

CAB Recommendation Leads to P-Reactor Public Workshops



Mary Drye, Chair, Strategic and Legacy Management Committee

Did you know that between the early 1950s and the 1980s the Savannah River Site (SRS) had five operating reactors? These reactors processed nuclear materials (primarily plutonium and tritium) for nuclear weapons. Eventually, operations in all of the reactors was gradually shut-down.

One of the reactors, *P-Reactor*, the second reactor on site to be operated, was suspended in 1988 and placed in cold shutdown in 1991. Now, SRS plans to decommission this facility. The SRS CAB members, have reviewed the issues surrounding this proposed action and learned that this action would set precedence for other large, hardened facilities within the DOE complex. We submitted a recommendation that the Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) fully inform stakeholders about their plans and seek comments prior to implementing such a project. So, in response to our Recommendation

Number 248 entitled, *P Reactor End State Options*, DOE-SR began hosting workshops to explain to the public what they plan to do and what would be the end state of the P Reactor.

The first public information workshop to discuss the P-Reactor end-state was held at the Aiken Technical College on October 16, 2007. The second workshop was held on February 28, 2008, also at the Aiken Technical College. These workshops provided information to, and solicited information from, the public. Several CAB members attended the workshops. The CAB chair, Donna Antonucci, stated that the workshop helped her to recognize the significant size of the structure. She emphasized that DOE could better communicate that the reasons for its end-state decision is partly determined by the sheer large scale of the facility.



P-Reactor was one of five reactors at the Site and second to begin operating. Its purpose was to produce nuclear material for weapons. Operations started up in 1954 and was suspended in 1988. The Reactor was placed in cold shutdown in 1991.

The deactivation of P-Reactor is part of the P Area Operable Unit closure project. The workshops provided information about the area completion process, gave some reactor history and fundamentals, talked about characterization, risk assessment, the different reactor remedial end-state alternatives, and provided regulatory perspectives.

DOE-SR has already reviewed the public comments received and will use it to help guide decisions to im-

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At the January CAB meeting, Karen Patterson (left) passes the CAB Chairperson's gavel to newly elected Chairperson, Donna Antonucci. Donna was elected Chair in November 2007 and assumed official duties at the March 2008 meeting. Prior to her election as Chair, Donna served as CAB Vice Chair.

Message from the Chair

At the March meeting, I welcomed newly appointed members and presented my perspective regarding my tenure on the CAB, entitled "Transitions." I outlined major CAB topics since my appointment in 2003, which included: the End State Vision document, accelerated clean-up of the site, CAB administrative support changes, and the CAB's new Standard Operating Procedures. I emphasized the value of becoming more "current" and cited the CAB's updated logo and expanding communication through use of new technological efforts at committee meetings. I stressed that future CAB members have embraced modern technology, and our CAB should prepare for these eventual new members. My vision of the Board's continuity as we face change is strongly rooted in my analogy for the Board as a continuous roll of fabric, woven with all the members' contributions. At its core, the CAB is about communication, where the CAB's recommendations serve as a rich dialogue with the DOE. I am very grateful for those members, agency regulators, and public citizens who attend the CAB meetings. I am committed to ensuring that the citizens are heard, their ideas are incorporated, and all are thanked for their public involvement.



Welcome New CAB Members



Donald Bridges

Donald is retired from the Department of Energy after 30 years of service as a nuclear engineer at the Savannah River Site. He is active in several civic organizations and a Naval Reserves Reunion group. He resides in North Augusta, SC.



Denise Long

Denise is employed as a Senior Production Operator with the Westinghouse Savannah River Company. She is a past Board Member of the South Carolina Autism Society, Chair of the Williston-Elko Middle School Improvement Council, and Williston-Elko Band & Athletic Booster member. She resides in Williston, SC.



Edward Burke

Edward is the Director of Technical Services and Product Development with the Glit-Microtron Company as a Technical and Product Development Specialist. He resides in Waynesboro, GA.



