

# SRS Citizens Advisory Board Chair Update

D. N. Bridges- Chair  
November 19, 2013  
Augusta, GA





# Welcome

- Welcome to Augusta.
- This is the final meeting of the year for CAB.
- Thanks for the efforts by CAB Support Team to set up these meetings.
- We've had CAB meetings in spite of all budget problems.



# CAB Membership Update

- Full committee membership of 25
- Membership drive for year is over.
- Good year for recruiting: 21 applications submitted.
- Ten members are up for reappointment.
- It appears there will be at least 4 vacancies for the start of year 2014.
  - Tenure limitations (Ed Burke, Kathe Golden, Don B.)
  - One resignation (John Snedeker)
- Selection process is underway.
- Thanks to each of you for your participation in 2013.

# Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board



- Since September- No Committee Meetings.
- Meetings in October were “rained out.”
- Committee meetings will not be rescheduled.
- Not sure of any further impact of government shutdown on CAB.
- Work plans for next year can cover areas not addressed this year.
- Meetings will take place as scheduled in December.

# Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs)



- SRS Citizens Advisory Board one of 8 SSABs.
- SSAB Sites: Hanford Oak Ridge Portsmouth  
Paducah Northern New Mexico  
Idaho Nevada Savannah River Site
- SSAB's Chairs Meeting on Nov. 5-7 at Portsmouth, OH.
- General Budget and Program Discussions.
  - This session was particularly interesting due to financial uncertainties.

# Observations from the SSAB Chairs Meeting



- Budget Situation- Approved FY 2014 Budget likely in January 2014 as opposed to CR.
  - SRS Budget Situation- Continued uncertainty(?).
  - Input on SRS 2014 Budget may have some impact.
- Funding next few years- Flat with little or no increase.
- Cleanup Actions at SRS – Highly Touted.
  - General progress
    - DWPF 40 canisters in one month of 2013.
    - HLW Tanks Closure activities, TRU Removal, etc.

# Observations from the SSAB Chairs Meeting



- Key Points made by Alice Williams, Deputy Ass't. Sec. EM.
  - Environmental Management (EM) is not going away any time soon. Schedules indicate up to 70 years of cleanup remaining.
  - EM is one of the few US organizations still bringing online and operating major new nuclear facilities.
    - Salt Waste Processing Facility at SRS
    - Similar Waste Treatment Facilities- Hanford and Idaho.
    - NNSA- MOX.
  - Japanese are very interested in waste treatment technology and the work EM is doing (wake of Fukushima).

# Observations from the SSAB Chairs Meeting



- Site Specific Advisory Boards Info:
  - Secretary of Energy asks that SSAB meetings be reported to him in his weekly reports.
  - Significant interest in SSABs at Assistant Secretary EM level. This meeting:
    - Assistant Secretary D. Huizenga tied in to meeting.
    - Deputy Assistant Secretary Alice Williams attended.
  - Cate Alexander, HQ SSAB Lead, is retiring in January.

# Items of Interest from Portsmouth



- Uranium Site- Gaseous Diffusion Plant operated from early 1950s to Shutdown in year 2000.
  - Employment at full Ops- Approx. 3,000 employees.
- Since 2000 the Site Activities:
  - New technology (American Centrifuge Project)
    - Approx. workforce of 400.
  - Cleanup
    - Approx. workforce of 2600.
    - Cleanup Schedule extends until 2040s. (30 years+).

