Meeting Minutes
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)—Combined Committees Meeting
New Ellenton Community Center, New Ellenton, SC
July 25, 2016

Monday, July 25, 2016 Attendance:

| CAB            | DOE/Contractors/Other                  | Agency Liaisons                   
|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------
| Gil Allensworth| Zach Todd, DOE-SR                       | Trey Reed, SCDHEC                 
| Tom Barnes     | Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR                | Gregory O’Quinn, SCDHEC           
| Louie Chavis – Absent | Avery Hammett, DOE-SR                  | Deidre Lloyd, EPA                 
| Susan Corbett  | Thomas Johnson, DOE-SR                  | Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC             
| Robert Doerr   | Jim Folk, DOE-SR                       |                                   
| Murlene Ennis – Absent | Jeff Bentley, DOE-SR            | Stakeholders                      
| Dawn Gillas    |                                        | Suzanne Rhodes, League of         
| David Hoel     |                                        | Women Voters                      
| Eleanor Hopson |                                        | Tom Clements, SRS Watch           
| Virginia Jones - Absent |                                    | Rose Hayes, Public                
| Daniel Kaminski|                                        | Pamela Greenlaw, Public           
| Jim Lyon       |                                        | Marolyn Parson, Public            
| John McMichael |                                        | Tom Hallman, Public               
| Clint Nangle   |                                        | Shandra Drayton, Public           
| Cathy Patterson|                                        | Ponifa Eaves Hotchkiss, CNS       
| Larry Powell   |                                        | Liz Goodson, Public               
| Bill Rhoten – Absent |                                    | Dara Glass, BWST                  
| Earl Sheppard  |                                        | Jim Tisarami, Public              
| Harold Simon - Absent |                                    | Joe Ortaldo, Public               
| George Snyder  |                                        | Mike Johnson, CNTA                
|                |                                        |                                   

Opening: Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice-Chair

Ms. Spinelli welcomed everyone to the combined committees meeting.

Meeting Rules & Agenda Review: Tina Watson, CAB Facilitator

Ms. Watson noted that no presentations were scheduled for the meeting, so they would be working on committee updates and crafting recommendations and position statements.

Administrative and Outreach Committee Update: Eleanor Hopson, Chair

Ms. Hopson welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members. She noted that the membership drive is in full swing. To be considered for the 2017-2019 term, applications must be submitted by September 1, 2016. The Spring 2016 edition of Board Beat magazine was available on the back table.

Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee Update: Tom Barnes, Chair

Mr. Barnes welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members. The committee had no open or pending recommendations. The next committee meeting will be held August 16, 4:30-6:20 pm.

Strategic and Legacy Management Committee Update: Bob Doerr, Chair
Mr. Doerr welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee members. Recommendation 323 is open, with ongoing updates for safety procedures and emergency preparedness. Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Doerr presented the draft recommendations.

Discussion of Draft Recommendation: “Employee Recruitment and Retention”

One round of changes had already been made by the committee. The committee presented the recommendation to the full board. The recommendation came from a concern that there are not enough workers to complete the long-term SRS mission.

Louis Walters, CAB Member, noted that the outreach conducted by contractors and subcontractors included engagement with local high schools to guide students to the energy sector. High schools were added to point 5 of the Recommendation.

Jim Lyon, CAB Member, suggested that DOE reduce the number of contractors and shift to more direct employees. Mr. Doerr stated that they are asking the DOE for a presentation that will give them insight into that specific question.

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, thought that the contractors were already given financial incentives.

Mr. Doerr explained that they were talking about separate incentives. The contractors do receive incentives based on the scope of work and the contract. The contractors currently give financial incentives to entice new employees to come on board. They are recommending that the DOE help the contractors with the incentives for new hires.

Dawn Gillas, CAB Member, noted that the contractors can’t complete the scope of work without the employees.

Ms. Spinelli suggested that point 1 be removed from the recommendation and asked Mr. Doerr if he was comfortable with that. Mr. Doerr replied in the negative.

There was a discussion about possible additional considerations.
David Hoel, CAB Member, noted that he may have a conflict of interest on the recommendation, since he is a contractor on-site. He will abstain from the vote.

The draft will go to vote on Day 2.

Waste Management Committee Update: Earl Sheppard, Chair

Mr. Sheppard welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members.

Discussion of Draft Recommendation: “Waste Management Milestones”

The committee had one draft recommendation to discuss. There were no pending recommendations. The discussion focused on the terminology of “milestone” versus “goal” as used in the draft recommendation. It was clarified that “milestone” is a regulatory reference, such that missing the milestone created a penalty. A “goal” is an internal threshold of achieving a predetermined target, but does not carry regulatory penalties.

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC, confirmed that, from a state perspective, “milestone” is a regulatory statement. She asked the committee if they wanted to focus on enforceable commitment dates rather than internal objectives.

The draft will be revised in time for a vote to proceed on Day 2.

Nina Spinelli announced that Tina Watson, CAB Facilitator, was leaving her post and thanked and recognized her for her hard work.

Nuclear Materials Committee Update: Larry Powell, Chair

Mr. Powell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee members. Recommendation 334 remained open. There were no pending recommendations. There were two draft recommendations and two position statements to discuss. The next meeting will be held August 9, 4:30-6:20 pm.
Discussion of Draft Recommendation: “Improving H-Canyon Throughput”

Dawn Gillas, CAB Member, presented the recommendation and explained some of the complexities of H-Canyon processing.

Bob Doerr, CAB Member, suggested that the acronyms that appear in the recommendation be detailed in the beginning. Ms. Gillas concurred.

Jim Lyon, CAB Member, suggested the recommendation highlight some of the potential hazards that bottlenecks in H-Canyon represented.

The recommendation was considered ready for vote on Day 2.

Discussion of Draft Recommendation: “German Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipped to Savannah River Site”

Gil Allensworth, CAB Member, read the recommendation into the record.

Bob Doerr, CAB Member, asked if the German SNF would be handled by NNSA or DOE.

Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, responded that it was an NNSA initiative working through the State Department, which worked with foreign countries to identify the materials. Once it crossed the SRS boundary, the material became the property of EM.

A discussion ensued as to whether the materials were part of any treaty obligation between the US and Germany.

An unidentified speaker asked how the full-cost recovery would be calculated. Mr. McGuire counseled that it is “cradle-to-grave, 100 percent cost recovery.” He also noted that the decision to accept the material is a long way away and is currently considered “Proposed Work.”

David Hoel, CAB Member, requested additional information to confirm whether the German waste is or is not a treaty obligation.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
Marolyn Parson, public, noted that the recommendation seemed to be opposed to the position statement. The DOE is not required to respond to position statements, only the recommendation. Ms. Parson asked how the board can have two conflicting documents.

Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice-Chair, stated that the CAB would vote on both.

Tina Watson, CAB Facilitator, noted that recommendations take precedence over position statements.

Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, in response to a statement by Tom Clements, SRS Watch, noted that because the material is of US origin, there is a responsibility for DOE to ensure safe disposition.

Mr. Clements reiterated that the recommendation presented the German SNF as a nonproliferation issue, when he believed that it was a disposition issue.

Pamela Greenlaw, public, stated she believed the position statement should be the recommendation. But in either event, releasing either one would be premature.

Laura Lance, public, asked if the CAB included local economic concerns in their deliberations. Ms. Spinelli responded that the goal of the CAB was to draft recommendations in response to requests for DOE advice under the yearly work plan. The CAB must follow their charter.

Rose Hayes, public, commented that there is not enough time for full public statements.

Mr. Allensworth responded to each person’s concerns in turn.

David Matos, public, expressed his concern that the German material would use the same tanks as the cleanup mission, and he believed accepting it would slow down current cleanup efforts. He also noted that the transportation of the material would be the most vulnerable aspect of the entire issue—when any terrorist threat would have the most chance for success. Within the transportation plan, the Port of Charleston could be the most vulnerable point.

The recommendation will go to vote on Day 2.

David Hoel, CAB Member, read the draft position statement into the record.

The discussion that followed focused on research into disposal methods, whether the material is commercial or defense grade, and the status of the EA.

Louis Walters, CAB Member, asked for a clarification of the no action alternative. Mr. Hoel responded that the EA mentions alternatives and no action is the status quo—what the current situation is—before any future decision is made. For the material in question, the status quo is that it is being managed in Germany. The position statement declared that the board agreed that it should stay that way.

Gil Allensworth, CAB Member, noted that the EA has been completed, but has not been released. He asked if the CAB needed to review the final EA before taking action on the recommendations or position statement.

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC, reiterated the state’s position that the DOE should not bring more material to SRS unless an equitable amount of risk has been removed.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Tom Clements, SRS Watch, stated that he had visited the German location several times recently and reported the following: The current location is a private facility, and the owners do not want to deal with the waste. They want it off their site. A second site is in North Rhein Westfalia, and they do not want to manage it either.

Rose Hayes, public, stated that she believed that both Germany and Japan want to be nuclear free, but no repository is available. She believed that the material is coming to the US.
Connie Young, public, requested a moratorium on accepting waste shipments. She stated that she believed the cleanup should be finished first. She also noted that the cleanup is taking way too long.

An unknown speaker suggested that the issue be tabled until more information became available.

Mary Weber, CAB Member, stated that if the facts change, the position statement can change. She believed the CAB needed to take a position now, but it could change as circumstances warranted. Ms. Weber noted that if it was critical to have a final EA, then the CAB should not issue a recommendation or position statement.

Jim Lyon, CAB Member, stated that facts are necessary, if the recommendations or statements are to be taken seriously

Larry Powell, Committee Chair, stated that a vote will be taken on the position statement on Day 2.

Discussion of Draft Position Statement: “Interim or Long-Term Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste”

David Hoel, CAB Member, stated that the CAB needed to vote to either renew this position or allow it to expire. Mr. Hoel then read the position statement into the record.

Larry Powell, Committee Chair, stated the vote will be taken on Day 2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS SESSION

Tom Clements, SRS Watch, noted that he provided several documents for the CAB’s consideration. Mr. Clements updated the CAB on results of his investigations and communications with Germany.

Suzanne Rhodes, public, stated that although the Curies in the tanks have dropped, the volume has remained unchanged.
Rose Hayes, public, asked for information about the planned reorganization of the SRS Operations Cleanup Office. What will the impact on operations be? She also requested information about a newly announced investigation into a citation against SRS about the treatment of a whistleblower.

Marolyn Parson, public, stated that online meetings have greatly improved. Ms. Parson relayed that she had read the draft EA in its entirety and had submitted the following questions: 1. Can the project be conducted without harm to people or environment? 2. Will there be a significant economic benefit to the community? She concluded no. 3. Is there a disposition path? She concluded no. 4. Will the project delay high-level waste tank cleanup? She concluded, yes, the EA states for only for 1 year. Ms. Parson supports the no action alternative.

Pamela Greenlaw, public, urged the CAB to vote down the recommendation and vote to make the position statement the recommendation. Ms. Greenlaw stated that the interim storage cannot be at SRS. She then urged the CAB to use science as the basis of decision-making.

Joe Ortaldo, public, stated that he believed that there was no need to rush the position statement.

Connie Young, public, supported leaving everything where it is.

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, referred the CAB to 13 pages of public emails to consider prior to tomorrow's votes.

END OF DAY 1, JULY 25, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)—Full Board Meeting
New Ellenton Community Center, New Ellenton, SC
July 26, 2016

Tuesday, July 26, 2016 Attendance:

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<td>Eleanor Hopson</td>
<td>Terry Spears, DOE-SR</td>
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Opening Ceremonies: Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice-Chair

Ms. Spinelli welcomed the attendees and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Meeting Rules and Agenda Review: Tina Watson, CAB Facilitator

Ms. Watson reviewed the meeting rules and agenda.