John Roberson

John is employed as a Chemical operator by Tronox in Savannah, Georgia. He is President of the Christian Golf Association and a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local Lodge 650. He resides in Savannah, GA.



Alan Eckmyre

Alan is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, an internet manager and consultant. He is a member of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers and the Southeastern Environmental Management Association. He resides in Aiken, SC.



Beverly Skinner

Beverly worked as an Advocate for the New York City Housing Authority representing more than 500,000 tenants living in public housing. She was also a substance abuse counselor for the downstate medical center in Brooklyn, NY. Beverly is currently retired and resides in Hephzibah, GA.



Kathe Golden

Kathe is a recently retired school counselor. She resides in North Augusta, SC.



Elizabeth Skyye Vereen

Elizabeth (Skyye) is employed as a Statistical and Research Analyst with the South Carolina Employment Security Commission-Labor Market Information. She is a Native American and is a board member and Tribal Chief of the Native American Advisory Committee. She is interested in bringing those viewpoints to the table. She resides in Gilbert, SC.

Recent Recommendations & Responses Highlighted

Recommendation 250 - Vitrified Plutonium Storage Consequences – Adopted 11/27/07

The CAB acknowledged concern that additional plutonium may be received at SRS before a viable and demonstrated disposition path is available and that DOE is processing plutonium from vulnerable form(s) to a less vulnerable form. Furthermore, and most importantly, the CAB wanted assurance that a means by which all defense plutonium and defense plutonium materials will be removed safely, securely, and in a timely manner from SRS for storage or disposal elsewhere.

While DOE has set a target of March 2017 for the Yucca Mountain Repository to begin receiving nuclear waste, the real concern is that the Yucca Mountain may not open until some time later, given the politics and history of the effort.

The CAB recommended that: 1) By May 19, 2008, DOE provide the safety analysis that provides for both the short-term and potential long-term storage of vitrified plutonium at SRS; and 2) If the opening of the Yucca Mountain Repository will be delayed beyond 2017 and the long-term storage of vitrified plutonium at SRS is inevitable, DOE work with the state of South Carolina and local stakeholders to develop an enforceable agreement with possible monetary consequence or other viable equity scenarios for the extended storage of vitrified plutonium at SRS.

DOE Responded that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) will be developed and issued to evaluate the alternative disposition paths of additional plutonium. This SEIS is scheduled to be issued in late summer. Any safety analyses referenced in the SEIS will be provided to the CAB in late summer or early fall of 2008. They explained that a license application for the repository is planned to be submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in June of

2008. While all Defense Waste Processing Facility canisters are to be positioned in the repository, DOE does not have legal authority to commit to agreements or monetary consequences as a result of delays to the opening of the repository.

Recommendation 251 - Accelerate the TRU Waste Disposition Program - Adopted 11/27/07

The CAB is pleased with the acceleration of the legacy Transuranic (TRU) waste program at SRS. However, they are concerned that the future funding limitations may extend the TRU waste disposition program past FY 2013.

The CAB recommended that DOE-SR: 1) Commit in writing to the SRS CAB and SCDHEC that all legacy TRU waste will be removed from SRS by FY 2013; and 2) Increase the SRS target funding for FY 2009 to a level that continues to accelerate the legacy TRU waste disposition activities and ensure that future funding requests are adequate to complete the removal of all legacy TRU waste no later than FY 2013.

DOE Responded that they would have discussions with SCDHEC beginning in January to establish disposition dates for removal of legacy TRU waste from SRS, would continue to request funding at levels that support early completion, and will keep the CAB informed.

Recommendation 252 - SRS CAB Input in the DOE-SR Budget Process - Adopted 11/27/07

The CAB would like to have additional information concerning the budget embargo process and timeframe. They recommended the following concerning the FY09 and FY10 budget process: 1) DOE-SR provide a detailed, validated Project Baseline with a critical-path schedule at a level showing the status of major projects with each Project Base-

line Summary (PBS) and 2) DOE-SR verify the budget embargo date and share funding performance measures (i.e., fully funded, partially funded, fund reductions, non-funded, on schedule, etc.) with the SRS CAB for the Five-Year Plan.