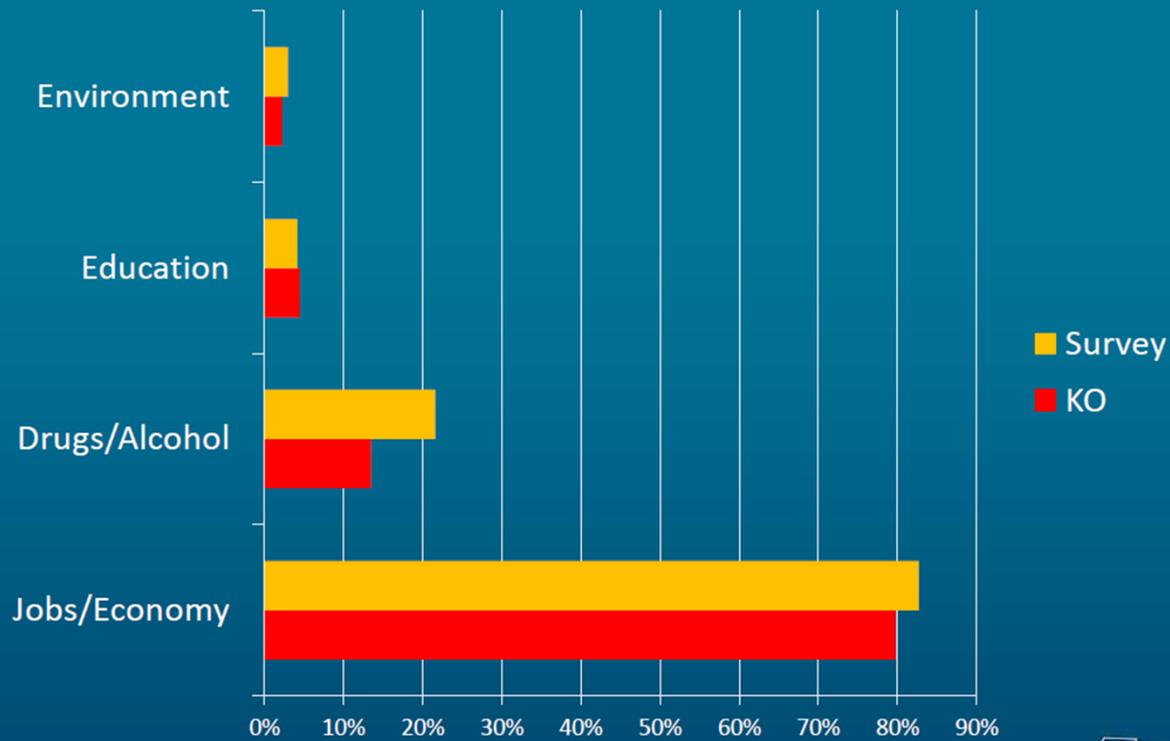
# Items of Interest from Portsmouth



- Even with Shutdown the work force remains the same at approx. 3,000.
- There is some interest in new missions.
- Exhaustive Study completed for new mission potential.
  - Two Slides of interest
    - What are the “Biggest Problems Facing the Community?”
    - “New Missions Scenarios” Preferred.
- One note from Paducah and their Ops.
  - Gaseous Diffusion Plant Shutdown in 2013.
  - 1100 workers to be laid off by Feb. 2014.



## Biggest problems facing your community?



**PORTS  
FUTURE**





## Scenario Preferences

Scenario	Preferences
Industrial Park	421
Green Energy Production	475
Multi-use Southern OH EC	143
National R & D	418
Training & Education	160
Greenbelt	131
Warehousing	179
Nuclear Power Plant	495
Metal Recovery	152

**PORTS  
FUTURE**



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# Observations from the SSAB Chairs Meeting



- A number of recommendations were discussed at the Chairs Meeting.
- Those approved and will be submitted to each SSAB for acceptance.
  - Advising DOE to maintain cleanup budgets as matter of top priority.
  - Decision on standards and actions on release of recycle scrap metal.
  - Making Disposition Paths available on-line.

# Advising DOE to maintain cleanup budgets as matter of top priority.



## **Recommendation:**

The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM-SSAB) recommends that DOE make every effort possible, including addressing Congress with this recommendation, to ensure that EM funding for all sites across the DOE Complex should be maintained as a top priority as it relates to across the board cut-backs in federal funding, operating under continuing resolutions and any other sequestrations. Federal budget cuts should not include funding for remediation or clean-up efforts.

## **Intent:**

It is the intent of the EM-SSAB to make every possible effort to protect the environment and reduce the risk to human health and safety by securing the best possible funding scenario of EM budgets and to ensure clean-up efforts are not slowed or put in jeopardy.

# Decision on standards and actions on release of recycle scrap metal.



## **Recommendation:**

Besides the DOE making a final decision on release of clean metals originating from radiological areas, the EM SSAB recommends DOE establish a comprehensive and structured recycling program to address volumetrically contaminated metals. This action offers the following benefits:

- Support environmental sustainability goals by recovery of many hundreds of tons of valuable materials and components that are of value to the nation's economy.
- Generate significant revenue to both DOE and host communities.
- Reduce footprint of on-site or off-site disposal cells.
- Minimize disposal costs.
- Reduce site legacy costs.

DOE should develop a strategy to educate the general public on benefits and risks of recycling metals from DOE EM sites.

The EM SSAB recommends DOE adopt International Atomic Energy Agency standards or their equivalence in determining which metals and materials meet the criteria for free-release and provide a report on the impact of this action. As a part of adopting the IAEA standards DOE should develop a public education component.

The EM SSAB recommends that in cases where technology is not currently available for decontamination, high value materials should be stored pending development of innovative technologies.