Agency Updates

Department of Energy Agency Update: Jack Craig, DOE-SR

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Sightings (drones) at SRS: There have been 11 confirmed sightings of drones flying over SRS airspace in recent weeks. Each sighting triggered security alerts and notifications as well as appropriate responses by protective forces.

Although airspace over SRS is not currently restricted by the FAA, these drones pose a safety and security concern. SRS policy on possession and/or use of UAS states that they are strictly prohibited on site. The FAA listed SRS airspace in the National Airspace and established
it as a National Security Area. This consisted of a notice to pilots to voluntarily avoid SRS airspace and not fly below 2,000 feet.

DOE/NNSA is in the process of requesting restricted airspace for all NNSA facilities and SRS. They made their employees aware of the SRS policy regarding UAS and encouraged them to promptly notify SRS Operations Center of any sightings.

*Dispute Resolution on Tank 15 and Tank 10:* Only July 12, DOE invoked the dispute resolution process under the FFA with US EPA Region 4 and SCDHEC over completing bulk waste removal efforts for two tanks by September 30, 2016.

DOE requested an extension to August 31, 2017, for Tank 15 and an extension to August 31, 2018, for Tank 10 for completing bulk waste removal from these tanks. The extensions were requested due to various technical considerations and testing of a new “at-tank” treatment process.

The parties will now enter the informal dispute resolution phase involving FFA project managers from each of the agencies. If the issue is not resolved, it will move to the formal phase of the FFA dispute resolution process.

*Tank Closure Cesium Removal (TCCR) Contract Awarded:* SRR was awarded a contract for TCCR [pronounced “ticker”] earlier this month. TCCR is designed to enhance the removal of bulk waste from underground radioactive high-level waste storage tanks at SRS. The contract awarded to Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC, is valued at $12.4 million, and the new process is expected to be operational in late Spring 2018.

In January 2016, SRR received commercial supplier proposals for the procurement of the equipment needed for the TCCR technology demonstration at the site’s Tank 10. Since receipt of the proposals, SRR has been reviewing and evaluating supplier proposals.
The technology selected is an Ion-Exchange process with an “at-tank” deployment. Commercial vendors have demonstrated success with cesium removal using ion exchange from similar type wastes.

*Strategic Plan*: The site-wide Strategic Plan is in development and will be shared in draft form with the public for comments in late Fall.

*Nuclear Materials Operations at SRS*: All Nuclear Materials facilities are in sustained operations.

In H-Canyon, both the contractor’s and DOE’s Readiness Assessments for first uranium cycle and head end operations have been completed. Dissolution of SNF is expected to begin in August.

The Canadian Target Residue Material (TRM) modifications are operationally complete. The contractor’s Readiness Assessment for TRM is scheduled to begin on August 8, 2016. The DOE Readiness Assessment is scheduled to begin in September 2016.

HB-Line continued to process plutonium feed material for the MOX facility or for disposition.

K-Area continued to perform work for ensuring safe storage of plutonium and supported shipment of plutonium to HB-Line for processing.

K-Area received a shipment of plutonium from Japan in June.

K-Area expected to begin downblending plutonium in September for disposal at WIPP.

L-Area continued to support fuel receipts from foreign and domestic research reactors.

In July, a fuel-handling tool unexpectedly disengaged while handling fuel for identification purposes in L-Basin. The fuel was not damaged and the facility entered a Limiting Condition of Operation. Inspection of the tool did not identify any issues that would cause it to inadvertently disengage. L-Area was working on a path forward regarding use of the tool.
235-F continued to address actions for completion of the implementation plan for DNFSB Recommendation 2012-1. Draining windows for cells 3-5 have been completed, and seven master manipulators have been removed from cells 3-5. Removal of outer windows for cells 3-5 will be performed in August, followed by enhanced characterization to determine how much material is contained in these cells.

The Final Environment Assessment on SNF from Germany is currently in DOE internal review with no specified date for release at this time.


- DWPF poured 106 canisters for a total of 4,076. Operations ongoing.
- Double Stack project continued and successfully removed 220 crossbars. 106 of 150 position are ready for double stacking.
- Saltstone processed a total of 887,857 gallons of low-level waste into grout. Operations ongoing.
- A readiness review on the first of two 60,000-gallon salt solution receipt tanks was completed.
- ARP/MCU processed a total of 891,891 gallons of salt waste this fiscal year. Operations ongoing.
- The 3H Evaporator remained shutdown due to a leak in the evaporator pot, and leak identification continued.
- SRR is in the process of installing an interior liner for Saltstone Disposal Unit-6.

Sandblasting of the walls, columns, and pedestals was completed. Application of a conductive primer coating to the walls was completed and will soon begin on the columns and pedestals. Receipt of first batch of liner material was expected by the end of the month and installation of the liner is scheduled to occur in August.
Infrastructure to connect the disposal cell to the Saltstone Processing Facility has been completed and is awaiting final tie-in to the facility, which will occur after SDU-6 passes a leak test.

Salt Waste Processing Facility testing and commissioning is underway with radioactive operations expected after December 2018.

_D-Area Ash Project Completion:_ The first layer of the cover (6-inches of common fill) was installed at the 488-4D Coal Ash Landfill. Installation of the geosynthetics began in May, which included a clay layer and a drainage layer. Twenty inches of common fill is placed on top of the geosynthetics at the end of each day’s installation to protect the layers from rain.

The geosynthetics cover installation for 488-4D was completed last week with mechanical completion for Phase I (488-4D and 488-2D coal ash basins) to be completed by the end of August.

The contractor began in earnest on Phase II (488-1D Coal Ash Basin and 489-D Coal Pile Runoff Basin) of the project in mid-July with dewatering of the 489-D.

On June 8, 2016, a leak occurred at the base of the 782-A Service Fire Water Tank. The leak developed from about 1 gallon/minute to about 25 gallons/minute. A temporary fix designed by SRNS Engineering was placed over the leak site by a team of divers on June 15, 2016. The fix required covering the hole with a 10-inch-square, ¼-inch-thick flexible neoprene-type pad anchored by a 4-inch-by-6-inch weight with handle. The leak was reduced to 13 drips/minute. SRS Engineering is working on the design of a more permanent fix within the next 2-3 weeks.

