

Summary Notes, August 12, 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, August 12, 2008, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken SC.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) Project; the Transuranic (TRU) Waste Inadvertently Disposition in the Low Level Waste Trenches; Status of the Tank 5 & 6 Cleaning; an update on the TRU Waste Disposition Program; and to provide an opportunity for public comments on CAB related documents.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

- Joe Ortaldo, Chair
- Art Dombay, Vice Chair
- Alex Williams, Vice Chair
- Ed Burke
- Don Bridges
Leon Chavous
Stan Howard
Mary Drye
Wendell Lyon
Kathe Golden
Donna Antonucci
Alan Eckmyre

Stakeholders

Cherri DeFig-Price, Parsons
Mike French, Public
Jim Barksdale, EPA
Jack Roberts, Public
Van Keisler, SCDHEC
Josh Yon, SCDHEC
Murray Riley, Public
Lee Poe, Public
Nancy Bobbitt, Public
Beverly Jenkins, Public
M. Canui, Public
Bill Lawless, Public
Don King, Public
Rick McLeod, Public
Lee Fox, Public

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Howard Pope, DOE-SR
Sherri Ross, DOE-SR
Nancy Bethurem, WSRC
J. D. Chiou, SRNS
Paul Sauerborn, SRNS
Bill Stephens, WSRC
Ron Boisvert, WSRC
John Marra, SRNL
Donald Paine, Fluor
Ginger Dickert, WSRC
Pete Hill, WSRC
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
Lee Fox, SRNS
Elmer Wilhite, SRNL
Mike Simmons, DOE-SR

Zack Smith, DOE-SR
Seaward Middleton, DOE-SR

- *Waste Management
Committee Members*

Welcome and Introduction:

Mr. Joe Ortaldo, Chair, WMC, opened the meeting with a welcome to all. He then referenced the meeting ground rules and encouraged participation of all attendees. The attendees introduced themselves.

Committee Update:

Mr. Ortaldo reviewed the Waste Management (WM) Committee open and pending recommendations. Consensus among the WM Committee members was that recommendations # 193 and #249 have been completed and should be closed.

Ed Burke, CAB member, provided an informational recap of the South Carolina Department of Environmental and Control (SCDHEC) Public Hearing that he attended on August 5th. The public hearing was conducted to discuss the improved Saltstone storage vault design permit. Mr. Burke stated that the new design technical changes would resolve issues. He indicated that there were no objections to the vault design changes voiced by the majority of the public.

Joe Ortaldo, Chair, reviewed the upcoming committee meeting schedules and topics. He stated that the WM and NM committees will conduct a joint meeting on September 9th. He encouraged attendance to hear about the General Accounting Office (GAO) Report on H-Canyon and the Plutonium (Pu) dispositioned to the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF).

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Committee Meeting Summary:

Members of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board's Waste Management Committee and the public met on Tuesday, August 12, 2008; 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC. DOE-SR hosted the meeting. The agenda topics were 1) Status of the Tank 5 & 6 Cleaning; 2) Update on the Transuranic Waste Disposition; 3) Update of the TRU Waste Inadvertently Disposition in the Low Level Waste Trenches; and 4) the Status of the Salt Waste Processing Facility Project. The meeting was very well attended. A *draft motion* on the Acceleration of Transuranic (TRU) Waste Disposition, as a result of the meeting discussions, is expected.

The presentations and discussions began with Tank 5 & 6 Closure Update. The presentation overview provided by Seaward Middleton, DOE-SR, gave information on the status of the heel removal, annulus cleaning, cooling coils and a summary of the preparation for tank closure. The CAB members and public were interested in the annulus cleaning process, its effectiveness, and the equipment used inside of the carbon-steel tanks. Several questions referenced the amount of sludge remaining, the disposition of the final rinse water, the visual inspection process and results, and how the annulus cleaning crawler worked which is used to clean and inspect the tank walls. In summary, the annulus cleaning technology development is complete, the facility modifications to support deployment is in progress, and the oxalic acid cleaning in carbon-steel tanks is effective and will not cause detriment to the tanks. CAB members would like to see a video or additional photo of the process, and the WM Chair would like to receive a copy of the report to be issued this fall. The CAB members would like to hear additional information by early next year on the progress of the cleaning of tanks.

