



The Board Beat

Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board
Spring 2012 Newsletter



Cover photo of Savannah paddle boat taken by CAB Support Team.

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board is a public volunteer board and its mission is to study the issues and provide informed, and timely recommendations, from the public's perspective, to the Department of Energy concerning Environmental Management work at SRS in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

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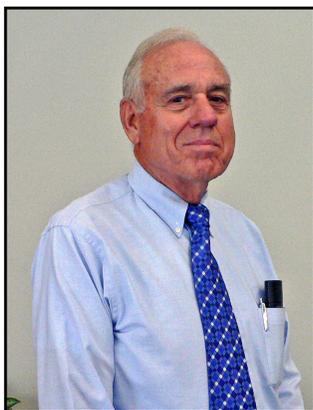
The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) extends a big “thank you” to everyone that helped make this newsletter possible. To all the CAB members who submitted ideas and articles for the newsletter, to all the presenters and managers who make Full Board and Committee meetings meaningful, to the Board’s agency liaisons, and to the Department of Energy (DOE) for continued support, as we, the members of the SRS CAB, serve this very important role for DOE and our communities.

The *Board Beat* is published semiannually by the SRS CAB, with publications in November and May. It is distributed primarily by email. Content is provided by Board members and the CAB Support Team. To subscribe to the *Board Beat*, submit a request, with your name and email address, to srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

If you’re interested in learning more about what we do, or think you would like to apply for membership, please check out our website at: <http://cab.srs.gov> or “like” us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB](https://www.facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB)

Contact us at 803-952-7884 (800-249-8155) or via email at srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

Message From the Chair-Dr. Donald N. Bridges



Dr. Donald N. Bridges,
CAB Chair

With the completion of my first year as chairman, I want to thank each of you for your assistance in making this past year so successful. The Citizens Advisory Board is providing meaningful input to the SRS cleanup effort. Efforts on cleanup are progressing nicely on all fronts. We have continued to emphasize the importance of priority on the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment program, the H-Canyon processing activities, and Spent Nuclear Fuel receipt and processing activities. We have supported and observed progress on all of those areas as well as many other aspects of cleanup at SRS. This past year we placed emphasis on increasing the number of recommendations to DOE. We submitted 10 recommendations to DOE this past year as compared to an average of seven recommendations per year for the past three years. We have also seen a slight increase in public participation, another area of emphasis. Each of you are to be commended for your interest, energy, and involvement in improving the role of the Citizens Advisory Board and providing the citizen input which DOE finds so useful.

At our March 2012 Full Board meeting in Columbia, SC, I was pleased to welcome eight new members to the Citizens Advisory Board. We also welcomed eight new members to the Board last year, so now we have almost two-thirds of our Board of 25 members with one year or less experience. This level of participation will allow us to take a fresh look at things, and that is always very helpful. I was really impressed with the level of expertise and interest brought to the Board by the new appointments. The new group seems to be very talented, so I think we can expect a rise in interest and involvement.

With each new group, I always like to mention that it is such a unique and unusual opportunity to be on the Citizens Advisory Board. It is truly an example of "Democracy In Action" as it relates to citizen input. In this assignment, CAB members are part of a group of 25 dedicated people spending considerable time and energy on strictly a volunteer basis with the single dedicated motive of trying to make things better for everyone. That is a noble venture. While CAB work will occasionally impact personal life, the assignment is still both rewarding and enjoyable.

Members are involved with the review of SRS cleanup activities at mid-range cleanup. The SRS cleanup is expected to cost from \$60 billion to \$70 billion and take approximately 40 years. SRS Cleanup began around 1994 when the CAB was formed and the Site is now 18 years into that program which will probably take until the early to mid 2030s to complete. As you involve yourselves in the review of the cleanup activities, you will see that there are many attributes including being technically advanced, complex, difficult to carry-out, expensive and time-intensive, and above all, very interesting. To all of the new members: We're pleased to have you and welcome aboard!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DN Bridges".



The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
"We are Georgia & South Carolina Citizens Working Together to Provide Our Perspective on Savannah River Site Activities"

The SRS CAB Welcomes Eight New Members to the Board!

Congratulations on your appointment!



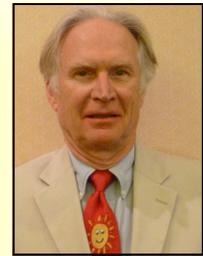
Artisha Bolding
Augusta, GA



Robert Doerr
Bluffton, SC



Nina Hazen
Wagener, SC



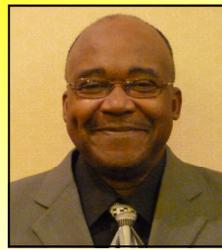
Dr. William Rhoten
Beaufort, SC



Earl Sheppard
Burton, SC



Dr. Paul Shieh
Graniteville, SC



James Streeter
Grovetown, GA



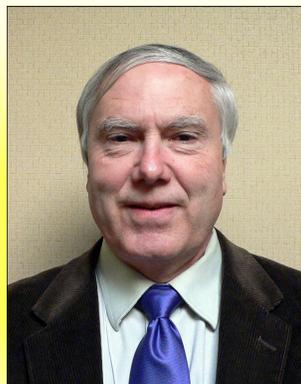
Edward Sturcken
Evans, GA

The SRS CAB Welcomes Back Three Reappointed Members!

