

Summary Notes, January 15, 2008
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Waste Management Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 6-8 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken SC.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the following:

- 1) Status of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (informal remarks)
- 2) Critical Path Schedule for the Radioactive Liquid Waste Disposition Planning
- 3) Dispute Resolution of the Closure of Radioactive Liquid Waste Tanks; and
- 4) an opportunity for public comments on CAB related documents.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

- Joe Ortaldo, Chair
- Art Dombly, Vice Chair
- Manuel Bettencourt

- Bob Miesenhiemer
- Leon Chavous
- Karen Patterson
- Stan Howard
Mary Drye
Wade Waters
Judy Greene-McLeod
Madeleine Marshall

Stakeholders

Rob Pope, EPA
Heather Dukes, Parsons
Brent Harvey, Parsons
David Long, Northrop
Grumman
Bill McDonell, Public
Jack Roberts, Public
Roger Seite, Public
Jolene Seitz, Public
Sharri DeFigh-Price, Parsons
Rick Caldwell, SCDHEC
Heather Cathcart, SCDHEC
Rick McLeod, Technical
Advisor
Roy Schepens, Parsons
Dave Amerine, Parsons
Rose Hayes, Public
Stewart Fox, Public
Bill Lawless, Public
Perry Holcomb, Public
Charlie Hansen, Parsons
Tom Burns, Parsons
Rick Ford, Public
David Wilson, SCDHEC
Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Terry Spears, DOE-SR
Pat Suggs, DOE-SR

Dawn Gillas, DOE-SR
Bill Stephens, WSRC
Steve Thomas, WSRC
Kim Hauer, WSRC
Mark Schmitz, WSRC
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC
Jeff Bentley, DOE-SR
Pete Hill, WSRC

Frank England, WSRC
Tony Polk, DOE-SR
Sherri Ross, DOE-SR

Ranowul Jzar
Donna Antonucci

*- Waste Management
Committee Members*

Welcome and Introduction:

Joe Ortaldo, WMC Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Ortaldo, WMC Chair, referenced the meeting ground rules and encouraged participation of all attendees. Then, the attendees introduced themselves.

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Mr. Ortaldo, WMC Chair, provided an update and status of the WMC open and pending recommendations. He recommended that the WMC members approve changing Recommendations #246, #249, and #251 from a pending status to open. He also recommended closing Recommendations #247, #241, #205, and #204. The WMC members agreed to propose the changes to be made.

Mr. Ortaldo, WMC Chair, reviewed the agenda topics and the upcoming committee meeting schedule.

Salt Waste Processing Facility: *(informal remarks from Tony Polk, DOE-SR)*

Tony Polk, DOE-SR, Deputy Project Director for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) provided informal remarks on the status of the project. He stated that the cost and schedule baseline has been established at \$900M with completion to occur in November 2013. The performance baseline schedule is currently set at September 2012 with an 80/20 confidence schedule of November 2013. This date reflects 60 weeks of schedule contingency. Critical Decision (CD) 3A early procurement and site preparation activities have started and CD-3B the construction of basemat is scheduled for approval in March. The CD-3 (design complete and start of full construction approved) is scheduled for September 2008. Manuel Bettencourt asked what the biggest problem is or challenges to meet the baseline. Mr. Polk responded that we are continuing to work with the Defense Nuclear Safety Board's concerns with timely responses and coordination. Art Domby asked what percent of the design has been completed and Mr. Polk responded 75. Open discussions continued with does DOE's budget support the \$900M. Mr. Polk assured that the SWPF is one of the top two on high degree of support for funding and is fully funded in FY 2008. Karen Patterson asked if mitigation of risks to meet startup being implemented. Mr. Polk stated that they have and will continue to identify trends that effect schedule and cost to keep the start up date in September 2012. Bill Lawless stated that technology transfer from the MCU and ARP are very important to the startup and operations of the SWPF, is there any impacts to these operations by the contract changes. Mr. Polk replied that the Liquid Waste Contract is not expected to have any impacts. Rick McLeod asked if the workforce resource issues previously identified by Parsons have been resolved. Mr. Polk stated that Parsons is working aggressively, some have been overcome and some additional resources needed and they continue to emphasize achieving. ACTION: Perry Holcomb asked if all of the construction permits required for the SWPF project are in place and Mr. Polk said that he would need to find out. In closing, Mr. Polk stated that regular discussions and meetings occur to ensure the SWPF remains on schedule and within cost.