Zack Smith, Federal Project Director, DOE-SR, provided an update on the status of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF). Mr. Smith stated that the Critical Decision (CD) 3B has been approved and will provide limited construction and readiness review funding. The CAB members were very excited to hear and see photos of the progress of the Project. Their questions centered on if the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) has been involved in the construction reviews, and if additional funding is needed. Mr. Smith replied that he meets frequently with the onsite DNFSB representatives and that the project is funded. Mr. Ortaldo asked if the lessons learned from the ARP/MCU operations were of benefit to the SWPF Project. Mr. Smith replied definitely, lessons learned and processing knowledge is being shared and used to ensure a successful startup of the SWPF Project. Mr. Ortaldo, Chair, requested that the presentation be provided to the full board at the September meeting.

Howard Pope, DOE-SR, and Sonny Goldston, WSRC, provided an update of the Transuranic (TRU) Waste Inadvertently Dispositioned in the Low Level Slit Trenches. Mr. Pope provided the background of how the discovery was detected. Mr. Pope continued by explaining the process and analysis that was completed to conclude the waste in its current condition does not pose an immediate or long-term concern and is safe for our workers and protects the environment. The Department has decided that the inadvertent disposal of TRU in the trenches is protective of the public and the environment and no further actions are required. Letters have been sent to SCDHEC and EPA, who concur with the decision to leave the TRU boxes in the low level trenches.

Mike Simmons, DOE-SR, provided an update on the TRU Waste Disposition Program. Mr. Simmons provided the status of the SRS current TRU waste inventory, the planned accomplishments in FY08 and FY09, and the progress report to meet these accomplishments. SRS is continuing the acceleration of TRU waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and reducing the Site's legacy TRU waste volume.

SRS is working with the State on establishing the end-state vision of the legacy TRU waste program. SRS is monitoring the technical risks of the TRU waste large box program to assess future impacts on

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completing the disposition of all legacy TRU waste. The CAB members would like to see the TRU program complete and has stated in several recommendations and at the meetings. They would like to see the Acceleration in obtaining the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license for the Trupact III and invite NRC to brief the Board on obtaining the license and what can be done by the Board to assist. They would also like to recommend the acceleration of the WIPP certification of the large box NDA and NDE systems. A *draft motion* on the Acceleration of Transuranic (TRU) Waste Disposition, as a result of the meeting discussions, is expected. The *draft motion* would reinforce and recommend specifically completing the TRU Disposition Program by FY13.

Public Comment:

Lee Poe, Citizen, provided public comments that there are procedural problems in the disposition of public comments. He would appreciate the CAB members to respond to his public comments at the meetings. He indicated that he feels his concerns are not being addressed by the CAB. Joe Ortaldo, Chair, assured Mr. Poe, that if he provided his comments in writing that the CAB or DOE would respond formally to his comments.

Adjourn:

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

Follow-Up Actions:

- Add link or copy of the H Canyon GAO Report to the SRS CAB Webpage. (*Sent to Web-external for posting on 08-14-08*).
- Provide a copy of the annulus cleaning report, when issued this fall, to Joe Ortaldo, Chair, WMC. Provide a briefing on the Report in January.
- WMC Chair requested the SWPF Presentation be provided at the upcoming full board meeting. He also requested that the presentation be updated to include how the ARP/MCU lessons learned has improved design, construction, and progress of the SWPF Project.
- WMC Chair requested a future presentation on the TRU Pad 1 and TRU Box Waste.

PRESENTATIONS: (*to large for email, will add to webpage*)