Congratulations on your reappointment!



Dr. Donald N. Bridges
North Augusta, SC



Ed Burke
Waynesboro, GA



Kathe Golden
Hilton Head, SC

The CAB Has a New Work Plan for 2012

Every year the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) creates a Work Plan to help the Board stay focused on its mission and work scope. Each committee forms its own Work Plan, with activities and topics it would like to receive more information on. This Work Plan is created in February of each year after the January Full Board Meeting where DOE presents potential topics of interest to the Board. These topics represent a comprehensive list of ongoing or planned Site activities for which DOE is requesting CAB input. Below is a list of some of the topics the SRS CAB plans to tackle in 2012:

- Facilities Disposition
- Site Remediation
- C-Area Project Process
- Clean Alternative Energy
- Environmental Monitoring Program
- Savannah River Ecology Overview
- Lower Three Runs Cleanup approach
- Used Nuclear Fuel
- Plutonium, Uranium, and other Nuclear Materials
- Nuclear Materials Reuse and Disposition
- Enterprise SRS Strategic Initiatives
- Blue Ribbon Commission's Report on America's Nuclear Future
- Receipt and Storage Plans
- Integrated Priority List
- Update on Natural Resource Management
- Savannah River National Laboratory
- Small Modular Reactors
- Historic Preservation
- Solid Waste
- Liquid Waste
- Salt Waste Processing Overview
- Glass Waste Storage Status
- CAB Outreach



CAB member Marolyn Parson asks a question at the January 2012 Full Board meeting, while CAB members Tom Barnes and Louie Chavis observe and take notes.

Plan to Attend a CAB Committee Meeting in 2012!

All meetings are held at the
DOE Meeting Center
230 Village Green Blvd. Suite 220,
Aiken, SC 29803.

All meetings will be held 6-8 p.m.

June 5th: Strategic & Legacy Management

June 12th: Waste Management

June 19th: Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation

June 26th: Nuclear Materials

August 7th: Strategic & Legacy Management

August 14th: Waste Management

August 21st: Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation

August 28th: Nuclear Materials

November 7th: Strategic & Legacy Management

November 13th: Waste Management

December 4th: Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation

December 11th: Nuclear Materials



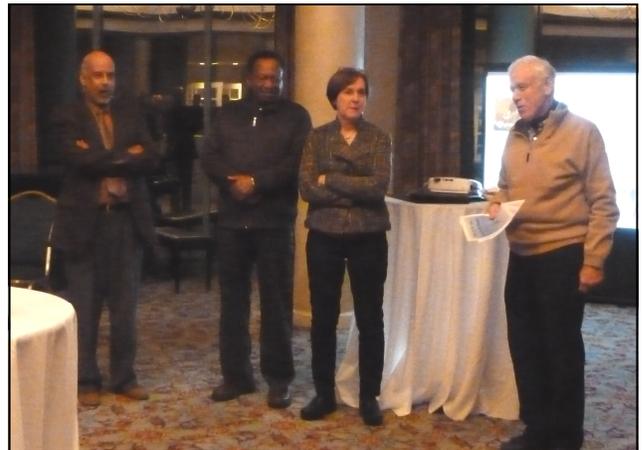
Bill Bates, SRNS, presents to the CAB during a committee meeting.

The CAB Says "Goodbye" to its Retiring Members

Savannah River Site (SRS) Deputy Manager, Zack Smith, thanked retiring Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members for their service to the Board during the January 2012 Full Board Meeting in Hilton Head, SC. Each retiring member was awarded a certificate of appreciation for their six years of service on the SRS CAB.



From left: Zack Smith, DOE-SR, Alex Williams, Judy Greene-McLeod, and Dr. K. Jayaraman.



CAB Chair Donald N. Bridges thanks the retiring members for their work on the Board.

Want to become a member of
the SRS CAB?
Apply online at cab.srs.gov!

The CAB Says “Hello” and “Farewell” to its DDFOs



Mr. Terry Spears, DOE-SR

DOE-SR has encouraged its Assistant Managers to serve on a staggered two-year rotational assignment as co-DDFOs for the CAB. This practice has served to acquaint and sensitize these senior managers to the needs and requests of our CAB members and the general public.

Effective May 1, 2012, Mr. Terry Spears is welcomed as the newly-appointed co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO). Terry previously served as co-DDFO with the SRS CAB from 2008 to 2010, and has consistently been a source of knowledge for the Board by attending CAB meetings regularly, answering questions, and providing important points of contacts for CAB members.

Prior to joining DOE, Terry worked for the U.S. Navy at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. Terry joined DOE-SR as a Nuclear Engineer in 1990. He was appointed the Assistant Manager for the

Waste Disposition Project at SRS in March 2006. He will serve as co-DDFO for two years, with co-DDFO Pat McGuire.

