

Summary Notes, December 9, 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, December 9, 2008, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Lessons Learned from operations of the ARP/MCU; the status of Tank Residuals and Tank Closure; to hear from an invited guest, Dr. David Moody, from the DOE Carlsbad Operations Office; and to provide an opportunity for public comments on CAB related documents.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

- Joe Ortaldo, Chair
- Art Domby, Vice Chair
- Alex Williams, Vice Chair
- Manuel Bettencourt
- Don Bridges
- Leon Chavous
- Stan Howard
- Mary Drye
- Ed Burke
- Judy Greene-McLeod
- Kathe Golden
- Donna Antonucci

Stakeholders

- Bob Adams, SCDHEC
- Rick McLeod, Public
- Perry Holcomb, Public
- Ted Millings, SCDHEC
- Martha Berry, EPA
- Rose Hays, CAB Candidate
- Stephen Clark, Public
- Brant Anderson, SCDHEC
- Jack Roberts, Public
- Michael Norton, Parsons
- Jesse Harris, SCDHEC
- Van Keisler, SCDHEC
- Lee Poe, Public
- Karen Patterson, Public
- Bill Lawless, Public

DOE/Contractors/Others

- Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
- Patricia Suggs, DOE-SR
- Sherry Ross, DOE-SR
- Lee Fox, SRNS
- Brent Gifford, WSRC
- Sean Dunagan, SRNL
- Elmer Wilhite, SRNL
- Rob Trimble, SRNS
- Steve Thomas, SRNS
- Joel Cantrell, WSRC
- Kerry Watson, CBFO
- Dave Moody, CBFO
- Sonny Goldston, SRNS
- Pat McGuire, DOE-SR
- Larry Ling, SRNS
- Bill Stephens, WSRC
- Tim Burns, CBFO
- Bert Crapse, DOE-SR
- Terry Spears, DOE-SR

- *Waste Management
Committee Members*

Alan Eckmyre, Technical
Advisor

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 informed everyone that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be conducting a meeting with Shaw Areva MOX Services to discuss performance at the Mixed Oxide Fabrication Facility. The meeting is scheduled on Monday, December 15th, at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC, and will be open to the public. There is additional information on the sign-in table if anyone is interested.

Mr. Ortaldo reviewed the Waste Management (WM) Committee open and pending recommendations. The WM committee has 12 recommendations open and none pending.

Mr. Ortaldo reviewed the meeting agenda and welcomed Dr. Moody, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office. He asked that all questions be held until the end of the presentations.

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Committee Meeting Summary:

Members of the Waste Management Committee held a committee meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC. DOE-SR hosted the meeting. The meeting was very well attended. No issues or recommendations are expected from the discussions. The agenda topics included presentations on Lessons Learned from operations of the ARP/MCU, presented by Pat Suggs, DOE-SR; the status of Tank Residuals and Tank Closure, presented by Sherri Ross, DOE-SR; and an invited guest, Dr. David Moody, from DOE Carlsbad Operations Office discussed the National Transuranic Program to include the status of the WIPP Large Box Program as a result of CAB Recommendation #258 request. The meeting was very well attended. Dr. Moody provided in-depth information and addressed questions from the CAB members on the National TRU Waste Program including shipments, x-ray capabilities, and the availability of long-term storage at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Dr. Moody stated that TRU Waste characterization is very prescriptive and prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the hazardous waste permit of the State of New Mexico. The requirements are that the waste documentation must have detailed records of what the waste is and know all of the components quantified. Dr. Moody continued by stating that what is limiting the rate of shipments to WIPP from across the DOE-Complex, is the repackaging process, which takes time and personnel to complete. The repackaging work depends on the process, waste stream, and the time frame when the waste was generated. Dr. Moody explained the process for certifying TRUPACT III and stated that all certified boxes of TRU Waste will remain onsite until the TRUPACT III is certified. The CAB members asked Dr. Moody how long before all of the TRU boxes will be removed from the Savannah River Site. Dr. Moody replied that is difficult to provide a specific date due to the funding, competing priorities, and repackaging. In closing, Dr. Moody stated that there are no known physical limitations in the amount of TRU Waste that can be stored at WIPP pending Congressional and the State of New Mexico permit approval.

Pat Suggs, DOE-SR, provided an update of the status of the ARP / MCU operations which continues to operate very successfully. Sherri Ross, DOE-SR, provided an update of Tank Closure processes. She provided a video of the Sand Mantis working to clean in Tank 19. The CAB members were very interested in the Sand Mantis process and pleased to hear that tank cleaning is progressing.

Terry Spears, DOE-SR, provided informal remarks on the award of the SRS liquid waste contract to Savannah River Remediation; approval of the Critical Decision 3 for the Salt Waste Processing Facility that extended the startup date until May 2013; and personnel changes in the Office of the Assistant Manager of Waste Disposition.

Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, provided informal remarks to address a recent rumor circulating among the CAB members about a new Plutonium facility at K-Area and the impacts this would have on H-Canyon missions. Mr. McGuire stated that EM and NNSA are planning to conduct a joint study to evaluate if there are opportunities to optimize the capabilities of the Plutonium Preparation Project and the Pit Disassembly Conversion Facility within the existing K-Area facility. This would be a joint study conducted by both EM and NNSA. The study is expected to be completed in about six months. This is a feasibility study and no previous decisions have been changed associated with either the Plutonium Preparation Project or the Pit Disassembly Conversion Facility. DOE remains committed to the two-prong approach of dispositioning part of the plutonium through H-Canyon/DWPF and the other part of the plutonium through the MOX facility. SRS is continuing to pursue the two-prong approach to consolidate and disposition plutonium. At this time, DOE has no plans to shut down H-Canyon prior to the 2019 scheduled date. The H-Canyon is currently operational dispositioning surplus uranium and plutonium.

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At the end of the meeting, an opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

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

Public Comment:

Lee Poe expressed concerns that the frequent use of acronyms and jargon (i.e., the phrase ‘two-prong’ approach) in this evening’s presentations and discussions was not understandable by the public. He recommends terms and language be used that is familiar to the public.

Mr. Stephen Clark commented that the meeting was very informative, impressive, and makes folks aware of the SRS work.

Adjourn:

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

Follow-Up Actions:

None

PRESENTATIONS: *Available upon request.*