DOE Responded that they will provide a briefing on the EM Project Execution Plan and provide budget information towards the end of February 2008.

Recommendation 253 - Consequences of Loss of Core DOE Funding by the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) - Adopted 11/27/07

The CAB recommended that by January 28, 2008, DOE-SR: 1) provide a detailed inventory of the existing SREL physical resources, including facilities and analytical equipment, and describe the disposition plan for all items of significant value; 2) identify and describe how the extremely valuable, irreplaceable long-term historical data sets created and established at SREL will be preserved, maintained, and made available for use by the scientific community; 3) inform the CAB whether studies (such as Rainbow Bay Amphibian Monitoring and the Par Pond waterfowl studies) will be discontinued if outside support is not found; and 4) identify what contracting model (broad-based competitive acquisition, direct grants to universities, etc.) will be used to fulfill the research, education and outreach support previously provided by SREL and what the estimated funding will be.

DOE Responded that if on-site SREL facility and equipment requirements decline, any surplus would be made available to other Site organizations through existing site programs. They assured the CAB that University of Georgia personnel are currently work-

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SSAB Spring Chairs Meeting Held At Hanford

By Donna Antonucci, SRS-CAB Chair

The Hanford Reservation was the location for this April 22-24, 2008, meeting, which included a site tour and several presentations. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for the DOE Environmental Management, Mr. James Rispoli, attended the meeting, as usual, and gave updates of DOE-EM programs and activities. The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Chair, Donna Antonucci, Vice-Chair, Ranowul Jzar, and the Department of Energy's Technical Coordinator, Sheron Smith attended and found the tour and meeting quite enjoyable. The Reservation's size is similar to SRS at well over 500 square miles and it faces similar issues as SRS with tank farms. Hanford also contains a very large construction project including the Pre-Treatment Plant, the High Activity Waste, and the Low Activity Waste to begin to deal with



From left to right: Sheron Smith, DOE; Donna Antonucci, CAB Chair; and Ranowul Jzar, CAB Vice Chair

the liquid waste in the 177 tanks. The arid terrain and powerful Columbia River were decidedly different to these Low Country eyes! We shivered through a chilly visit to the Hanford B-Reactor, which was the world's first operating nuclear reactor and where the nuclear materials for the atomic weapon, the "Fat Man" were produced in 1945. This reactor provided a most interesting historical piece of the tour. Towards the conclusion of the meeting, the chairs from each of the Site-Specific Advisory Boards across the country agreed to develop two letters as a product of the meeting. One letter concerned support for

communications and the second letter requested access to the quarterly project reviews. After these draft letters are shared with the chairs' respective Board members, each Board will decide if their chairperson will participate as a signor on the letters.

Farewell and Thank You Mike Schoener

CAB Facilitator Extraordinaire for Nine Years!

Try assembling a small group of individuals with differing backgrounds together to



discuss an issue and watch the many personalities and differing views surface. It's natural. So if the group is 25 strong, it is likely that reaching a consensus will be difficult, at best. This would be the time to call in a mediator to bring order and equity to the group. But it takes a special type of individual to do this properly. In

1998 when the CAB needed someone like this, Mike Schoener was brought in. He exhibited a quiet, calm demeanor, but commanded and received leader respect. He soon proved his ability to expeditiously take the group where they wanted to go and allowed free expression along the way. These two key ingredients to good facilitation is all any group member wants: *Don't waste my time and let me be heard.*

CAB members marveled at how much was being accomplished at each meeting, how much smoother their retreats and other special meetings ran, how thorough and member-focused training developed by Mike was for them, and how even if they disagreed with an issue, Mike helped them find a place of concession. This was facilitation EXTRANORDINAIRE!

Late last year, once he was assured that other arrangements had been made;

SRS CAB
will host
SSAB Chairs Meeting
In Spring 2009

Mike expressed a need to end his relationship with the CAB. Mike is still in the Aiken area and we're sure he's still providing great services for others. So to Mike, from all of us who had the pleasure of working with you, thank you, sincerely! Please know that your good work is appreciated and you will always be remembered.