As always, we are grateful to outgoing DDFOs for the valuable commitment of time and efforts they consistently show to the CAB program and members. For this reason, we are truly indebted to Mr. Doug Hintze. His tireless service as co-DDFO over the past two years is well-noted and appreciated.

Thank you, Doug!



**Mr. Doug Hintze,
DOE-SR**

“Safety Begins with Me” Campaign at SRS Makes Safety a Priority



Safety begins with me.

The Savannah River Site (SRS) management team has introduced a new safety campaign at SRS that places the responsibility of safety into the hands of the workers who occupy the 310 square mile nuclear reservation.

The safety campaign was conceived in order to create an injury-free workplace, and encourages workers to report safety violations. At the March 2012 Full Board Meeting, Mr. Dwayne Wilson, SRNS President, explained what the "See Something Unsafe, Say Something for Safety" campaign means for SRS.

“It’s a recognition that everyone onsite is their brother’s keeper,” Mr. Wilson said. “Everyone needs to watch out for everyone, and it starts with themselves. Accountability for themselves, as well as an accountability for others onsite.”

The safety campaign is site-wide and includes all Site contractors.

The CAB says “Farewell” To Becky Craft, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at DOE-SR, as she retires after 34 years of service to DOE. The CAB Program has been a part of OEA since 1996 and Ms. Craft has provided consistent presence and support at CAB meetings

We will miss you, Becky! Good luck in your future ventures!



**Ms. Becky Craft,
DOE-SR**

Take a Look: SRS CAB Full Board Meetings



The January CAB Full Board Meeting, held in Hilton Head, SC.



Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, addressing a CAB concern.



Dr. David Moody, SRS Manager, speaks during the March 2012 Full Board Meeting.



Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR, provides an equipment demonstration during her presentation.



Dwayne Wilson, President of SRNS, answers a CAB member's question during a Full Board Meeting in Columbia, SC.

Want to Attend a SRS CAB Full Board Meeting in 2012?

July 23-24:

Marriott Augusta, at the Convention Center
Two 10th Street
Augusta, GA, 30907

September 24-25:

Marriott Charleston
170 Lockwood Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29403

October 29-30:

Hilton Garden Inn
1065 Stevens Creek Rd.
Augusta, Ga. 30907



Have Something to Say?

Make a public comment at an upcoming CAB meeting!

Did you know the SRS CAB reserves time for public comments at every CAB meeting? You are welcome to make comments about the meeting, but please note that CAB members do not reply to public comments.

However, you can fill out a yellow public comment form with your concerns. All written public comments will receive a response from the Department of Energy.

Come to a meeting. Get involved.

If you have any questions, email the CAB Support Team at:
srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

SRS CAB in Action!

2012 SRS Public Tours Begin

Republished from www.srs.gov

SRNS will host 30 scheduled SRS Public Tours in 2012, providing attendees an opportunity to better understand the Site's history, current activities and future missions.

Through these tours, approximately 1,500 citizens will visit SRS free of charge. Tours begins at 12:30 p.m. at the Center for Hydrogen Research, located off Highway 278 in Aiken County, and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Guests are given an overview presentation, safety briefing, tour of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and general driving tour of the Site.



SRNS hosts the first of 30 scheduled 2012 SRS Public Tours for the general public.

Your friends, family and neighbors are welcome to sign up, and can request attendance through the SRS tour website at: <http://www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm>. If no internet access is available, individuals may call (803) 952-8467 or (803) 952-8994 for assistance. Tour participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be U.S. citizens. Seats are limited to two individuals per reservation and participants may reserve only one tour date per year. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

2012 scheduled tour dates:

- January 18, 26
- February 15, 23
- March 13, 21, 29
- April 17, 26
- May 8, 16, 24
- June 12, 20, 28
- July 10, 18, 26
- August 14, 22, 30
- September 11, 19, 27
- October 9, 17, 25
- November 7
- December 5

CAB Recommendation #272

Adopted May 25, 2010

“Increase the Number of Savannah River Site Public Tours”

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) recommended that DOE:

1. Formulate a strategy to increase the number and scope of on-site public tours for 2010 and beyond.
2. Consider privatizing and other methods of conducting tours which may significantly lower the cost, while supporting a larger number of tours.
3. Offer some tours on weekends so that interested students and the working public could have the opportunity to attend.
4. Offer an alternative registration method, perhaps on a limited basis, so that those without computer skills or access could have the opportunity to participate.

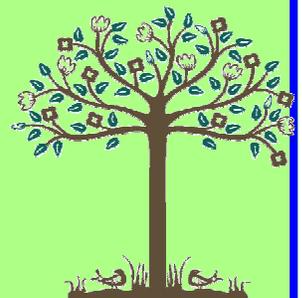
Go online at cab.srs.gov for the full recommendation and DOE's response.

The SRS CAB is “Going Green!”

Please help the Savannah Rive Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) “Go Green” by sending us your email address to add to our CAB database. By receiving email notifications, rather than paper notifications, you will be reducing the CAB’s environmental footprint, and helping to save a tree!

