised cost baseline and schedule of the MOX facility based on the level of funding provided, and the report should be available soon.

Mr. Clements also requested that the CAB obtain another GAO report concerning the H Canyon processing of materials. Mr. Clements explained that the Appropriations Committees remain skeptical of the decision to use H-Canyon as the primary disposition pathway for material consolidation efforts. He stated that the Appropriations Committees are awaiting the findings of a GAO review and plan further recommendations accordingly. Mr. Clements stated that the GAO is working on this and he encouraged the CAB to obtain the report, reminding the group that this may impact future plutonium processing and the processing of spent research reactor fuel. Mr. Clements believes that Congress will provide funding based partially on the findings of this report.

*~End of Public Comments ~*

### **Chair Update**

Recently elected CAB Chair, Donna Antonucci, welcomed newly appointed members and presented information about her experiences on the CAB, particularly transitions through the years. She described major CAB topics addressed since her appointment in 2003 including: the End State Vision document showing the site's future direction, accelerated clean-up of the site, CAB administrative support changes, and the CAB's new Standard Operating Procedures. She emphasized the value of becoming more "current" and cited the CAB's updated logo and expanding communication through use of new technology efforts at committee meetings. Ms. Antonucci noted that future CAB members will have grown up with modern technology, and our CAB should prepare for these eventual

new members. She emphasized that continuity on the Board is important, meaning that as faces on the Board change, each member's contributions to the Board remain part of its basic fiber. She described how, fundamentally, the CAB is about communication and that the CAB's recommendations serve as two-way communication with DOE. Ms. Antonucci expressed appreciation for those members, agencies and public citizens who attend the CAB meetings and ensure that a citizen is heard, ideas are incorporated, and that citizens are rewarded and thanked for public involvement.

### **Facilitator Update**

CAB Facilitator, Jenny Freeman, provided the Recommendation Status report: 4 recommendations are pending; 20 recommendations are open; 229 recommendations are closed. At the request of Ms. Freeman, CAB Technical Advisor, Rick McLeod, reviewed the basic components of a recommendation and the development process.

### **Nuclear Materials, Manuel Bettencourt – Chair**

*Stan Howard – Vice Chair*

*Judith Greene McLeod – Vice Chair*

Committee Chair Manuel Bettencourt stated that the Nuclear Materials Committee met on March 11, 2008 and heard an NNSA briefing regarding MOX. He stated that NNSA has agreed to take 7.8 MT of the 12.8 MT of plutonium (Pu) to be dispositioned at SRS. He explained that some of the Pu will go to MOX, some to H Canyon and some might go to plutonium vitrification. Mr. Bettencourt said that final approvals for these plans will be known soon. Mr. Bettencourt announced that the next Nuclear Materials Committee meeting will include discussions on depleted Uranium Oxide, and consolidated storage safety.

### **Strategic & Legacy Management Committee, Madeleine Marshall - Chair**

Committee Chair Madeleine Marshall explained that the Strategic and Legacy Management (S&LM) Committee has been focusing on budget input to DOE. She discussed other recent committee topics including Corporate Performance Measures, an environmental assessment regarding military land use for training operations at SRS and the Program Execution Plan.

### **Presentation – Performance Measures Update – Linda Quarles, DOE-SR**

As part of the S&LM Committee report, Linda Quarles, DOE-SR, gave an overview of the Environmental Management (EM) Project performance measures. She stated that she will be providing similar quarterly updates to the CAB. She explained that there are sixteen performance measures used by all EM sites. Ms. Quarles reviewed the SRS Corporate Performance Measures chart as shown in the presentation handout.