In June, the DOE issued their official acceptance letter for Ameresco’s Biomass Cogeneration Facility Phase 2 (Boiler 3) Construction project. The new boiler officially started operations on June 30, 2016. The Phase II Construction Project added a third Biomass boiler to
the Burma Road Facility. The third boiler added security to steam operations and allowed Ameresco to provide additional electricity to the site.

The SC National Guard Engineer Unit completed its annual training at SRS in June. The unit completed work relating to Phase 2 of 288-F ash basin. Phase 2 consisted of setting up permanent sediment traps, establishing erosion control, and moving ash to prescribed locations.

_Savannah River National Laboratory:_ SRNL provided exemplary support for the FBI Diamond Thunder exercise and hosted the US-China PeacefulUses of Nuclear Technology meeting.

SRNL developed an enhanced attenuation strategy at Mound that has accelerated the timeframe for groundwater cleanup by more than a decade and lowered costs by $5 million.

SRNL also provided support to the Portsmouth facility on how robotics technology can be quickly deployed to facilitate their D&D mission and improve safety for the worker.

_WIPP Update:_ Workers at the WIPP are now well into the second month of cold operations at the facility, and, while significant progress has been made, much remains to be accomplished to meet the December 2016 projected timeframe for restarting TRU waste operations.

In addition to cold operations, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) program managers were tasked to focus on a number of activities necessary to ensure the safety of workers at the site, including ground control objectives (bolting), completion of readiness and testing activities necessary for the Interim Ventilation System (IVS) to become operational, and repairs and upgrades to fire suppression systems, both on vehicles and underground, which are all required for restart.

Secretary Moniz directed the CBFO to reevaluate the critical path schedule for reopening WIPP and emphasized that safety is paramount.

Q&A Session
Unknown speaker: Groundwater in midlands is especially acidic and could leach lead.

Does SRS treat pipes?

Michael Mikolanis, DOE-SR, noted that they would need to look into that.

Jim Lyon, CAB Member, asked if there was anything anyone could do about the drones, if there was any way to counter them.

Jack Craig, DOE-SR, responded that the ability to respond to drones is limited. The FAA definitely has requirements concerning private drones—that the operator must maintain line of sight, for example. The security forces do try to track them, and they make notifications to the FAA, FBI, and DOE. However, if security did find someone, they could only question them; they have no authority to act in that situation. It is a safety and security concern. The DOE is working with the FAA to put more teeth into the requirements. They requested SRS be made a no-fly zone, but it takes a while to get that approved.

David Hoel, CAB Member, asked if the DOE had received any regulatory notices of violations in the past two months.

Mr. Mikolanis stated that there were none.

Environmental Protection Agency Update: Deidre Lloyd, EPA

Ms. Lloyd, a project manager for the high-level waste system, reviewed the request for an extension for bulk waste. The EPA and SC denied the extension, and DOE initiated informal negotiations.

Q&A Session

There were no questions.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Agency Update:

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC
Ms. Wilson noted that copies of the data report discs were available on the back table and at the SCDHEC web site at: http://www.scdhec.gov/SRS; she then reviewed the remaining risks at the SRS:

1. storage of plutonium
2. storage of spent nuclear fuel
3. high-level waste

The DOE is authorized to monitor themselves for plutonium and spent nuclear fuel, and SCDHEC has no authority over those. DHEC has the authority to regulate #3, high-level waste. Managing this waste is a huge challenge because there is a large amount of it that resides in aging tanks. All of that waste must be treated, and tanks must be closed.

The Regulatory schedule for those tank closures in the future is in jeopardy for two reasons: 1. SWPF is important to everyone’s interests because it allows treatment to happen on a large scale, which is required to process the waste as quickly as possible; any delay to SWPF going online is a problem, and 2. The budget for high-level waste has been slashed, which has cut the ability to treat existing waste on site. These two factors bring all milestones into jeopardy.

The DOE requested extensions on two milestone for this year, and SCDHEC and EPA Region 4 said no, so the three agencies are currently in an informal dispute process.

The main issue is for treatment to be maximized from now moving forward. Maximized treatment will put everyone in the best position to get the waste processed and out of the tank. For that to happen, the SWPF needs to come online as soon as possible. And, for that to happen, the budget needs to be increased and stabilized for the long term.

Q&A Session

Louis Walters, CAB Member, requested a more detailed overview of the process in not granting the extensions to DOE.
Ms. Wilson responded that the two tank milestones are part of the FFA, which included a regulatory schedule in the agreement. That schedule is very prescriptive. The DOE asked for extensions, which included the agency’s justification for the request. SCDHEC and the EPA reviewed the justification, and they did not fully agree with it. They thought that the DOE should have considered other alternatives, so they denied the request; the FFA allows the DOE to dispute the findings. The current dispute resolution process is informal, however, if that process is unsuccessful, the dispute goes to a higher-level management team, and then to a third, until the parties agree to a resolution.

David Hoel, CAB Member, asked how many times the DOE and SCDHEC entered into dispute.

Wilson: Only twice before, since 1997—the main focus is to get treatment back online.

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, asked if the EPA proposed a radioactive content 10x greater than current regulations in groundwater and drinking water.

Ms. Wilson stated that she was not familiar with that information.

Deidre Lloyd, EPA, stated she would have to look into it, but had not heard that.

John McMichael, CAB Member, asked how they put focus on funding at HQ.

Wilson: SCDHEC and the DOE identify the work scope for hearty treatment. The DOE decides how much money is needed to support that scope, and then they speak to the congressional delegation. Team members were in Washington, DC, on July 15 to do just that.