Just send us your name, email address and the mailing address currently in our database to: srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

Not currently on the CAB’s distribution? Send us your email address and we will add you to our list of community citizens that receive routine updates on the CAB that include newsletters, CAB Recommendations, DOE Responses, and more.



TRU Waste Program Safety Fast Forwards

Republished from www.srs.gov



A TRUPACT-III shipment is prepared at SRS.

SRS can see the light at the end of what was once a very long tunnel with the completion this year of an accelerated program to prepare 5,000 metric tons of transuranic waste for shipment to a DOE facility in New Mexico.

“By the end of 2012, we will have remediated, repackaged and certified for shipment all but 200 cubic meters of transuranic waste at SRS, meeting a vitally important milestone for our site-wide cleanup program,” said David Moody, DOE’s Savannah River Operations Office Manager. “This means that over 95 percent of our legacy TRU waste will soon leave South Carolina for long-term storage at the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, leaving a very small amount that

will require some special treatment.”

According to SRNS Solid Waste Director John Gilmour, the key to success has involved several factors. First, new and larger TRUPACT-III shipping containers eliminate much of the need to manually reduce in size numerous, large pieces of transuranic (TRU) waste, saving time and minimizing employee exposure to radioactive materials, primarily plutonium-238. Plutonium-238 was once used as a heat source to generate power for deep space missions, some of which are still active.

“By May, we’ll have six TRUPACT-III shipping containers on site and the shipping process to WIPP will be almost continuous,” said Gilmour. “Our highly trained and talented workforce has learned to quickly recognize and productively respond to variables found when working with legacy radioactive waste materials.”

The most recent new mission awarded to SRS involves SRNS personnel working safely together within a formerly unused portion of H Canyon to successfully process and repackage a select amount of plutonium (Pu) oxide. Most of the Pu oxide in our nation, which has been consolidated at SRS, will eventually go to U.S. commercial power reactors in the form of new fuel rods. However, the relatively small percentage of Pu oxide at SRS that does not have the properties needed for use as commercial reactor fuel will be placed in small amounts within carefully designed and rigorously tested containers and prepared for shipment to WIPP by SRNS Solid Waste personnel in 2012.

“Over one hundred of these specially designed metal containers, known as Pipe Overpack Containers or POCs, have already been loaded with Pu oxide,” said Gilmour. “H Canyon has enough Pu oxide to safely fill approximately 600 of these new containers during the current campaign and potentially thousands in the future.” According to Gilmour, once the project moves from demonstration mode to full production this year, he expects to see three to four shipments of unusable PU oxide leave the site each week bound for WIPP. Each truckload of waste will contain 35 POCs.

Originally SRS had a huge amount of radioactive material stored in a variety containers and limited funding. “This waste would have been here a long time if it hadn’t been for Recovery Act funding,” said Gilmour. “It’s going to be a very busy year for SRNS as we safely prepare and send out shipment after shipment of TRU waste and excess plutonium to New Mexico.”

H Canyon is the only hardened, nuclear chemical separation facility still operating in the U.S.

A New Biomass Cogeneration Facility is Open for Business at SRS

Written by the CAB Support Team

The Savannah River Site shut down its last remaining coal - fired power plant on April 9, 2012, ending 60 years of coal-fired steam production. However, SRS will not be out of steam for long thanks to the new Biomass Cogeneration Facility that started full operations following a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 12, 2012. Built by Ameresco, the biomass plant will provide 30 percent of electricity to the Site, as well as all of the steam needed to power important operations.

Biomass is an innovative technology where the old has become new again. But unlike the wood-burning steam engines of the past, these boilers have the ability to generate a combined 20 megawatts of electricity and 240,000 pounds per hour of steam. At the March SRS CAB Full Board Meeting, Rob Pope, of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said the EPA is pleased with the new Biomass Facility, and added that it will allow the EPA to go in and clean-up D-Area.

“EPA is very glad to see that facility go up and start working at SRS,” Mr. Pope said. “The clean air portion of it is not really my bailiwick at EPA, although it is very important and we’re happy to see it, but one of the things we’re very glad about is that DOE will be getting out of the coal powered plant business.”

At SRS, forest residue will be mixed with bio-derived fuel, made from materials such as chipped tires, and burned in efficient boilers to generate steam and electricity. Fuel for the facility will come from a 50 mile radius around the Site, with 50 trucks delivering 1,250 tons of fuel per day. In addition to the main facility, Ameresco will also operate two smaller biomass cogeneration boilers at K and L areas that will each produce 10,500 pounds of steam per hour.

The biomass facility represents a huge savings in both money and greenhouse gasses over the old coal powerhouse. Over the 19 year span of the contract, an estimated \$934 million will be saved and greenhouse gasses will be reduced by 1,900,000 tons. Additionally, as much as 2.8 billion gallons of water per year will stay in the Savannah River because the new facility will draw much less water.

Ms. Shelly Wilson, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), said at the March SRS CAB Full Board Meeting that the State of Carolina expects the Biomass Facility to have a positive impact on the surrounding area, and called it a “big step forward.”

“SCDHEC is very pleased with the leadership the DOE is showing in terms of cleaner energy,” Ms. Wilson said. “That facility will definitely help to improve

the air quality in the region.”