Ms. Marshall resumed her committee report with a review of a letter proposed for submission from the CAB to DOE-SR. The letter, dated March 25, 2008, provided comments on the Fiscal Year 2010 Integrated Priority List and Five-Year Plan with the following comments:

- 1) We believe the FY 2010 Savannah River Site (SRS) Priorities (identified in the Five-Year Plan) are consistent with the CAB's prioritization issues and agree with the priority rankings.
- 2) We agree with the priority ranking for all minimum safety and interim surveillance activities and regulatory commitments. We understand that such activities are essential to maintain SRS as a viable operating facility and that these activities are listed as priority items # 1 through #23.
- 3) With regard to the programmatic issues, we believe that Liquid Waste activities should be ranked at the top of the list and receive full funding to accomplish its mission. Other activities that should receive full funding are Plutonium Storage, Surveillance, and Disposition; H-Canyon Utilization; and Transuranic (TRU) Waste Disposition.

Ranowul Jzar, CAB Vice-Chair, made the motion to vote on the letter. Mary Drye, CAB Member, seconded the motion. CAB members approved the letter with all 22 members present voting in favor.

Ms. Marshall also presented a new recommendation for consideration by the CAB. The recommendation, FY 2010 Integrated Priority List and Budget Process Input, was put forth because the SRS CAB finds it difficult to set priorities without a clear picture of what has actually been accomplished, what is in progress, and what needs to be accomplished. The recommendation states:



The SRS CAB recommends the following concerning the budget process:

1. By May 19, 2008 or before the onset of the embargo date, whichever occurs sooner, DOE-SR provide the SRS CAB with any new budget information that is available including the information requested above, as well as an assessment of project impact if the amounts for each PBS change significantly as the budget evolves.
2. DOE-SR investigate cost saving efficiencies within each PBS and inform the SRS CAB when significant funds (greater than \$500,000) can be reallocated.
3. With the considerable success and momentum of the legacy TRU Waste Disposition program, DOE-SR investigate expediting the funding to complete the program ahead of schedule.
4. DOE-SR provide adequate and sustained funding to continue the utilization of H-Area's capability for all current and planned future missions. The unique capabilities of H-Canyon were recognized by the SRS CAB back in 1999 and since then the SRS CAB has recommended that it be retained in an operational status as a process for current and future stabilization missions.
5. DOE-SR ensure that all established regulatory milestones can be accomplished through the PBS structure. Since regulatory commitment cycles may be different from the DOE budget cycle, if reallocation between PBS categories is required to meet these commitments then ensure that enough flexibility exists in the PBS description and scope to make the necessary transfer of funds.

CAB members discussed the recommendation and agreed on modifications as shown above. Ms. Mary Drye moved for a vote on the recommendation. Mr. Leon Chavous seconded the motion. CAB members adopted the recommendation as #254 by voting as follows: Yes – 21 members, No – 0 members, Abstain – 1. Ms. Skyye Vereen stated that she chose to abstain since the information is not yet familiar enough for her to make an informed decision.

#### **Public Comments**

Tom Clements stated the CAB is apparently endorsing all future operations of H-Canyon. Mr. Clements explained congressional concern about plutonium disposition and H-Canyon. He described several pending documents about H-Canyon. He commented that the CAB may be endorsing activities into 2019 that might not be in the best interest of the DOE budget or public interest. The documents he referred to are DOE's study of plutonium disposition alternatives related to H-Canyon, GAO's analysis of H-Canyon, a GAO report due on the MOX program, and a supplemental analysis as part of an existing Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on H-Canyon. Mr. Clements stated this causes him to question the independence of the CAB in its observations of DOE. He explained that he is a member of an association of groups that are non-DOE entities called the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and will be lobbying to support full funding for DWPF and Salt Waste Processing. With respect to plutonium and H-Canyon he stated his plans to be lobbying against full funding.

Mr. Clements also encouraged CAB members to ask questions during the Defense Waste Processing Facility presentation to occur later in the meeting.

Rob Pope commented regarding FFA milestones and budget. He said the CAB should remember that budget does not drive milestones and commitments. He explained that once EPA and DOE agree to milestones, these commitments drive the requested budget.

