

Summary Notes – April 23, 2019
Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear
Materials (NM) Committee Meeting

The NM Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 5:45 – 7:30 pm, at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC. The meeting was also streamed online and posted to the CAB website and YouTube page. There was also time set aside for Committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

<u>CAB:</u> Gil Allensworth Julia Ball Tom French Jim Guille AK Hasan Charles Hilton Doug Howard Dan Kaminski Narinder Malik Jerry Mossberger Joyce Underwood	<u>DOE/Contractor/Other:</u> Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR Michael Mikolanis, DOE-SR de’Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR Randall Clendenning, DOE-SR James Tanner, S&K Logistics Heather McWilliams, S&K Logistics Federica Staton, S&K Logistics	<u>Stakeholders:</u> Jeff Allender, SRNS Chris Bergren, SRNS Michael Dunsmuir, SRNL Jeff Hasty, SRNS Kristen Huber, SRNS Kela Lofton, SRNS Eloy Saldivar, SRNS <u>Stakeholders:</u> Tom Clements, SRS Watch
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Committee Welcome: Charles Hilton, Committee Chair

Mr. Hilton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Point of Contact Status Update: Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR

Ms. Maxted stated H-Canyon processed two batches of High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) and one batch of Material Test Reactor (MTR) fuel in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. In FY19 25 of 200 HFIR core bundles and 224 of 1,000 MTR bundles have been processed. The safety basis analysis in H Area to eliminate reliance on the H Area Exhaust Tunnel is on schedule. The target residue material from Canada, process campaign continues. In K Area 12 out 25 batch of 3013 containers have been completed for down blending. L Area continues to receive fuel receipts from foreign and domestic reactors. They expect 18 domestic and 15 foreign in FY19. The 235-F facility project continues. Currently 103 grams of plutonium 238 have been removed from Cells 1&2. The amount removed from the 235-F project is 560 grams.

Ms. Maxted responded to questions from Committee members and the public. Mr. Mikolanis said NM is still working on the linear analysis for the H Area exhaust Tunnel project. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) proposed an alternative strategy and he is waiting for a revised safety basis.

Committee Discussion

The Committee discussed their open and draft recommendations: Recommendation 358: Restart the SRS/INL SNF Exchange, Recommendation #363: Preferred H-Canyon Future Operations, Recommendation #364: Accelerated Deactivation and Decommission of 235-F.

Mr. Hilton gave a brief overview of Draft Recommendation #363. The recommendation asked DOE to accelerate the 235-F project. The draft states accelerating the 235-F project would mean fewer hazardous to workers and citizens plus the workforce would be more available now compared to waiting. Mr. Hilton asked for motion to put the draft recommendation on the floor, Mr. Guille agreed to the motion and Mr. Eisele seconded it. The draft recommendation was opened for discussion.

Mr. Malik asked for a change the language, so the recommendation would mention the building would be a hazard to neighboring communities. The original statement said residents of South Carolina would be impacted. Ms. Ball made several grammatical changes to improve the message of the recommendation.

Mr. Clendenning (DOE-SR) clarified the it would cost \$4-6 million if DOE waited to deactivate and decommission (D&D) 235-F facility. Accelerating the project and working on a D&D plan now would cost \$1-2 million. Mr. Hilton said the wording should remove exact numbers and just mention project acceleration would save millions for DOE.

Mr. Eisele asked where the FY2024 date came from. Mr. Clendenning said currently the cold and dark date is middle of 2022. Mr. Mikolanis encouraged to not focus on providing exact dates. Mr. Mikolanis said the main point is that the CAB is recommending whether the project should be pushed off. Mr. Hilton said he did not want to drop the date.

Mr. Kaminski asked if DOE knew how to D&D the building and if so, how much would it cost. Maxcine said they were not sure on the D&D plan. Ms. Maxted said there is a lifecycle baseline where they enter the project into the baseline to calculate the cost. Mr. Kaminski asked what the minimum amount of plutonium would be allowed in 235-F to close the building. Mr. Clendenning said the environmental regulators and Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) will calculate that amount. Mr. Clendenning said he was not comfortable on providing an answer. Mr. Mikolanis said several stakeholders like SRNL, SC DHEC, EPA, SRNS and DOE will all work together to make sure the Standards for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERLA) are followed. The regulators and results from the CERLA process will create a final decision on the end state for the facility.

Mr. Hilton asked for committee members if the risk reduction sentence should be added to recommendation section. Mr. Hilton proposed to vote on recommendation as amended. Motion passed. Recommendation will go to the May Full Board for voting. Mr. Hilton called for a five minutes break.

Mr. Hilton brought up Recommendation #364. Mr. Eisele gave a summary on the background of the recommendation. The recommendation asks DOE to operate H-Canyon at full capacity until all Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) in the SRS inventory is dissolved and properly disposed and look into other technologies. Mr. Hilton asked for a motion to open the recommendation for discussion, Mr. Malik agrees, and Mr. Kaminski seconds the motion.

Mr. Allensworth and Mr. Eisele discuss the wording on the disposition path. Mr. Kaminski asked about the aluminum vs non-aluminum clad material swap with Idaho still on the table. Ms. Maxted said the trade was still on the table.

Mr. Kaminski asked if dry storage was the only process to disposition path non-aluminum clad fuel. Ms. Maxted said other processes exist such as electrolytic dissolution. Other capabilities are being evaluated but electrolytic dissolution was the most advanced.

Mr. Kaminski asked the volume in H-Canyon to pushed full capacity, would there be room in the tanks, DWPF, SWPF. Ms. Maxted said they are allowed to send 300,000 gallons from the canyon to tank farms. So far 17,000 gallons. Ms. Underwood asked about the current disposition path for the material. Mr. Hilton said currently the material is being dissolved. Ms. Maxted explained the composition of the fuel and why it is different from commercial industry fuel. Ms. Maxted said all the fuel now is being stored wet in L-Basin and there is not set disposition path for the fuel.

Mr. Hilton suspended discussion for public comment.

Public Comment

Tom Clements, SRS Watch, made comments about the H-Canyon recommendation. Mr. Clements said transferring waste in the canisters is not a good solution. He was disappointed the High-Level Waste materials were not mentioned in the recommendation. He brought comments about the H-Canyon Exhaust Tunnel and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board report on H-Canyon. Mr. Clements voiced his disagreement in the CAB's support for accelerating the H-Canyon program. The cost of the acceleration would take away from other projects at the site.

Mr. Hilton calls for vote to pass the Draft Recommendation #364. Motion to vote is accepted by Mr. Eisele, and Mr. Malik seconds the vote. The vote is passed unanimously.

Mr. Hilton calls a vote to close out Recommendation 358: Restart the SRS/INL SNF Exchange.

Mr. Hilton adjourned the meeting.

The next NM Committee meeting will be held June 11, 2019, 6:30 – 8:20 pm, at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC.

The online recording of this meeting can be located on the CAB website: cab.srs.gov