

Summary Notes, January 13, 2009
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Nuclear Materials and Waste Management Committees Joint Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials (NM) and the Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken SC.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the following:

- 1) Infrastructure Upgrades to H Canyon;
- 2) Waste Reduction Initiatives in H Canyon
- 3) Liquid Waste Disposition Risk Management; and
- 4) An opportunity for public comments on CAB related issues.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

- Manuel Bettencourt, NM
Chair
- Joe Ortaldo, WM Chair
Rose Hays
K. Jayaraman
Ed Burke
Donna Antonucci
Leon Chavous
Don Bridges
Stan Howard
Mary Drye
Madeleine Marshall
Ranowul Jzar
Alex Williams
Art Domby
Judy Greene-McLeod

Stakeholders

Tom Clements, Friends of the
Earth Organization
Eric Owens, SCDHEC
Kim Cauthen, SRNS
G. D. Mason, SCDHEC
Mark Sautman, DNFSB
Josh Yon, SCDHEC
Martha Berry, EPA
Yianne Kritzas, SCDHEC
Stephen Clark, Public
Murray Riley, Public
Bill Lawless, Public

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Debbie Wisham, V3
Charles Nickell, SRNS
Ron Campbell, WSRC
Charlie Harris, DOE-SR
Lyddie Hansen, SRNS
Charles Goergen, SRNS
Rob Trimble, SRNS
Soni Blanco, DOE-SR
Terry Spears, DOE-SR
Brenda Mills, DOE-SR
Pete Hill, WSRC
Gavin Winship, WSRC
Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR
Tarla Toomer, DOE-SR
Paul Sauerborn, SRNS
Larry Ling, SRNS

*- Nuclear Materials and
Waste Management
Committee Chairs*

Welcome and Introduction:

Joe Ortaldo, Chair, Waste Management (WM) Committee, opened the meeting, reviewed the ground rules, and asked for attendees introductions.

Then Mr. Ortaldo recognized Manuel Bettencourt, Chair, Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee, who is presiding as the joint committee meeting chair. Both Chairs asked that all attendees please hold their questions until the end of the presentations. Both Chairs provided the status of the open and pending recommendations, respectively.

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Mr. Ortaldo, Chair, WM stated that the Risk Management Presentation to be heard this evening will have some direct impact in the overall closure of CAB Recommendations #245 and #231 on how does DOE-SR evaluate risks on updates and new facilities. The WM Committee has significant interest in the H Canyon waste reduction initiatives.

Mr. Bettencourt, Chair, NM, stated that the CAB is very interested in the upgrades to the H Canyon and if the upgrades are a direct result of the 2008 GAO Report. He then reported that the NM Committee has four open recommendations on Plutonium Consolidation and H Canyon. Mr. Bettencourt also stated that the CAB is interested in tonight's presentations of the update on waste initiatives and the improvements that can be made to avoid additional wastes.

Mr. Ortaldo reminded everyone of the upcoming full board meeting on January 26th and 27th scheduled in Hilton Head, SC.

Meeting Summary:

Members of the SRS CAB Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee and the Waste Management Committee (WMC) conducted a joint committee meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC. The agenda topics included the Infrastructure Upgrades to H Canyon, provided by Charles Nickell, SRNS; the Waste Reduction Initiatives in H Canyon, provided by Charles Goergen, SRNS; and the Liquid Waste Disposition Risk Management, provided by Soni Blanco, DOE-SR, and Gavin Winship, WSRC. The Liquid Waste Risk Management presentation and discussions were provided in response to the SRS CAB Recommendations #231 and #245. Copies of the SRS CAB Recommendations are available for your review on the SRS CAB Web Page. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

The meeting was very well attended by CAB Members and the public. Joe Ortaldo, Chair, Waste Management Committee, opened the meeting, reviewed the ground rules, and asked for attendees introductions.

Then Mr. Ortaldo recognized Manuel Bettencourt, Chair, Nuclear Materials Committee, who is presiding as the joint committee meeting chair. Both Chairs provided their committee updates to include the status of the open and pending recommendations, respectively.