Jack Craig, DOE-SR, stated that the budget request for 2017 was $111 million more than the 2016 enacted budget. They agree that funding liquid waste is highest budget request. SWPF is the biggest part of that request. However, it appears 2017 will be a continuing resolution, rather than a formal budget appropriations package. During the past fourteen years, Congress has not passed a budget on time, and there is no reason to think this year will be any different. Budget delays and CRs versus a formal budget restricts their ability to get on with the work. But, Mr. Craig reiterated that the DOE has requested full funding for the budget.
Ms. Wilson noted that everyone is still recovering from the low budgets of 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Agency Update: Sean Hayes, GADNR

Mr. Hayes noted some personnel changes at GADNR. Irene Bennett was named current acting manager. In addition, the agency was conducting medical support training for Plant Vogtle.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Rose Hayes, public, noted that the SR Operations Office was being reorganized. She stated that EM20 and EM30 were going away, and she wanted to understand the impact of this reorganization on SRS, schedules, and milestones.

Jack Craig, DOE-SR, responded that the activity was actually an HQ reorganization. The current structure of seven deputy assistant secretaries was being replaced by three new deputy assistant secretaries. EM20 and EM30 were going to be absorbed into one of those three new positions. Mr. Craig stated he would prepare a briefing for the next meeting to review the reorganization. He believed that there was going to be a larger focus on SRNL.

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC, noted that she did not have any reason to think the reorganization would have adverse impacts. Deidre Lloyd, EPA, agreed with Ms. Wilson.

Administrative and Outreach Committee Update: Eleanor Hopson, Chair

Ms. Hopson welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the committee members. She stated that the CAB is always seeking new members. She reminded everyone that the deadline for membership applications for the 2017-2019 term is September 1. In addition, the committee is seeking a vice-chair if any current members of the CAB are interested.
Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee Update: Tom Barnes, Chair

Mr. Barnes welcomed everyone to New Ellenton and introduced the committee members. The next committee meeting will be held August 16, 2016, 4:30-6:20 pm.

Presentation: SCDHEC River Monitoring: Beth Cameron, SCDHEC

Ms. Cameron began the presentation by noting that the data she would review was from a five-year period. She reviewed the data for tritium, alpha/beta, and gamma testing in the waters at a number of area boat landings that are upstream, downstream, and background to the Savannah River Site. For tritium monitoring, the numbers represent yearly averages based on weekly composite sampling data. For alpha and beta testing, only monthly composites are taken. Ms. Cameron noted that there have been no gamma detections for the past several years. The agency also does non-radioactive monitoring at the same sites.

Ms. Cameron reviewed the data for fish monitoring for tritium, cesium, strontium, mercury, and other metals among edible and non-edible bass and catfish. There are no EPA standards for tritium in fish, so the agency uses the groundwater standards.

Q&A SESSION

Susan Corbett, CAB Member: Where does the tritium come from?

Michael Mikolnis, DOE-SR: Tritium comes from SRS where it has been stored underground and from Plant Vogtle in Georgia.

Corbett: How about cesium and strontium?

Mikolnis: There have been no new releases. It would mostly come from the sediment.

Corbett: What about fish advisories for mercury?

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC: The agency does a significant amount of education on fish advisories. If the fishermen follow the posted advisories, they should not be impacted.
Bob Doerr, CAB Member, and Buford County resident, asked if they monitor tritium at the Buford/Jasper water facility, very far downstream.

Beth Cameron, SCDHEC, replied that they do monitor Buford/Jasper, and it has been measuring in the 200-300 pCi range for a number of years. That level of radiation is considered background.

Strategic and Legacy Management Update: Bob Doerr

Mr. Doerr welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members. The committee has open Recommendation 323. They have one draft recommendation that is coming up for a vote today: Employee Retention and Recruitment. The next committee meeting will be August 16, 6:30-8:20pm.

Mr. Doerr reviewed two changes that were made as a result of the Day 1 discussion of the recommendation. Motion was made to vote on the recommendation. Seconded.

Results: 15 Yes, 1 Opposed, 2 Abstentions

The Motion was carried, and the Recommendation approved.

Presentation: Final Appendix E: Brian Hennessey, DOE-SR

Mr. Hennessey reviewed the annual update on FFA Appendix E, which was approved in February 2016. Mr. Hennessey noted that Appendix E contains a lifecycle list of all of the cleanup milestones for SRS. It also includes a discussion of the conditions, problems, and remedial alternatives specific to SRS. Each site in the DOE complex has an FFA with the same appendices that are unique to their requirements. Mr. Hennessey then reviewed the work flow of documents and activities.

For 2016, there was a schedule change for Appendix E. Under CERCLA, all remedies must be reviewed every five years to make sure they are still valid as to process, procedure, and outcome. The DOE decided to break all remedies into five groups of similar type. Then the
teams would review one remedy group per year to make the reviews easier to execute. 2016 is the first year for five-year remedy reviews.

Mr. Hennessey then reviewed the FY 2017 milestones

Q&A SESSION
There were no questions.

Waste Management Committee Update: Earl Sheppard, Chair

Mr. Sheppard welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee members. The committee has one draft recommendation. The next meeting will be held August 9, 6:30-8:20 pm. Mr. Sheppard then introduced Tom Foster, the new SRR president and project manager. Mr. Foster spent a few moments giving his background and experience.

Presentation: Liquid Waste System Plan Revision: Pete Hill, SRR

Mr. Hill gave an overview of the operational highlights and current status of projects ongoing at SRR.

Mr. Hill noted that system plan changes were driven by advances in technology, a change in sequencing, finding acceleration opportunities, and funding adjustments. The system plan changes from Revision 19 to Revision 20 included Tank Closure Cesium Removal (advances in technology), reprioritizing F-Tank Farm isolation (change in sequencing), and an improved funding profile (funding adjustments).

Mr. Hill relayed that there will be significant inputs into the system as SWPF starts up in December 2018. In addition, H-Canyon will operate through 2025, with flushing in 2026. Double-stacking of GWSB #1 will increase canister storage capacity by 2,270 locations. The new TCCR technology will be demonstrated on Tank 10 salt waste. The TCCR unit, a commercially
available product, is expected to accelerate tank closure by allowing for faster movement of material throughput in the system.

