

Summary Notes – April 18, 2018
 Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
 Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation (FDSR) Committee Meeting

The SLM Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 18th, 2018, from 4:30 – 6:20 pm, at the Department of Energy Meeting Center in Aiken, SC. It was also streamed online via YouTube and posted to the CAB website and YouTube channel. The purpose of this meeting was to receive updates on the Point of Contact status. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

<u>CAB:</u> Gil Allensworth Betty Cook Jim Guille Eleanor Hopson Doug Howard Daniel Kaminski Narinder Malik David Vovakes Bobbie Williams	<u>DOE/Contractors/Others:</u> Avery Hammett, DOE-SR James Tanner, S&K Federica Staton, S&K Chelsea Gitzen, S&K Kristin Huber, SRNS Jeff Ross, SRNS	<u>Agency Liaisons:</u> None <u>Stakeholders:</u> None
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Committee Welcome: Narinder Malik, Vice Chair

Mr. Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Point of Contact Status Update: Avery Hammett, DOE-SR

Ms. Hammett reviewed the current projects related to the committee prevue.

Q&A Session

Mr. Malik asked if the CAB can receive a link to the documents mentioned in the POC update online. Ms. Hammett answered that they are available on the SRS website and links are provided in the environmental bulletin. She further noted the documents are too large to provide which is why a link is provided instead.

Committee Discussion: SRS Remediation Projects

Mr. Tanner noted the significance of discussion topics and why they are covered at committee meetings.

Mr. Vovakes noted that the mention of an 85% footprint reduction is consistent with the information provided on the CAB website. He also noted the decommissioning date listed in this presentation is 2050 and the CAB website training has a different date of 2031. Mr. Tanner added that the training videos have costs associated with their production and therefore they cannot be updated, but this information was correct when they were made. Mr. Vovakes the asked why the date was moved so far out. Ms. Hammett replied that due to ongoing missions, budgets and prioritization this date fluctuates. Mr. Mikolanis further added that estimates are based on new leadership and budgets. He also added the goal at one point was 2021. Mr. Vovakes continued by asking if 19 years was considered a slight shift. Mr. Mikolanis responded that it all depends on planning assumptions and as little as a 2-3% change causes something like

this. Mr. Kaminski continued by adding the law of diminishing returns comes into play, and the largest projects are done last.

Mr. Kaminski asked for a total percentage of waste left, which Mr. Mikolanis committed to providing. Mr. Kaminski then asked how high above groundwater are facilities, which Mr. Mikolanis also committed to finding an answer for.

Ms. Cook asked if excessive rain effects groundwater levels, which Mr. Mikolanis again committed to finding an answer for. Ms. Hammett noted long term drought conditions over years can also affect groundwater levels. Ms. Cook then asked if tree removal can help increase groundwater, which Mr. Mikolanis yet again committed to finding an answer for.

Ms. Williams asked if logging companies are allowed to cut trees irrigated with tritium. Mr. Mikolanis answered no, and there is no harm in letting the trees grow. He further noted there are no plans currently to harvest them, but he would confirm his answers and provide updates if there are any. Mr. Tanner noted the SRS forest service manager would provide a presentation at the next full board meeting in May.

Committee Discussion: SCDHEC ESOP Overview

Mr. Kaminski stated it's worth noting that DOE-SR and SCDHEC arrive at the same monitoring measurements and congratulated SRS on that.

Mr. Guille noted the presentation stopped at Georgia, and asked if anyone is doing the same monitoring on that side of the river. Mr. Mikolanis replied yes, and noted the CAB previously made a recommendation in support of a monitoring program adjacent to the site. He further noted there used to be a GA monitoring program as robust as the current program conducted by SCDHEC, but funding issues caused that to end since it was not deemed as significant as SCDHEC's program. He also added that SREL evaluated the SCDHEC program and it was deemed adequate by itself, and local concerns are the reason why REMOP was created for additional monitoring efforts.

Mr. Allensworth noted that GADNR monitoring numbers yielded the same results as SCDHEC, DOE-SR and EPA. He also added that he appreciates the consistency which has been present for years.

Mr. Kaminski asked why electrofishing is the chosen method for collecting fish. Mr. O'Quinn answered that it is an easy method for collecting fish.

Ms. Avery noted that the SRNS SME is now present and can answer previously posed questions. Mr. Ross then introduced himself. Ms. Hammett then asked how far are SRS facilities from groundwater levels. Mr. Ross responded that P Reactor is about 50 feet from the groundwater which moves radially. He added that R Reactor is the shallowest of about 20-30 feet with a lot of sediments below the surface including a lot of clay, causing there to be fewer contaminants.

Mr. Kaminski asked the distance between the water and reactors. Mr. Ross answered there's about 48 feet relative to the groundwater surface.

Ms. Hammett asked how rain affects groundwater. Mr. Ross answered that long term drought or long term rain can affect groundwater, and these changes appears in the uppermost aquifers. Ms. Hammett continued by asking how tree removal impacts groundwater. Mr. Ross answered that it would be better to pose that question to the forest service.

Mr. Allensworth asked what would happen if the tritium treated trees are caught on fire. Mr. Mikolanis replied that there was a study done previously for firefighters and they determined a very small airborne dose is released which would be well within the occupational limit and not at all a health hazard.

Mr. Howard asked if trees are picked for this process by the amount of water they intake. Mr. Ross answered that it depends on the local environment and the amount of water present such as wetlands.

Mr. Malik asked if there are artisanal wells on SRS, to which Mr. Ross responded yes.

Public Comment

None.

~Meeting Adjourned