Recommendation Highlights (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

ing with SRS to ensure that faculty and staff off-site will continue to have access to needed information for future research activities. However, they informed the CAB that studies, research, and outreach supported under the grant is project-specific and would not continue if funding no longer exists.

Recommendation 254 - FY 2010 Integrated Priority List and Budget Process Input - Adopted 3/25/08

The CAB finds it difficult to set priorities without a clear picture of what has actually been accomplished, what is in progress, and what needs to be accomplished. The CAB recommended that DOE-SR: 1) provide the CAB with any

new budget information that is available, as well as an assessment of project impact if the amounts for each PBS change significantly as the budget evolves, on or before May 19, 2008; 2) investigate cost saving efficiencies within each PBS and inform the CAB when significant funds (greater than \$500,000) can be reallocated; 3) investigates expediting the funding to complete the program ahead of schedule; 4) provides adequate and sustained funding to continue the utilization of H-Area's capability for all current and planned future missions; and 5) ensure that all established regulatory milestones can be accomplished through the PBS structure. Regulatory commitment cycles may be different from the DOE-SR budget cycle. If reallocation between PBS categories is required to

meet these commitments then ensure that enough flexibility exists in the PBS description and scope to make the necessary transfer of funds.

DOE Responded that an Integrated Priority List briefing will be provide to the CAB at the May CAB meeting and any cost savings will be reinvested into work scope per the site priorities. They further stated that it is their expectation that they will be able to complete the TRU drum shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in FY 2009. They assured the CAB that the FY 2010-FY 2014 budget request supports H-Canyon operations in an operational readiness status through 2019, and that they recently implemented a new strategy in FY 2008 that provided greater flexibility with the PBSs.

SRS CAB Explores E-Meetings

"Build it and they will come" is a famous quote from the movie *Field of Dreams*. Would you come to a CAB meeting if all you had to do was log onto the Internet in the comfort of your home? In April 2008 the SRS CAB began exploring that possibility and thanks to the technical knowledge of Chris Woods, V3 Technical Services, that dream may come true.

The concept of hosting e-meetings was introduced by CAB member Manuel Bettencourt

and supported by CAB Chair, Donna Antonucci.

A mock meeting was held on April 14, 2008, in which CAB members Manuel Bettencourt and Kuppuswamy Jayaraman (Dr. Jay) logged on from their homes in Savannah, GA and Hilton Head Island, SC. A few technical difficulties were experienced, evidenced by Dr. Jay's comments on the meeting

board: "Hello, I can see you but why can't you see me logged on? And "Sheron is packing up, is the meeting over, Hello, I so enjoyed participating."

The intent of a "mock" meeting was to find the issues and we know now the Number 1 guidance for a good e-meeting is a good internet connection for the broadcaster. The "mock" meeting proved to be visually clear and accessible by virtually anyone, upstream, downstream and points in between.



Chris Woods records the meeting with his webcam at the April 29th Committee Meeting.



Dawn Gillas, DOE-SR, one of the first presenters to be recorded in a SRS CAB e-meeting.

And then, everything came together on April 29th with a successful "mock" broadcast of an actual CAB Committee Meeting. The e-meetings can be stored for up to one month on the interface website. Information will be presented to the CAB for evaluation in the coming weeks.

CAB Committee Ensures a Voice in DOE Budget Process

Strategic & Legacy Management Committee - Madeleine Marshall

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board's Strategic and Legacy Management Committee has held several meetings on the DOE budget process and discussed the need for early interactions of the CAB to that process. Madeleine Marshall, chair of this committee, indicated that the goal of the CAB is to establish a consistent and effective approach to involve stakeholders in the budget process. This would better ensure that the CAB will have maximum opportunity to possibly impact priori-

ties and thereby help DOE achieve accelerated cleanup goals for SRS. The SRS budget and Corporate Performance Measures are of great interest to the CAB and other community stakeholders.