The Revision 19 funding model was inadequate for the liquid waste program to operate at rated capacity, however, the Revision 20 funding model alleviates many of the obstacles for rated capacity.

Mr. Hill presented several alternative cases and compared timelines between case 1 (the baseline) and case 3 (full rated capacity).

Q&A Session

Mr. Sheppard, Committee Chair, asked Mr. Hill to review the TCCR process.

Mr. Hill explained that it is a chemical Ion-Exchange process for salt waste. A column with a resin attractant captures the cesium as it passes through. The salt waste has been decontaminated once it passed through the resin. When the column comes to an end of useful life, it is removed and can be processed out.

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, asked what percentage cesium can be removed.

Mr. Hill responded that when resin is first put into service, it is considered clean, and has a high capture rate that would be an SWPF equivalent.

Ms. Corbett then asked where the column would go.

Mr. Hill responded that, in the interim, it will be stored on site, then shipped off site to Waste Control Specialists in Texas, which is a greater than Class C facility.

Dawn Gillas, CAB Member, asked how much radioactivity would be left in the salt waste.

Mr. Hill replied that although the target is about 800,000 Curies, they expected to be closer to 600,000.

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC, asked how much money Liquid Waste needed.

Mr. Hill responded that the Revision 20 needed $445 million, but in the President’s budget it was funded above that. For 2017, it needs $475 million, and he believed that the
President’s budget was also above that. For the 2018 budget, they requested an extra $50 million to support Case 3 (the most accelerated). He stated that Case 3 would need $50 million each year for more than 10 years.

David Hoel, CAB Member, asked if any of the cases took into account the 3H Evaporator loss.

Mr. Hill said that the team was publishing the report as that happened, so not at the time. A later review concluded that they can afford a three-year outage on the evaporator without impacting current schedules.

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, asked how they decided which tanks to empty.

Mr. Hill replied that SRR works with the DOE on prioritization, but in general, single-shell tanks and Tank 1- and Tank 2-types located at or near the water table received first priority. There is a similarity in tank types in F, but they are not located near a water table, and they have 5-foot secondary pans. Double-shell or Type 4 tanks with no history of leakage and not located near a water table come next. And, H-area Type 3 tank come last.

Louis Walters, CAB Member, asked Mr. Hill to give them a vision of how he sees FY 2042, with the $0.5 billion per year, under current value.

Mr. Hill replied that he envisioned that all waste tanks have gone through the D&D process and were completely closed, with EM coming in to backfill.

Mr. Sheppard reminded everyone that the September 14 tour is all in liquid waste.

Possible Vote on Draft Recommendation: “Waste Management Milestones”

A motion was made to vote to approve the draft Recommendation. Motion seconded.

Vote: 17 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstention.

The Motion was carried, and the Recommendation approved.
Marolyn Parson, public, noted that the D-Area Ash project completion was up for public comments earlier in the summer. She read the official comments she submitted, in which she proposed that SRS consider the STAR process for the coal ash projects.

Suzanne Rhodes, League of Women Voters, noted that the organization recently attended a nuclear symposium in Aiken and gave an overview of the event.

Nuclear Materials Committee Update: Larry Powell, Chair

Mr. Powell welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members. He noted that the committee has one open Recommendation (#334) and two draft proposals. The next committee meeting will be held August 9, 4:30-6:20 pm.

Presentation: K-Area Overview Update: Allen Gunter, DOE-SR

Mr. Gunter provided an overview and status update of the K-Area storage facility. He focused his presentation on container types and testing that is done to maintain the integrity of the containers and the facility. Containers are both randomly selected and specifically selected for testing. Mr. Gunter noted that they are testing for pressurization and corrosion issues. Pressurization can cause an explosion; corrosion can cause leakage. He concluded that the plutonium is stored safely in K-Area, that SRS continues to evaluate storage conditions, and that SRS has the experienced staff and facility to continue to handle and store plutonium safely.

Q&A Session

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, asked if the robust oxide stabilization temperature of 950-degrees Celsius is considered baking.
Mr. Gunter replied that it could be considered baking. The purpose it to drive off organic moistures in the material so that the center of the oxide reaches 950 degrees and stays there for two hours.

Ms. Corbett asked about the physical testing of containers, how it is done, fire testing, cracks, where have they seen corrosion.

Mr. Gunter noted several methods of the testing including dropping a container from a height of 30 feet onto an unyielding surface. Yes, they do fire testing. Two years ago, the team demonstrated their testing to Japanese counterparts who were interested in the containers.

Ms. Corbett asked if the containers were suitable for transporting.

Mr. Gunter replied that the containers are suitable for transport once the O-rings have been replaced and leak tested.

Ms. Corbett asked if the containers can be handled.

Mr. Gunter replied that yes they can be handled.

Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, asked for a downblending program status update.

Mr. Gunter replied that they can begin downblending in the K-Area glovebox, store it until WIPP re-opens, and prepare the material for disposition out of state. The anticipated capacity was 150kg per year.

Louis Walters, CAB Member, asked if there were any new materials, such as plastics, on the horizon for storing and/or shipping.

Mr. Gunter replied that plastic would not work for radioactive materials. The standards state that plutonium cannot be contained in plastic.

David Hoel, CAB Member, asked if there were regulatory approvals in place for WIPP shipments.

Mr. Gunter acknowledged that there are some approvals in place, but that there was also some retesting that needed to be done. There was also one piece that was not in the current
authorization agreement. He believed that, in terms of regulatory requirements, WIPP is 95 percent ready.

Mr. Hoel asked where the K-Area material falls within the SRS queue in relation to TRU shipments.

Terry Spears, DOE-SR, stated that the TRU board makes those decisions, and the board is currently considering acceptance requests in anticipation of the WIPP restart.

Dawn Gillas, CAB Member, asked how much 4 shifts working at maximum capacity could produce per year.

Mr. Gunter responded that the facility cannot downblend fast enough to keep up with the shipment schedule. When WIPP reopens, it will begin with 5 shipments a week and slowly add shipments, up to 30 shipments per week. He stated there are 42 drums per shipment for a total of 1,600 drums per year, or 18-20 years to get 6 MT off site.