The March 12 ribbon cutting ceremony was presided over by Dr. David Moody, SRS Site Manager. Ameresco CEO George Sakellaris, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), and Thomas D’Agostino, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security & Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, also made remarks at the event. Rep. Wilson, a supporter of the project and the jobs it would bring, actively lobbied for the project in Congress.



Wood chips poured out of a truck held at a 90 degree angle. These wood chips will work as fuel for the Biomass Facility.



The Biomass Cogeneration Facility ribbon cutting.

Why I Applied to be a CAB Member

By: Chief Louie Chavis, CAB member since 2011



**Chief Louie Chavis
CAB Member**

I decided to apply to be a CAB member after being approached by Barbara Morningstar Paul, who felt that I would be interested in sitting on the CAB since SRS is located in the area that was once the roaming ground for the Beaver Creek Indians. I've heard there were many cemeteries that possibly had our tribal forefathers buried there. As Chief, I was constantly asked by tribal people if the area around the "Bomb Plant" was safe to live near because, for years, there was such secrecy about just what was going on there. So I decided to become a CAB member to see if I could learn some things to calm not only my own concerns, but also the concerns of my people.

After a year on the CAB, I have learned so much about the stewardship of the land SRS sits on. I have a better idea of how valuable and important SRS is to the future of not only my people, but for all the people of South Carolina. The residents of Aiken, Barnwell, and Orangeburg counties, to name a few, have prospered not only economically, but environmentally as well. I have also learned that the Department of Energy (DOE) has taken great strides towards national security.

Concerning SRS, it is amazing the work, leadership, care and concern that goes into the Site in order to protect not only South Carolinians, but all American people. In my opinion, our future depends on the loyalty and hard work of the employees at SRS, and to see that nuclear energies stay vital, so we can soon move away from fossil fuel. What I have learned thus far sitting on this incredible board, is that I had no idea just how much impact DOE, SRS, and other nuclear sites, have had on changing the world with nuclear energy. My people who live near the Site are relieved to know that things are safe in their communities.

I am proud to be a member of the CAB, and I feel our work is valuable and necessary. I would like to take a moment to thank my mentor, Ms. Marolyn Parson, a fellow CAB member, for taking me under her wing. Her knowledge really helped with the constant questions I flooded her with. I also want to thank Dr. Moody, SRS Manager, for explaining that SRS is not a "dumping ground" for nuclear waste. This is such a concern for so many of my tribal people and the general public; they truly believed that their land had become contaminated and was no longer sacred. I have learned that SRS, and all nuclear sites across the country who store nuclear materials, are environmentally sound and safe for any and all people who live near or around them. This is the most common question asked by my tribal people. I feel I can answer their questions and concerns more effectively now that I sit on the SRS CAB. My goal is to learn as much as I can, become knowledgeable about nuclear energy, and be able to pass this knowledge on to my tribal people as well as the general public.



Chief Louie Chavis, in full tribal regalia.

Need Knowledgeable Speakers for Your Next Event?



Want someone to speak at your next meeting who is knowledgeable about the Citizens Advisory Board and its involvement at SRS? Invite a CAB member to talk at your next meeting! The Board has an ongoing program, called the Speakers Bureau, that enlists CAB members, and occasionally DOE, to speak at organizational meetings, and events. Call the CAB Support Team at 803-952-7884 or 800-249-8155 to request information, or email us at:

srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

CAB Members Attend Environmental Justice Meetings

The SRS CAB has recently developed an interest in the Environmental Justice (EJ) Program being directed by the



Mary Davis
CAB Member

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the EPA website, Environmental Justice is the “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

CAB members Mary Davis and Tom Barnes attended an EJ meeting in Denmark, SC, on March 29, 2012. Ms. Davis submitted a report, which stated the majority of questions asked by attendees covered topics such as jobs, community grant initiatives, and grant writing. She reported there were break-out sessions which were divided into three groups: 1.) Economic Growth and Workforce Development & Superfund Job Training Initiative, 2.) Grants & Federal



Harold Simon,
CAB Member

Funding, and 3.) Site Clean-up & Environmental Monitoring. Ms. Davis said the Rev. Brendolyn Jenkins opened the meeting, de’Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR, gave an “informative overview of SRS,” including its value to the community. She continued that EPA representative, Kyle Bryant, gave a presentation over the EJ Program, and Kim Newell, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) discussed SCDHEC’s role and responsibilities at SRS.

CAB member Harold Simon attended an EJ meeting in Augusta, GA, on Jan. 26, 2012. He participated in the Site Clean-up & Environmental Monitoring break-out group, which he said consisted of a group of residents and community activists who were concerned with emergency shelters, notice of emergencies, and the Emergency Evacuation Plan. He stated that, in his opinion, when community outreach meetings are conducted, a representative from “the municipality” should be present. He suggested that the CAB’s Administrative & Outreach Committee should also cover this topic within the parameters of its Work Plan, and noted that the EPA is “another source that can provide the CAB with community feedback and concerns related to Savannah River Site.”