Terry Spears, DOE-SR, provide a status of the Liquid Waste Contract protest and if there are any impacts on the ongoing work. Mr. Spears stated that the recent Liquid Waste Contract award to the Savannah River Remediation Company is being protested. During the resolution of the protest and the subsequent transition of the liquid waste contract, SRS will continue with its aggressive approach to processing salt waste and freeing tank space using the interim processes that started up in FY08, disposing of treated salt waste in Saltstone, processing sludge waste in the Defense Waste Processing Facility and staging it for disposal at the Federal Repository, cleaning high level waste tanks for closure and moving forward with tank closure actions on or ahead of regulatory closure schedules.

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Mr. Spears, DOE-SR, stated that protest will not adversely affect any of these risk reduction initiatives, nor will it impede any ongoing missions at SRS that rely on the liquid waste system.

During the protest and contract transition period, DOE-SR will continue to keep the CAB members fully informed of our progress and any issues that we may encounter in carrying out the liquid waste mission.

Charles Nickell, SRNS, provided a briefing on the H Canyon Infrastructure Upgrades to include:

- the background;
- monitored Systems of both safety and support;
- the ranking and weighting criteria for determining which upgrades would be completed;
- the recent physical plant accomplishments;
- the H Area upgrades planned for FY09; and
- the purpose of the Integrated Facility Aging Management (IFAM) to ensure equipment associated with the Enriched Uranium Disposition Project can be operated safely and reliably through 2019 building upon existing Site programs.

In summary, Mr. Nickell stated that the H Area facilities are currently operating safely; the IFAM and H Canyon Infrastructure Upgrade Programs are integrated and support SRS Continuous Improvement initiatives; equipment and processes that should be upgraded to sustain facility operations have been identified; and managing risks to maximize facility utilization is occurring. The CAB members were interested if the upgrades are a result of the July 2008 GAO Report; and the costs of the upgrades. Mr. Nickell stated that the upgrades are not a direct result of the GAO Report. Mr. Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, stated that although current costs are about \$5M per year, in FY 2010 we do expect an increase in the H Canyon upgrades costs and that with funding there will be challenges to meet the H Canyon Site mission. The CAB members stated that they appreciated the presentation because it explained how upgrades are decided and which ones are done.

Chuck Goergen, SRNS, provided a briefing on the H Canyon Waste Reduction Initiatives to include the background; the Key Waste Reduction Initiatives; the Low Activity Waste configurations and flow paths; and the Waste Reduction Savings and Benefits. The CAB members stated that waste reductions could be better explained if related to what and how the reductions were achieved.

In summary, Mr. Goergen, stated that SRNS continues to think innovatively to safely reduce the amount of H Canyon Waste generated; maximize the SRS Site return on investment with early implementation of waste reductions activities; and optimize the disposition of surplus complex-wide materials while minimizing the amount of high level waste sent to the Tank Farms.

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Soni Blanco, DOE-SR, and Gavin Winship, WSRC, provided a briefing on the Liquid Waste Disposition Risk Management process to include the integration of planning and risk management. They stated that the risk management process enables the projects to execute with a plan to minimize obstacles and their potential impacts and maximize opportunities for improvements.

The CAB members requested that DOE-SR provide a general idea of how integration and risks are managed at the Site. This presentation was in response to CAB Recommendations #245 and #231. The CAB members commented that the presentation was very difficult and a complicated subject to understand.

There are no issues or recommendations expected from the discussions at this meeting. Several public comments were stated. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Public Comment:

1. Donna Antonucci encouraged all attendees to listen to public radio program on Saturday, the featured speaker is known as Dr. Atomic.
2. Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, introduced Brenda Mills, DOE-SR, who is the new Director, NM Programs and Projects Division.
3. Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth Organization, asked when the Plutonium EIS will be released for Public Comment and if the document is being held up in DOE-Headquarters due to political reasons or technical reasons.
4. Rose Hays commented on the recent news articles in the Aiken Standard for potential high employments levels coming to SRS.

Adjourn:

Mr. Bettencourt and Mr. Ortaldo adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Follow-Up Actions:

1. Provide the status of the Plutonium EIS release to Tom Clements.
2. Provide an electronic copy of the newspaper articles referenced by Dr. Hays during public comment period to the CAB members. *(Complete)*

PRESENTATIONS: (too large to attach)