On March 26th, the SRS CAB provided their input to DOE indicating their agreement with the priority ranking of the Fiscal Year 2010 Integrated Priority List. The CAB also agreed with all minimum safety and interim surveillance activities and regulatory commitments. Further, they stated their encouragement for full funding of the Plutonium Storage, Surveillance, and Disposition; H-Canyon Utilization; and Transuranic Waste Disposition.

The CAB members asked DOE to involve them early in the budget process in the future so that they can fully and more effectively review the budget and make comments. In response to this request from the SRS CAB and other Boards across the complex, DOE Headquarters provided guidance to each site for consistent communication of budget information. The guidance made documented the earliest point at which the Site-Specific Advisory Boards could become involved. DOE-SR has presented several briefings to the CAB in compliance with this guidance.

P-Reactor Public Workshops (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

prove the project. At the March CAB meeting, Ray Hannah (DOE-SR)

stated that the comments received from the Aiken area have been so valuable to DOE that the next workshop would be held in conjunction with the SRS CAB meeting in Savannah, Georgia to seek comments from downstream stakeholders. As a result of the workshops, Mr. Hannah described how the project team reviewed comments and improved their analysis and documentation, such as using more sophisticated models for contaminant migration. He also explained that the team plans to improve public communication based on one public comment indicating that the presentation of risks was "confusing and incomplete." Mr. Hannah stated the team does recognize that some terminology is unique to SRS and not readily understood by the general population and therefore they are willing to revise future presentations. Mr. Hannah concluded that they will continue to evaluate and utilize public comments during this project.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT...

1. The **Early Action Proposed Plan** is currently scheduled to be issued in the April/May 2008 timeframe. The plan allows 45 days for public review and comment.
2. The **P-Area Operable Unit Statement of Basis Proposed Plan** is scheduled to be submitted for public review and comment in February 2009.

DOE-SR will make these documents available to the CAB and the general public prior to the public comment periods.

CAB Still Awaiting Plutonium Consolidation and Disposition Determination

Manuel Bettencourt, Chair, Nuclear Materials Committee

The CAB has been concerned about it; received many presentations about it, and made close to a dozen recommendations on Plutonium Consolidation and Disposition, dating back to March of 2000. DOE has decided the consolidation issue and SRS should gain approval for a final path forward for disposition in the next several weeks.

Late last year, DOE, in an effort to reduce the number of sites storing non-pit plutonium, approved the consolidation of this plutonium at SRS from sites throughout the complex with some non-aluminum clad material going to Idaho National Lab. This consolidation would provide the most secure storage, avoid large expenditures for security upgrades, locate the material storage at the disposition site, and not extend H-Canyon operations and storage at K Area beyond 2019. Six months ago, we heard that H-Canyon, MOX and a new Plutonium Vitrification facility would provide three paths for plutonium disposition. At that time, DOE was preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Surplus Plutonium Disposition at SRS to evaluate the potential impacts of these alternative methods of disposition. We are now waiting to hear if the new vitrification facility is still needed because H-Canyon and MOX may be able to handle the task without the capital expense of a new facility.

Committee members questioned whether SRS would receive equitable, financial compensation for receiving and storing the Plutonium. We were told that the consolidation was a security issue and no compensation was planned.

The CAB continues to support site integration activities of surplus plutonium and recognizes SRS's unique operational experiences for handling plutonium. We eagerly await the decision concerning plutonium disposition.

Multi-Agency Panel Addresses Tank Closure at SRS

Waste Management Committee Chair Expresses Gratitude to Panel of Agencies Regarding Status Update of Section 3116 Implementation

On April 30, 2008, Joe Ortaldo, chairperson of the WMC, issued a letter to the SRS Site Manager, Jeff Allison, expressing his and the committee's gratitude to DOE-SR for coordinating a panel of representatives to update his committee on the implementation status of Section 3116 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The President signed the NDAA for fiscal year 2005 into law on October 28, 2004.