Rob Pope, EPA, speaks to citizens at a Environmental Justice meeting held in Barnwell.

The CAB Welcomes a New Research Associate



Kole Helvie

In order to provide support to our four issues-based committee chairpersons to include the finalization of CAB-drafted recommendations and tracking of DOE commitments, a Research Associate has been added to the CAB Support Team.

Kole Helvie, V3T, was introduced as the new Research Associate for the SRS CAB during the May 2012 Full Board meeting in Savannah.

Before accepting the position of Research Associate, Kole was a communication major at Clemson University, and also studied at Moscow State University in Russia. He worked with Guest Relations, Human Resources, and Operating Labor Management with Walt Disney World in Orlando. He has operated and consulted small businesses in VA, NC, and SC. He is a veteran and served his time in the U.S. Army as a member of The Old Guard in Washington, D.C.

Kole currently works as an Operation Specialist in F-Area at SRS, giving him an unique perspective on Site activities.

Please join us in welcoming Kole to the team!

Uncover Site History with the Archaeology Program at SRS

Written by the CAB Support Team



Mr. Wingard, SRARP, shows artifacts found at SRS.

In 1973, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology first came to the Savannah River Site (SRS) in response to Department of Energy (DOE) Executive Order 11593. This early venture onto SRS stemmed from a growing concern for the preservation of cultural resources, and because of this concern, in 1978 the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) became a permanent fixture at SRS.

Mr. George Wingard, administrative manager, explained the SRARP is a division of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, which is a department of the University Of South Carolina campus. He stated the program has a “three-fold” mission.

“Our first mission is compliance, which is to ensure the protection of nearly 12,000 years of cultural resources at SRS,” he said. “Our second mission is research, both on the SRS and throughout the Central Savannah River Area. Because historic occupants did not stop at the modern day boundaries of the SRS, this research furthers our compliance efforts by helping to develop the regional context for historical sites on the SRS. Our third mission is outreach. We go out and speak to civic organizations, schools, and churches to talk about the importance of Archaeology and history.”

The field technicians working with the SRARP go out into the Site every day, according to Mr. Wingard. He said the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, which is also stationed at SRS, is one of the program’s biggest partners in terms of work scope. He said the Forest Service is constantly thinning, planting, and conducting prescribed burns at SRS, and the SRARP goes to these areas beforehand to survey for cultural resources.

In 2006, the group found one of its most historically significant artifacts to date, the “Dave Pot,” after surveying an area where a monitoring well was set to be dug. This artifact was a piece by “the slave potter Dave,” who lived and created pottery in the 1800s. Mr. Wingard spoke about the day the artifact was discovered at SRS.

“A stoneware sherd was found in a shovel test pit and dated ‘1862,’” he said. “Due to the fact that it was glazed stoneware, they realized it was something special, and as they dug a little more, another sherd was excavated with the name ‘Dave’ on it. Eventually, our excavation retrieved about 99 percent of the vessel from the ground.”

Since finding the aforementioned vessel, which has been reconstructed, Mr. Wingard has used it as a teaching tool, taking it out to local communities to show residents.

“It is such a great ambassador to discuss the importance of archaeology, history, and African American history,” he said. “We are very lucky to have discovered it.”

In addition to surveying for cultural resources, the SRARP also conducts a great deal of community outreach. According to Mr. Wingard, the group talks to the community around two to three times on average; this includes talks and presentations at local churches and chamber of commerce, as well as hands-on workshops with school-age children. He said the SRARP has volunteers who come in to learn and share their knowledge with others in the community. Mr. Wingard also gives tours of family cemeteries on-site, as well as home-sites, and there is a 30-year-old historical exhibit on SRS on display at the Aiken Museum.



The “Dave Pot” was found at SRS in 2006 after the SRARP surveyed an area where a monitoring well would be dug.

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One project the SRARP is currently working on is the Carolina Bays. Dr. Mark Brooks, SRARP director, said the SRARP primarily deals with the bays at SRS, but also goes off-site to research other bays in Georgia and North Carolina. He said Carolina Bays serve as data points within the South Atlantic Coastal Plain, and are very culturally rich areas.

"We are looking at them from a regional perspective in terms of humans adapting to climate change," Dr. Brooks said. "We're getting that type of data from the Carolina Bays and the sand rims."

He stated that the SRARP has been working on the Carolina Bays since the early 90s.

While the SRARP may have many different activities going on at any given time, Mr. Wingard says its underlying mission is to preserve SRS's historical integrity, while also providing answers to community members who have found that a bit of their own history is tied to the site once known as the "Bomb Plant."

"We're here protecting the cultural resources on the SRS, and when we can, we will share what we find, in any way possible, with the public," he said.

While questions about SRS are plentiful among the community, no one seems to be questioning the purpose of the SRARP.

"Everyone seems to be really open to what the Archaeology Program does, and seems genuinely interested in what we do," Mr. Wingard said. "We want to be here to tell people 'This is what we do, this is why we do it, and this is why it's important.'"

To learn more about the Archaeology Program at SRS, please visit the SRARP's website at :
<http://www.srarp.org>



Brian Milner, a SRARP field technician, sorts recently washed artifacts for further analysis.