*~ End of Public Comments ~*

**Waste Management Committee**, Joe Ortaldo – Chair

Art Domby – Vice Chair (Liquid Waste)

Alex Williams – Vice Chair (Solid Waste)

Committee Chair, Joe Ortaldo, reported recent Waste Management Committee (WMC) activities. He discussed topics address at the two committee meetings that occurred since the last full CAB meeting. He stated that on February 26 the WMC reviewed the Purex Waste situation which has moved along well with only 25,000 gallons of legacy organic waste left. Mr. Ortaldo explained that DOE has a plan for the waste and is expecting resolution of

legal issues raised by Nevada in the next months. Mr. Ortaldo reported that Saltstone is running well and has processed 1 million gallons of material. Based on discussions at the March 11 meeting, Mr. Ortaldo explained that the WMC expects to formulate a motion to present at the May CAB meeting. The motion will ask DOE EM to communicate with DOE NNSA regarding feasibility in utilizing existing waste treatment facilities to handle MOX waste and save money. He also reported that the WMC will meet April 15 and with representatives from DOE and regulatory agencies to discuss questions associated with waste tank closure. Mr. Ortaldo also discussed the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council and its desire to ensure adequate funding for the SRS budget.

Mr. Ortaldo explained the reason for requesting the upcoming presentation on the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). He stated that DWPF is one of four major facilities (Tank Farms, DWPF, Salt Processing Facilities and SaltStone) necessary for DOE to close all the tanks according to schedule.

*Presentation – Optimizing Performance of the Defense Waste Processing Facility – Jean Ridley, DOE-SR*

Jean Ridley, DOE-SR, discussed process improvements to the DWPF that have resulted in improved efficiencies and production. She reviewed the history of the facility and described the sludge processed by the facility. While providing a detailed overview of the DWPF process, Ms. Ridley explained the vitrification process. She highlighted processing improvements, including equipment improvements that reduce facility downtime. She explained how the process is improved by optimizing waste loading for each particular sludge batch. The result has been consolidation of waste in each can produced by the facility.

CAB members discussed the importance of having DWPF spare parts readily available. Madeleine Marshall and Joe Ortaldo emphasized that having to shutdown the facility due to equipment problems would have significant and costly impacts. They clarified that such impacts far outweigh the expense of maintaining backup parts.

*Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee, Mary Drye - Chair*  
*K. Jayaraman – Vice Chair*

Committee Chair, Mary Drye introduced Ray Hannah, a DOE-SR project manager for the Area Completion Project.

*Presentation – P Reactor End-State Public Workshop Update – Ray Hannah, DOE-SR*

Ray Hannah, DOE-SR, presented an update to the CAB regarding topics, comments and outcomes from the two public P-Reactor End-State workshops. The workshops were conducted at Aiken Technical College on October 16, 2007 and February 28, 2008. Mr. Hannah explained that DOE conducted workshops in response to CAB Recommendation #248 to provide information and receive public input regarding the P-Reactor end-state. Mr. Hannah discussed the DOE-SR plan to keep much of the reactor building in place at its final state as opposed to leveling the structure. As a result of the workshops, Mr. Hannah described how the project team reviewed comments and improved their analysis and documentation. He discussed the team's plan to use more sophisticated models for contaminant migration. He also explained team plans to improve public communication, recognizing that some terminology is unique to SRS and not readily understood by the general population.

In conclusion, Mr. Hannah described upcoming public involvement opportunities related to P-Reactor. He proposed holding another workshop concurrent with the May CAB meeting in Savannah. He said that an Early Action Proposed Plan will be issued in the April/May 2008 timeframe. The plan will allow 45 days for public review and comment. In addition, he explained that the P-Area Operable Unit Statement of Basis Proposed Plan will be submitted for public review and comment in February 2009. Mr. Hannah commented that this document is comprehensive and will describe options for all waste units including the reactor in P Area.