# Making Disposition Paths available on-line.



The EMSSAB requests that DOE resurrect or re-create these “disposition maps” and make them publicly available online. We realize that for security reasons certain wastes can’t be quantified but that is a small portion of the waste to be disposed. These maps would be incredibly beneficial to the EMSSAB and would increase the public’s ability to understand the waste types, quantities and plans for disposal so they can become more informed as opportunities for public engagement in decisions of waste disposal arise.

The EMSSAB volunteers to work with the DOE-EM on the development and/or updating of the maps and could be the first public reviewers of the graphics to help ensure the maps are easily understood by the public.

# Discussions From SSAB Meeting



- Two Presentations from Meetings.
- Entitled US DOE Practices Related to Public Input.
  - One focuses on Citizens Advisory Boards
    - Effectiveness and Need for.
  - The Other focuses on Public Input from NEPA, CERCLA, RCRA, Various Permits, etc.
    - Value and Usefulness of Public Input.
- Hard copies passed out for your use.

# Public Outreach Initiative



- DNB made CAB Presentation to Aiken City Environmental and Energy Advisory Committee (Monday, November 18).
- Presentation on Public Outreach- Suzy Hobbs-Baker.

# National Nuclear Science Week

## October 21-25



- Major Functions:
  - Edward Teller Lecture Series- Oct. 21
  - Showing and Discussion of Movie “Pandora’s Promise.”- Oct. 23
  - Forum: Celebrate Our Community’s Nuclear Industry.
- Participation by CAB Community:
  - Shelly Wilson (Panel member), Harold Simon, Clint Nangle, Don Bridges, Virginia Jones, Dave Moody, Others (?)

Edward Teller Lecture Speaker  
Marv Fertel, President  
Nuclear Energy Institute



- Lecture covered many interesting points,
- Three points that struck a “cord” with me.
  - Nuclear Renaissance is not occurring very rapidly. Electrical requirements growing very slowly.
    - Only 2% last year (Economic slowdown and improvement in “energy savings” devices)
    - Many years ago energy utilization was doubling every 10 years or so.
    - Only 5 Units in US are underway ( 2 at Plant Vogtle, GA; 2 at Plant Summer in SC; 1 in TVA).

## Edward Teller Lecture Speaker Marv Fertel, President NEI



- Another Comment: Slow growth of Nuclear Power.
  - Price of natural gas is much cheaper now due to increased available supply.
    - Fracking and Horizontal drilling for natural gas.
- Comment on Rigorous Regulatory Structure.
  - Strong oversight role (such as in US) is essential for nuclear power growth world-wide.
  - Any foul-ups have devastating implications (PR and otherwise).
  - Growth must be maintained in rigid, controlled regulatory environment.

# 2013 Challenges

## Top Issue - SRS CAB



- General FY 2014 Budget situation and impact on SRS Site Cleanup Program.
  - Major Concern on HLW Liquid Waste Program and failure to meet FFA commitments.
  - Other Aspects of Site Cleanup suffering significant cuts.

# 2013 Challenges

## Issue No. 2 - SRS CAB



- General funding and emphasis on major Site Programs to meet commitments and schedules for Site closure.
  - Startup of SWPF in timely manner.
  - Decision made on Processing SNF in H-Canyon.
  - Continue Processing Pu thru H-Canyon (Pu to WIPP and Pu for MOX).

# 2013 Challenges

## Issue No. 3 - SRS CAB



- Dealing with Cleanup in severely reduced budget climate and ensuring that expenditures offer commensurate risk reduction.
  - Realistic assumptions for dose calculations
  - Ensuring that cleanup standards are applied without undue conservatism.
  - Focus on risk reduction.

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

# Continuing Emphasis for this Year



- Focus:
  - Input from each CAB member.
  - More public involvement.
  - More recommendations to DOE.

# EM SSAB Chairs' FY 14 Focus Areas



- For the first time EM laid out their SSAB Focus Areas.
- FY 2014 Focus Areas
  - Budget Priorities
  - Identifying Community Expectations with Reduced Funding
  - Broadening Community Participation in EM SSAB Membership, Meetings.

# CAB Membership: A Responsibility



- As Citizens Advisory Board members you have:
  - The Mandate
  - The Opportunity
- To represent the interests and the views of the people of South Carolina and Georgia.
- Focus your thinking and views on how you can best carry out that role.
- Continually ask yourself, “Am I doing the best I can to represent my fellow citizens?”
- Go out and tell the world that you are a CAB member. **27**