Spotlight On:

CAB
Membership



The SRS CAB is always looking for new members to join the Board!

Do you live in an area affected by cleanup activities at SRS? Would you be interested in learning about SRS and working as a team to help inform local communities? If the answer is "yes", you would be perfect for the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. We are currently recruiting new members to the CAB for the 2013-2015 term.

Please fill out an application at

<http://cab.srs.gov>

You can email us at:

srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

Or you can give us a call at :

803-952-7884 or (800-249-8155)



As a CAB member, one of these seats could be yours at CAB Full Board Meetings. Join us and have a seat!



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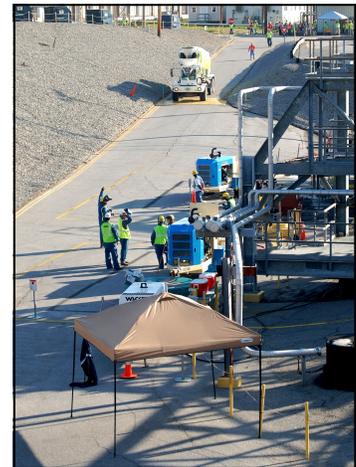
Grouting Begins on First SRS Waste Tanks Since 1997

Republished from a DOE-SR Press Release

AIKEN, S.C. – At about 9 a.m. on April 2, 2012, Savannah River Remediation (SRR), LLC, workers began the operational closure of two hazardous waste tanks at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS), signifying the most substantial environmental risk reduction in South Carolina since 1997.

"We've worked hard with Savannah River Site and other federal partners to resolve many complex tank closure issues and reduce the risk of an environmental incident," S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control Director Catherine Templeton said. "This has paved the way for the closure of Tanks 18 and 19, and for the remaining tanks to close at a faster pace. We look forward to a continued collaboration with SRS in laying the groundwork for more cleanup activities."

With a radio command to begin, a specially formulated cement-like grout began flowing from the first concrete truck of the day into one of two designated underground waste tanks, Tanks 18 and 19, which will be operationally closed at the Site, located near Aiken, S.C. The start of grouting culminates 32 years of waste removal and cleaning operations in the 1.3 million-gallon tanks and begins a process that will result in the first SRS waste tanks being closed since the first two were closed in 1997. Dr. David Moody, DOE Savannah River Manager, said the start of grouting creates a template for the operational closure of the Site's remaining tanks and is significant in the disposition of the Site's legacy nuclear waste.



The first cement truck arrived at SRS loaded with a specially formulated grout.

"Eliminating the risk of radioactive legacy nuclear waste is a priority and the start of grouting of these tanks is significant to meeting our critical mission," Dr. Moody said. "SRS was the first site to close waste tanks and becomes the next site to close tanks, since waste tanks were closed at the Idaho National Laboratory in 2007."

SRR, the liquid waste contractor at SRS, is leading the effort to operationally close the waste tanks. The grouting process will include six cement trucks an hour operating eight hours a day, five days a week, pumping the grout to fill the waste tanks. Dave Olson, SRR President and Project Manager, indicated grouting the tanks will eliminate risk for workers and the environment.

"DOE and SRR are committed to protecting workers, the public, and the environment while achieving risk reduction in a cost effective manner, and in compliance with regulatory commitments," Olson said. "Many years and a lot of safe operations will result in Tanks 18 and 19 being operationally closed this summer."

The tanks were constructed in 1958 with Tank 18 becoming operational in 1959 as a waste receipt tank in the Site's nuclear weapons production process. Tank 19 was placed into operations in 1961 and also used as a nuclear waste receipt tank. Tank 18 remained in active service until 1986 when waste removal activities were initiated. Tank 19 remained in service until 1980 at which time waste removal began. Both tanks held approximately 1.3 million gallons of radioactive hazardous waste.

"Closing Tanks 18 and 19 is a big step forward in reducing the risk posed by legacy high level waste at SRS, and I'm very proud to be a part of the outstanding team that's responsible for this accomplishment! I also want to recognize and express DOE's appreciation for the dedication of the many outstanding representatives of the SCDHEC and EPA who worked so closely with us to surmount the complex regulatory and technical issues related to tank closure. Their timely reviews and inputs on all regulatory aspects were instrumental in our ability to close these tanks. Through our partnership with SCDHEC and our mutual focus on reducing environmental risk, we now have a regulatory road map in place to close the remaining tanks at a much more rapid pace," said Terry Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project.

An agreement between DOE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control required the operational closure of Tanks 18 and 19 by December 2012. Grouting of the massive underground tanks, ancillary piping and equipment will continue until late summer before the tanks are confirmed closed.

Reflections on the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board Chairs' Meeting

By: Marolyn Parson, CAB Member



Each EM Site had its own table at the Chairs' meeting.