Mr. Terry Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition, DOE-SR, provided a status of the MCU, ARP, and DDA processes. ACTION: Mr. Ortaldo, Chair, requested an update on the SWPF, MCU, ARP, and DDA approximately every 3-6 months.

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Critical Path Schedule for Radioactive Liquid Waste Disposition Planning *(presented by Pat Suggs, DOE-SR, and Pete Hill, WSRC)*

The purpose of the presentation was to provide the major program objectives, the critical path schedule and analysis of the Liquid Waste Disposition System Plan, the sludge critical path activities and assumptions; and the salt critical path activities and assumptions. The program objectives is the safe storage and management of radioactive waste; to meet regulatory milestones; comply with the Salt Waste Determination; process sludge through the Defense Waste Processing Facility; startup and feed the Salt Waste Processing Facility; and minimize radionuclides sent to Saltstone. Mr. Hill provided a demonstration on the critical path process and the importance of showing opportunities to accelerate work scope to complete the project on time or ahead of schedule. Bill Lawless asked if DWPF stops, does SWPF stop. Mr. Hill replied that there is extensive modeling between facilities to ensure that does not happen, but a 4 month melter outage for cesium is not practical or feasible to predict. Open discussions continued with the CAB expressing that of hearing so much about the evaporators, why are they not on the critical path? Mr. Hill replies that the Evaporators are not required to run 100% of the time to execute the plan; therefore, by definition they aren't on the critical path. If there was a significant outage, like a 2H pot replacement, then the evaporator could be on the critical path for a period of time. They asked why isn't Tank 48 on the critical path and Mr. Hill replied that the Tank 48 project could slip about a year (qualitative estimate by PJH) from the Plan need date before it might impact the critical path based on the September 2012 SWPF startup. Discussions of what is the Saltstone Feed Facility and why is it needed? Mr. Hill stated that it provides storage capacity between SWPF and SPF so that short duration outages at SPF don't interrupt SWPF processing. In summary, the integration of the Liquid Waste Disposition System Plan is comprehensive, manages risks, and seeks opportunities for improvement in the life-cycle acceleration.

(copy of the presentation provided below).

Dispute Resolution of the Closure of Radioactive Liquid Waste Tanks *(Presented by Sherri Ross, DOE-SR)*

The purpose of the presentation was to provide the dispute background; the resolution process; terms of the dispute resolution; the changes to the tank closure schedule and a summary of those changes. Resolution of the dispute achieved similar risk reduction by completing bulk waste removal one year earlier; a more rigorous waste removal strategy; and completing closure of old style tanks on the original schedule. Ms. Shelly Sherritt stated that SCDHEC was involved in the resolution and has approval authority for the closure of all tanks at the Savannah River Site. Ms. Ross stated that DOE used a risk based approach to re-establish regulatory commitments which now include dates for completing bulk waste removal as well as dates for completing tank closures. The commitments also include regular quarterly meetings between SRS and the regulators to discuss waste removal activities to facilitate reaching mutual agreement that waste removal activities may cease. Early involvement of the regulators in waste removal activities will be important in meeting all of the requirements.

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The performance assessment will inform DOE and the regulators in determining the appropriate point of compliance(s). The performance assessment is expected to be completed by August 2008. The point of compliance is a major driver in tank closure. SRS has to meet both requirements to remove waste to the 'maximum extent practical' and ensure protection of the environment and the public. SRS and SCDHEC will agree on the point of compliance prior to the closure of any tanks at SRS. Ms. Ross provided a copy of the Statement of Resolution of Dispute Concerning Extension of Closure dates for SRS high-level radioactive waste tanks 19 and 18 to all CAB members. *(copy of the presentation provided below).*

Public Comment: None

Adjourn:

Mr. Ortaldo adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Follow-Up Actions:

1. Are the construction permits needed for the SWPF in place? *(Holcomb to Polk)*
2. Mr. Ortaldo, Chair, requested an update on the SWPF, MCU, ARP, and DDA approximately every 3-6 months.