Art Dobby, CAB Member, asked if DOE and EPA are in agreement on the period of analysis used for the end-state concept. Mr. Pope, EPA, affirmed their agreement and Mr. Hannah explained that the analysis goes out 10,000 years.

Mr. Dobby also inquired about other sites with experience in the end-state process for reactors and wondered about timing the P-Reactor activity for safe storage until a point when costs might be less due to changes in contamination. Discussion also occurred related to Hanford's method of entombing a reactor. Ray Hannah answered that from a cost-benefit standpoint the contamination associated with P-Reactor does warrant a change in plan. Mr. Rob Pope added that comparisons to Hanford's safe storage approach, planned for up to 75 years, does not match SRS's situation. Mr. Pope explained that Hanford's reactors are aligned right along the river and weather conditions are

much different than those at SRS. He also stated that capital costs associated with plans for P-Reactor are not unreasonable when considered with respect to existing surveillance and monitoring costs.

Don Bridges, CAB Member, asked about the length of time concrete at P-Reactor is expected to remain. Mr. Hannah explained that the analysis assumes approximately 500 years.

Rick McLeod asked if the P-Reactor end-state work will be outsourced. Mr. Hannah explained that currently, the work it is part of the M&O contract and would likely stay that way.

Ms. Antonucci explained that after attending a reactor workshop she recognized the significant size of the structure. She emphasized that DOE could better communicate the reasons for its end-state choices to the public by conveying the scale of the facility.

#### Administrative Committee, Sarah Watson - Chair

Committee Chair, Sarah Watson, reported that the Administrative Committee met May 19 with excellent participation. She announced that DOE-HQ has appointed all members selected by the CAB. She also noted that two members have been appointed to fulfill the terms of CAB members who resigned due to personal reasons. Ms. Watson explained that these two members may reapply later this year for regular 2-year membership consideration.

As requested by Ms. Watson, Joe Ortaldo gave an update on the CAB's institutional memory request made to DOE. Mr. Ortaldo explained that the CAB wants to assure turnover of membership through the years, while maintaining the insight of older members. He discussed the earlier formal proposals made to DOE and explained the Administrative Committee's decision. Mr. Ortaldo explained that under the arrangement, a committee chairperson may identify the need for former CAB member expertise on a specific issue and may propose a request for such support to DOE. If approved, this would officially allow support with reimbursement of expenses, but the individual would not be a voting member of the CAB. Sarah explained that the issue has been discussed in depth with DOE. She emphasized that the Board already provides for former members to attend current meetings, and that the budget is a consideration in the process.

Ms. Watson also discussed plans for continuing to investigate student participation for the CAB. She reported that the CAB newsletter is published biannually and put together by support staff. She encouraged CAB members to contribute articles to the newsletter as before. Ms. Watson also reported that in the Executive Committee meeting members agreed to begin issues-based committee meetings at 5:30 pm to accommodate the majority of participants. In conclusion, Ms. Watson drew attention to the new member information notebooks. She thanked the support staff for putting them together and encouraged members to bring them to all meetings.

Mr. Alex Williams asked about status of a graphic flow chart of the SRS complex that the CAB had discussed. Mr. Bettencourt volunteered to propose a conceptual idea to the CAB support staff.

#### Public Comments

There were no public comments.

*~ End of Public Comments ~*

Meeting Adjourned 3:40 p.m.

#### Handouts

SRS CAB Agenda

SRS CAB Recommendation Status

Presentation to CAB Budget Update, Jeannie Schwier, DOE-SR

Presentation to CAB Performance Measures Update, Linda Quarles, DOE-SR

Presentation to CAB Optimizing Performance of the Defense Waste Processing Facility, Jean Ridley, DOE-SR

Presentation to CAB P Reactor End-State Public Workshop Update, Ray Hannah, DOE-SR

**Handouts listed herein are available by contacting the SRS Citizens Advisory Board at 1-800-249-8155.**