Mr. McGuire stated that they could not speculate on what WIPP will do or when it will open.

Vote on Draft Recommendation: "Improving H Canyon Throughput"

A motion was made to vote to approve the draft Recommendation. Motion seconded.

Votes: 17 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention.

The Motion was carried, and the Recommendation was approved.

Vote on Draft Recommendation: “German Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipped to Savannah River Site”

Susan Corbett, CAB Member, stated that there is enough waste in the area, and SRS should not take anymore, if they do not have to. Her research indicated that the public is opposed to taking on any more risk.
David Hoel, CAB Member, asked if Mr. Allensworth had been able to settle whether the SNF was a treaty requirement?

Gil Allensworth, CAB Member, stated that he had misspoken with the word “treaty”; it was actually a bilateral nuclear agreement dated July 2008.

A motion was made to vote to approve the draft Recommendation. Motion seconded. Vote: 6 Yes, 11 No, 1 Abstention.
The Motion was not carried, and the Recommendation was not approved.


A motion was made to vote to approve the draft Position Statement. Motion seconded. Vote: 13 Yes, 5 No, 0 Abstention.
The Motion was carried, and the Recommendation approved.

Vote on Draft Position Statement: “Interim or Long-Term Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste”

A motion was made to vote to approve the draft Position Statement. Motion seconded. Vote: 13 Yes, 5 No, 0 Abstention.
The Motion was carried, and the Recommendation approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS SESSION

Sarah Cohen, public, read a statement from Ann Timberlake, CEO, Conservation Voters of SC [provided as part of the record].
Tom Clements, SRS Watch, hoped for clarification on voting procedures of the CAB in future meetings. He thanked the CAB for the votes on the recommendations and position papers.

Rose Hayes, public, thanked the CAB for doing an exemplary job.

Joe Ortaldo, public, disagreed with the board’s votes. Mr. Ortaldo requested that the CAB members continue to review relevant information and consider the facts.

Closing Remarks: Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice Chair

Ms. Spinelli thanked everyone for their active participation in the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED JULY 26, 2016
South Carolina can't handle the waste it has already
Please protect our SC environment.
To: SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
From: Sara Damewood, Leesville, SC 29070  
Subject: Nuclear Waste at Savannah River Site

I oppose accepting spent nuclear fuel from Germany and to shipping and storing spent commercial nuclear reactor fuel and high-level waste at SRS. The German waste should stay in Germany. The US commercial waste should stay at reactor sites (dry cask storage) until the permanent "deep geological repository" sites are developed.
Ms. Whitaker,
In lieu of attending the meeting this coming Monday and Tuesday, I'm contacting you regarding the shipment of German nuclear waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel. Aiken has been my home for over 17 years (contiguously) and have lived here previously as well. My state is not a dumping ground for whatever material the highest bidder wants to pay. I oppose the German (and Japanese and Canadian) waste coming to SRS. And I ask that the CAB renew their opposition to receiving spent nuclear fuel from around the country.

Regards,
Christopher Hall
Aiken, SC 29803
To Whom It May Concern:
Please oppose the potential storage of waste products, including radioactive waste, from other countries for the financial benefit of a small few. South Carolina is not a dumping site. Thank you for your concern.
Eve Tucker
We don't want any more waste!
Please, do not bring any commercial nuclear waste materials to SRS!!!!

Christine A. Wernet, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology
University of South Carolina Aiken
471 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29803
(803)641-3798
christinew@usca.edu
To members of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board,

The citizens of South Carolina do not want to be the dumping ground for more dangerous nuclear waste from Germany or anywhere else in the world. Any country or state contemplating building a nuclear facility should be required to have a plan before they even start building, for where and how their nuclear waste will be stored, and it shouldn’t be in South Carolina. I hope you will be able to convince those who will be voting on this matter, that any financial gains would be enormously overshadowed by the health and safety risks to the citizens of our state.

Thank you,
Diane Wier
Columbia, SC
Dear CAB Members,

Thank you for hearing my comments. As Einstein said "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our thinking. Thus, we are drifting toward catastrophe beyond conception. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive." Facts: Government past actions prove that it cannot act responsibly regarding short or long term nuclear decisions. That coupled with human error, employee sabotage and company budget short falls leave dangerous vulnerabilities too risky for the public to accept.

Who is going to represent the health and welfare of Aiken, South Carolina, and the US? If we leave our well being in the hands of government officials or big business, they often don't allow scientific findings, detrimental to their cause, to be published. Or, they simply change the law to allow more toxic pollution. The public is aware that CO2 emissions are only a small part in cleaning up our earth. Focusing solely on CO2 emission standards instead of the entire pollutants is wrong. Will Your task force do the right thing for our environment, our community, our nation?

If any laws or policies are to be changed, they should be to not allow nuclear waste in any form into this country. Nor should they be moved from sites within this country to be stored at the SRS site. Help our government see that we are serious about ending throwing good money after bad. Help end nuclear once and for all.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Darden
Aiken, SC

Sent from my iPad
Please do not pollute our beautiful state and do harm to the environment. S.C. cannot afford to take this waste material off The EPA's hands. Can we find alternative ways to manage this problem? I vote no to dumping this waste into the state of S.C.

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone
I agree with our governor; we should not store radioactive waste from other sources at SRS!!!

Carol Wilenken
I am outraged that there is the possibility that SC will receive nuclear waste that is not even of its own making! No matter how you spin its "containment" it is a epic contaminant. Our environment is fragile and must be protected for the future. We are the stewards of our planet not just the consumers of all. Please keep radioactive waste out of SC.

Terry Satterfield
I am very much against accepting nuclear waste from other countries.

Deborah Winall
Trenton, SC
Aloha,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the idea of transporting and storing nuclear waste from Germany at SRS.

