

**Summary Notes, October 21, 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, October 21, 2008, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the North Augusta Community Center, in North Augusta, SC.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of Tank 48 Treatment Project; the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility Performance Assessment – Revision 2; 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
- K. Jayaraman
- Don Bridges

Leon Chavous  
Stan Howard  
Mary Drye  
Wendell Lyon  
Judy Greene-McLeod  
Ranowul Jzar  
Donna Antonucci  
Mecredi Giles

- *Waste Management  
Committee Members*

**Stakeholders**

Steve Harvey, Public  
Kathryn Harvey, Public  
J. D. Jordon  
Heather Cathcart, SCDHEC  
Van Keisler, SCDHEC  
Sandra Meischen, CAB  
Candidate  
Ric Castagna, CAB Candidate  
Martha Berry, EPA  
Perry Holcomb, Public  
Bill Lawless, Public  
John Bergstrom, Public  
Kristi Redmond, Public  
Karen Patterson, Public  
Dr. Rose Hayes, CAB  
Candidate  
Bob Adams, SCDHEC  
Ron McFarland, CAB  
Candidate  
Charlie Hansen, Parsons

Alan Eckmyre, Technical  
Advisor

**DOE/Contractors/Others**

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR  
Howard Pope, DOE-SR  
Tarla Toomer, DOE-SR  
Terry Spears, DOE-SR  
Mike Simmons, DOE-SR

Elmer Wilhite, SRNL  
Sonny Goldston, SRNS  
Roger Seitz, SRNL  
Charles Lamley, WSRC  
Caroline Atseff, WSRC  
Sam Shah, WSRC  
David Burke, WSRC  
Pete Hill, WSRC

Wyatt Clark, WSRC  
Jon Campbell, WSRC

K. Hauer, WSRC  
Les Sonnenberg, WSRC  
Dave Crowley, SRNS

Paul Sauerborn, SRNS  
Don McWhorter, WSRC  
Jeannette Hyatt, SRNS  
J. D. Chiou, SRNS  
Kim Howard, WSRC  
Vickie Wheeler, DOE-SR

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Mr. Joe Ortaldo, Chair, WMC, opened the meeting with a welcome to all and stated that the committee meetings are informal and encouraged participation by all. He then referenced the meeting ground rules. The attendees introduced themselves.

**Committee Update:**

Mr. Ortaldo reviewed the Waste Management (WM) Committee open and pending recommendations. He stated that all of the recommendations are on the SRS CAB webpage and are available for information.

Mr. Ortaldo reviewed the upcoming committee meeting schedules and topics.

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**Committee Meeting Summary:**

Members of the Waste Management Committee held a committee meeting on Tuesday, 10/21/08, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at the North Augusta Community Center, in North Augusta, SC. DOE-SR hosted the meeting. The meeting was well attended by CAB members and the public. The agenda topics were: 1) the E-Area Low Level Waste Disposal Facility Performance Assessment – Revision 2, presented by Howard Pope, DOE-SR, and supported by Sonny Goldston, SRNS, and Elmer Wilhite, SRNL; and 2) the Status of the Tank 48 Treatment Project, presented by Vickie Wheeler, DOE-SR, and David Burke, WSRC. The Tank 48 briefing consisted of an educational component on the two technologies being matured for organic treatment, as well as a project status component. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

The meeting discussions began with Terry Spears, DOE-SR, providing information on the Fiscal Year (FY) 08 accomplishments to include pouring 220 vitrified canisters at the Defense Waste Processing Facility; DDA processing 1.3 million gallons of waste; ARP/MCU continues to successfully operate; and implementing new technology deployed in Tanks 18 and 19 for cleanup and closure of the tanks. Mr. Spears continued by stating there are some challenges in FY09 due to the continuing resolution enacted in September because the budget has not been enacted by Congress. Mr. Spears continued by stating that DOE-SR is preparing a response to the CAB Recommendation #258. The response states that SRS can not commit to the completion of the TRU Program due to lack of funding for the TRU boxes processing. A Carlsbad representative has been invited to attend the December 9<sup>th</sup> Waste Management Committee to discuss the process for certifying transport containers and the TRUPACT III.

Kim Howard, WSRC, provided an update on the Saltstone Vault 4 contamination event. He explained that the contamination occurred in early September. The contamination was found outside the posted Contamination Area, resulting in contamination of a worker's shoe. The area was isolated, the cause determined, and recovery actions were taken in a responsive manner. The contamination originated from a temporary ventilation duct that was previously installed to compensate for pressurization of the vault from air injected during the pig launch at the end of a run to clear the process lines. The duct has been removed, a permanent engineered ventilation feature has been installed, the contamination has been cleaned up, and the contamination area has been rolled back. SRS has informed the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control of the issue and its resolution. The key message is that this was an operational issue and there were no environmental impacts.

The CAB members requested additional information on the waste loading increase in canisters, and why the constant goal of 186 each year when SRS is capable of completing more canisters as evidenced in the total for FY 2008. Bill Lawless questioned the TRU funding for drums and boxes, and the funding for recertification processes. The CAB members would like to expedite the NRC review of the TRUPACT III and ensure accelerated shipments and disposal of all of the TRU waste.

Vickie Wheeler, DOE-SR, and David Burke, WSRC, provided the Status of Tank 48 Treatment Project. The informational briefing provided the project's business decision logic; information on the primary technology, the Fluidized Bed Steam Reforming (FBSR) process, and the risk mitigation backup technology, the Wet Air Oxidation (WAO) process. Tank 48's return to service is critical to the tank space management program. SRS is proceeding on the dual technology maturation path leading to a mid-2009 business decision between the two technologies. Open discussions occurred of why FBSR is the preferred technology and how much are the costs. Ms. Wheeler explained that the FBSR technology is a proven technology previously used at other nuclear facilities and the costs range is being determined.

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Howard Pope, DOE-SR, supported by Sonny Goldston, SRNS, and Elmer Wilhite, SRNL, provided a very informative briefing on the performance assessment process and the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility Performance Assessment – Revision 2. The discussions began with the technical and regulatory basis for DOE Authorization of low-level waste disposal. Also provided was an explanation of the differences and purposes of the slit trenches and vaults used to store the waste. The Performance Assessment evaluates the performance of the various disposal units to ensure the worker, the public, and the environment is protected. All transport and exposure pathways are analyzed. The major changes in Revision 2 are the regulatory framework; the radionuclide analysis; intruder analysis; air pathway analysis; model to simulate migration from waste to ground surface by vapor phase diffusion; extensive groundwater analysis; and the uncertainty analysis. The results of the PA indicate that SRS is still protective of the environment and the public. Donna Antonucci thanked the presenters for the unique, in-depth presenting of such a difficult topic.

All presentations were well received and no issues or draft motions are expected from the discussions.

**Public Comment:**

Dr. Rose Hayes, CAB Candidate thanked the presenters for the well organized and very informative briefings.

Manuel Bettencourt announced that the Nuclear Materials Committee topics this month will be provided at the Combined Committee Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The topics will be the Depleted Uranium Oxide and a video on the Spent Nuclear Fuel process.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Ortaldo adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Follow-Up Actions:**

None

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