PRESENTATIONS:

Critical Path Schedule for Radioactive Liquid Waste Disposition Planning *(presented by Pat Suggs, DOE-SR, and Pete Hill, WSRC)*

Critical Path Schedule for Radioactive Liquid Waste Disposition Planning

Purpose:

As requested by the Citizens Advisory Board at the November 2007 meeting, provide the critical path schedule for the Radioactive Liquid Waste Disposition Planning.

Overview:

- Major Program Objectives
- Critical Path Schedule and Analysis
- Sludge Critical Path Activities and Assumptions
- Salt Critical Path Activities and Assumptions

Program Objectives

- Safe Storage and Management of Waste
- Meet Regulatory Milestones
- Comply with Salt Waste Determination
- Process Sludge Through Defense Waste Processing Facility
- Startup and Feed Salt Waste Processing Facility
- Support H-Canyon Waste Disposition from Legacy Materials Stabilization
- Minimize Radionuclides sent to Saltstone

Critical Path Analysis *(graphic demonstration)*

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Activities and Assumptions

- Salt Waste Processing Facility Startup
- Salt Waste Processing Facility Processing Rate
- Tank 48 Return to High Level Waste Service
- Tank 50 Return to High Level Waste Service

Sludge Critical Path Activities and Assumptions

- Alternate Melter Technology
- Effectiveness of Aluminum Dissolution
- Tank 48 Return to High Level Waste Service
- Tank 50 Return to High Level Waste Service
- Tank 25 Return to High Level Waste Service

Summary

- Integrated comprehensive planning process
- Manage risks
- Seek opportunities for improvements in life-cycle acceleration

Dispute Resolution of the Closure of Radioactive Liquid Waste Tanks *(Presented by Sherri Ross, DOE-SR)*

Presentation Overview

- Dispute Background
- Dispute Resolution Process
- Terms of Dispute Resolution
- Changes to Closure Schedule
- Summary

Dispute Background

- March 9, 2006 – Department of Energy (DOE) requested a 13 month extension for completion of operational closure of:
 - Tank 19 (due 10/31/06)
 - Tank 18 (due 2/28/07)
- March 27, 2006 – South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) non-concurred with extension request
- April 18, 2006 – DOE invoked Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) dispute resolution process

Dispute Resolution Process

- Informal Dispute Resolution
 - Multiple meetings and conference calls between DOE, SCDHEC, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) July 2006 – July 2007
 - Discussions limited to activities required to close Tanks 19 and 18
 - Resolution was not reached
- On September 21, 2007, SCDHEC requested elevation of the dispute to the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)

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- On October 22, 2007, Written Statement of Dispute was forwarded to DRC
 - First DRC Meeting occurred on October 26, 2007
 - DOE proposed a risked based approach to re-establishing FFA tank closure commitments
 - On average, DRC held twice a week conference calls to discuss proposals, issues, action items and resolution.
 - Agreement reached on November 19, 2007

Terms of Dispute Resolution

- Remove additional waste from Tanks 19 and 18 by 12/31/2008
- Complete bulk waste removal from old style tanks between 9/30/2010 and 9/30/2019
- DOE, SCDHEC and EPA shall mutually agree that waste removal activities may cease
- Close 22 old style tanks between 12/31/2012 and 9/30/2022
- Provide SCDHEC and EPA the F Area Tank Farm Performance Assessment by 8/31/2008
- Provide SCDHEC and EPA the H Area Tank Farm Performance Assessment by 3/31/2011
- DOE shall not raise the time necessary to prepare documentation or to consult with NRC as bases for dispute

Changes to Closure Schedule

- Commitments are not tank specific
- Bulk waste removal from old style tanks:
 - Largest risk reduction activity
 - Enforceable commitment dates subject to fines and penalties separately from operational closure dates
 - Complete 1 year earlier than previously scheduled
- Completion of waste removal:
 - Includes chemical (oxalic acid) cleaning strategy
 - Early SCDHEC and EPA involvement in determining when to cease waste removal activities
- Operational closures of old style tanks:
 - Completes on same schedule of September 2022.
 - Includes completion of waste determinations following consultation with Nuclear Regulatory Commission with a public involvement process
 - Includes completion of new performance assessments for both tank farms
 - In groups for purposes of demonstrating performance objectives will be met
 - Aligns closures with current salt processing schedule

Summary

- Resolution of dispute achieves similar risk reduction by:
 - Completing bulk waste removal 1 year earlier
 - More rigorous waste removal strategy

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- Completing closure of old style tanks on original schedule