I recognize that the SRS site is here and nuclear waste is a problem. I know that in the past the idea of nuclear energy (and warfare) was considered an ultimate solution. But the time has come for us to recognize it is not a viable option for our future. I think SRS needs to focus on cleaning up the waste we already have. The DOE needs to put time and money into developing other sources of power, not only here in Aiken, but all over the world. We as consumers need to cut down on our consumption of resources. I want money spent and JOBS created utilizing renewable sources of energy - solar in particular.

I have no idea why the USA feels the need to take the nuclear waste of Germany, or anywhere else, but I certainly do not want it here. I think this is not the place for it, if there is such a place. What a ridiculous thing, to spend the money and resources to ship that stuff all the way across the Atlantic ocean to USA. No NO NO NO! Let Germany take care of it’s waste.

I am also opposed to the shipping and storing of more spent commercial reactor fuel and high level waste at SRS. I think SRS has enough of it’s own waste to deal with, and I am concerned about the proximity of the water table here in this area, among many other things, including the large population here.

Aiken is a very unique and beautiful place. I grew up here, and have lived many other places over the years. I just moved back a year and a half ago from Maui, Hawaii. I love Aiken and find myself returning here to live once again. I tell people that Aiken is every bit as lovely as Hawaii. People come here from all over to experience Aiken’s beauty and mild climate. And it is my home. Let’s not make it the world’s nuclear waste dump, please.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Catherine Ryder, LMT
Aiken, SC. 29801
I urge you to oppose shipments of spent fuel and highly radioactive waste from Germany and elsewhere, and to oppose a proposed new mission to store spent commercial nuclear reactor fuel at SRS.

Kathy Bradley
I don't think that more nuclear waste should be stored in Aiken. There are a lot of people living here in Aiken. This is our town, so we should get to decide.

I want to have kids someday. Think of what could happen to them. And think of their children too, and their grandchildren.

It's time to start thinking about the future. We probably can't reverse what we've already done to our planet, but we might be able to keep it from getting worse. What may seem convenient now might hurt us in the future.

So, please don't store any more nuclear waste in Aiken.

Thank you for letting me express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Clara Padgett
Age 10

Graniteville, S.C. 29829
I will not be able to join the SRS CAB meeting in person, but I wanted to take this opportunity to voice my opposition to my community being used to process and store spent nuclear materials and nuclear waste.

I do not consent to having my community become the dumping grounds for spent nuclear fuel and waste. Using public roads to transport this waste poses health, environmental, and security risks that the citizens of our state should not be asked to bear.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this objection.

Charles Padgett
Graniteville, SC 29829
I regret that I cannot make it to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board meeting on July 25th to make my comments in person, but I appreciate being able to submit my comments in opposition to having my community used to process and store domestic and international spent nuclear materials and nuclear waste.

I am a lifelong Aiken resident, a taxpayer, and a mother. I am opposed to both the proposed acceptance of spent nuclear fuel with highly enriched uranium from Germany, and the proposed use of SRS as a consolidated interim storage site for spent commercial nuclear fuel and high level waste. I do not consent to having my community become the dumping grounds for spent nuclear fuel and waste.

The shipment and processing of this fuel run the risk of accident or sabotage en route to SRS, and introduce environmental and health risks which put myself, my community, and the people I love in a position of unnecessary risk. While the storage of this waste may be called "interim" on paper, it would be, in reality, stranded here for generations with no path for disposition. In other words, permanent. I oppose such a reckless gambit with the future of my children.

Sincerely,
Lisa W Krentz
Graniteville, SC 29829
My name is Jeff Dexter and I am a lifelong resident of Aiken County. I am totally against SRS accepting any further nuclear wastes, especially those from other countries, and especially those from commercial nuclear power plants in other countries. We should not become the nuclear waste dump of the world. We certainly have enough of it to deal with already.

Jeff Dexter
Aiken, SC
I am writing to let you know that I am against the two proposals to use the SRS as a dumping ground for commercial nuclear reactor waste from commercial sites in the United States. The other proposal to allow Germany to shipped their nuclear reactor waste to South Carolina. We are all ready accepting waste from South Carolina, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania! Concern citizen from Aiken County!

Regards,
Brant Hunt
Dear SRS CAB,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to shipping and storing commercial nuclear waste at the Savannah River Site. Accepting commercial nuclear waste at SRS without a plan for its disposition elsewhere would be utterly irresponsible. If commercial nuclear is brought to SRS, the interim basis might change to become a long-term or even a permanent basis. SRS is not suited for storing nuclear waste to begin with, and we simply do not need any additional nuclear waste to clean up there. I am opposed to shipping German HEU nuclear waste to SRS as well. It is simply not in the best interest of our community. Thank you, Ceren Richardson Farr.
As a resident of Aiken, I say NO to receiving more shipments of nuclear waste.

Marie Craig
Aiken. 29803

Sent from my iPhone
To the Citizen's Advisory Board,
I am writing this as you prepare for your July 25th, 2016 meeting in New Ellenton, SC. I would like to state that I am a lifelong resident of Aiken, SC for the past 62 years. As a concerned citizen, I would request that your attention be focused on the cleanup of legacy waste created over the past 60 or so years at the SRS. This is a formidable task in and of itself! Experts state this will take at least a half a century, and, more than likely even longer to accomplish. I would like to see all efforts go toward this difficult task.

I would ask that no commercial waste be brought into the SRS. This includes graphite spheres from Germany. Because the terrain has never been studied for interim storage of nuclear waste or stockpiles of any nuclear materials, I ask that you not consider SRS for this type of mission and ALL the commercial nuclear materials that might be destined for SRS.

In short, I feel we in this state have done due diligence in providing the DOE with space and workforce to accomplish their goals. We are left with a poisoned, 310 square mile tract of land that will bear the scars for many thousands of years. Our state has done its share and done its time. Now, it is time to halt future missions and concentrate only on the cleanup of the site! I hope you can convey the urgency of this. The MOX facility should be shuttered immediately before any more is spent on this boondoggle. Only facilities, areas and personnel required for cleanup of legacy waste should be funded and utilized.

Sincerely,
Gary P. Dexter