Section 3116 of the NDAA provides the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the authority to determine that certain waste from reprocessing is not high-level waste if the provisions set forth in Section 3116 are satisfied.

At the committee's meeting on April 15, representatives from DOE Headquarters (HQ) Environmental Management office, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and DOE-SR met as a panel to

inform and answer questions for the committee.

In his letter, Mr. Ortaldo stated that the "multi-agency panel provided stakeholders with an appreciation for the interactions and collaborations between the agencies to accomplish the goal of ultimately closing the liquid waste tanks at SRS." He further stated that the committee was pleased to hear that local stakeholders would be kept informed about the modifications to the Performance Assessments and the resulting location for the Point of Compliance.

Copies of this letter was shared with each of the other agencies on the panel.

January 2008 A Meeting of Transition And Appreciation



The January 2008 Board Meeting was one of transition. After 10 years on the SRS CAB, Karen Patterson (right) experienced mixed emotions as she chaired her final meeting. Karen holds the record of the longest running member in the history of the CAB.



From left to right, CAB Members Gloria Williams-Way of Augusta, GA; Wade Waters of Pooler, GA; Bob Meisenheimer of Hilton Head, SC; and Karen Patterson of Aiken, SC have all reached a maximum membership term limit established by DOE and are thus retiring as members of the CAB. Joining them is the Savannah River Site Manager

(SRS), Jeffrey Allison, who presented each of them with a letter and certificate of appreciation. Ms. Patterson also received an engraved gavel in appreciation of her service as Chairperson of the CAB. Mr. Allison holds a plaque of CAB Chairs that he explained has a prominent and permanent place on a special recognition wall near his office at SRS.

Welcome New CAB Facilitator

With experience and unpretentious style, Jenny Freeman opened the November 2007 CAB meeting and guided members through the day's agenda. CAB members welcomed Jenny as the new SRS CAB Facilitator and recognized the value she brings to productive and informative public meetings.

Jenny enjoys people. Her years in the environmental remediation/waste management field, since the early 1980s, have focused on working with people to achieve results. Jenny has worked for both large and small companies that provide technical services to DOE, and she has also worked in the non-profit arena. For many years, Jenny was the Executive Director of the Energy, Technology, and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA), a not-for-profit organization that serves as the umbrella for 180 companies. Jenny has facilitated a variety of meetings, workshops, and events and has been active in many organizations. She immediately knew that she would enjoy her work with the SRS Citizens Advisory Board because of the opportunity to interact with CAB members, DOE, regulators, and the public. Her background and personality will certainly serve to enhance this award winning board and she looks forward to helping to lead the CAB to accomplishing set goals and establishing new ones.





Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

Key criteria for Board membership includes a time commitment and the willingness to study the issues and work toward clear, implementable recommendations.

To apply for membership to the Citizens Advisory Board, please call 1-800-249-8155.

**Board Beat* is published semiannually by the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board. Content is provided by Board members and support staff. Please send your comments and suggestions to:

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Citizens Advisory Board Meetings

2008 Meeting Schedule

May 19-20	Double Tree Hotel 411 West Bay Street Savannah, GA
July 28-29	Center for Hydrogen Research Gateway Drive Aiken, SC
September 22-23	Sheraton Hotel 4770 Goer Drive North Charleston, SC
November 17-18	Double Tree Hotel 2651 Perimeter Pkwy. Augusta, GA

The mission of the SRS CAB is to provide informed and timely recommendations to DOE concerning decisions that affect SRS in areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.



CAB Member Orientation was held on February 27th at the Savannah River Site. After the morning meeting participants enjoyed a drive-by tour of the site. Attendees pictured from left to right with new member names bolded (back row) **Alan Eckmyre, Donald Bridges, Lee Harley-Fitts, Edward Burke, Skyye Vereen**, and current member Manuel Bettencourt (front row l-r) **Beverly Skinner, Kathe Golden**, and current member Sarah Watson (Not pictured are new members **Denise Long** and **John Roberson**).