In April, I had the opportunity to attend the Chairs' Meeting in Paducah, KY, along with CAB Chair Donald Bridges. Prior to the meeting, we toured the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. We had a chance to hear about the strategies and technologies being used to remove and decommission facilities and to remediate soil and groundwater. In addition, it was very interesting to see how much uranium is enriched so that it is suitable as a fuel for commercial nuclear power plants. This facility is much smaller than the Savannah River Site, but it too has had

a significant impact on the adjacent communities.

During the Chairs' Meeting, it was enlightening to hear the successes of the other Advisory Boards in terms of influencing cleanup decisions. I was not surprised that all of the Boards are concerned with budget constraints and are very interested in the redevelopment of their sites as the cleanup missions wind down. The highlight of the meeting for me was hearing the perspectives of the Department of Energy (DOE) staff from Headquarters on the outlook for Environmental Management's budget in 2012 and beyond. I think it would be very beneficial for the SRS CAB to hear presentations on a regular basis from DOE staff from Headquarters on a variety of topics, not just budget.

Overall, the meeting was a very positive experience and well worth the time spent.



Attendees were able to attend a tour of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

The CAB and SRS Address a Local Citizen's Concerns



On March 15, 2012, a concerned citizen wrote a letter expressing concerns about SRS fencing and sign activities that he felt would impact his home. The fence and sign installations were being performed in order to discourage individuals from trespassing on the Lower Three Runs Creek, which may be potentially contaminated.

The letter was addressed to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. The CAB Support Team forwarded the letter to the correct DOE Organization quickly thereafter.

A representative from DOE-SR and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions met with the citizen at his home and was able to clearly explain why the fence was being erected and how care was being taken to avoid impact to his home and property. The matter was resolved to the citizen's satisfaction and his gratitude was expressed.

This is why the SRS CAB exists: to help facilitate understanding, communication, and information between SRS officials and the community.

For contact information for the CAB Support Team, check out our website at cab.srs.gov

CAB Recommendations

Recommendation 283:

Adopted Nov. 15, 2011

“Revising the Department Of Energy Websites & Using Plain Language to Communicate with the Public More Effectively”

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

- Review www.srs.gov and www.DOE.gov to see how the two websites can be modified so that information about the Savannah River Site is readily available on both sites.
- Make all information on these sites accessible to all computer platforms.
- Make all documents noted in the “SRS Environmental Bulletin” available online.
- Write all documents intended for public use per the “Federal Plain Language Guidelines.”
- Review the “Open Government Directive” to determine if SRS is in compliance in terms of publishing government information online and to present its findings to the CAB at a full board meeting no later than January 2012.

DOE Response:

DOE indicated it recognized the need to improve the navigation and search capabilities on its websites and have been working with DOE-HQ and the Site contractors to improve. They agreed to give periodic updates on progress.

Full response on the CAB’s website at: cab.srs.gov

Recommendation 284:

Adopted Jan. 24, 2012

“Need to Continue On-going Progress for Closure of Tanks 18 and 19”

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

- Should take extraordinary measures to meet or exceed the schedule for closure of Tanks 18 and 19 consistent with the FY 2012 closure schedule and not delay closure unless significant safety issues are raised.
- Continue to provide updates to the public on closure progress for these tanks and all the remaining tanks scheduled for closure.
- Develop a review of the lessons learned.

DOE Response:

DOE stated they had not identified any safety issues, therefore, closure of Tanks 18 and 19 is on schedule before the end of 2012. They agreed to provide updates and develop lessons learned.

Full response on the CAB’s website at: cab.srs.gov

Recommendation 285:

Adopted March 27, 2012

“Reallocation of Funds for Regulatory Support in FY 2012 Appropriations & Request for Increase in FY 2013”

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

- Take steps to restore funding in FY 2012 for regulatory support appropriate to the scope of work needed to meet FY 2012 clean up goals.
- Provide information at the May meeting on what steps are being taken to restore the budget for regulatory support.
- If funding is not restored:
 - a. Give details on how the reduced budget would impact the ability of the regulators to maintain the current level of cleanup oversight, and
 - b. Information on strategies to assure that oversight from the regulators is not weakened.
- Make a commitment that the FY 2013 budget will be prepared to restore funding for regulatory support appropriate to the scope of work needed to meet FY 2013 clean up goals.

DOE Response:

DOE response not yet received.

Full response will be made available on the CAB’s website at: cab.srs.gov

Three Public-Private Partnerships for Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Technologies at SRS Announced

Abridged version republished from an DOE-SR press release

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Savannah River Site (SRS) recently announced three public-private partnerships to develop deployment plans for small modular nuclear reactor (SMR) technologies at SRS facilities.

“I am extremely pleased to announce this exciting and promising new initiative for SRS. Through these agreements, we will continue to build a more sustainable future for the Site by bringing technical and innovative solutions to looming national challenges for clean energy, as a part of the Enterprise•SRS vision,” said DOE-SR Manager Dr. Dave Moody. These Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) will help leverage the Site’s land assets, energy facilities and nuclear expertise to support potential private sector development, testing and licensing of prototype SMR technologies.

SRNS President and CEO Dwayne Wilson said, “This announcement provides an all-important momentum needed to bring SRS back to center-stage in the development of clean energy technologies and solutions. We are pleased to have provided the business direction and discipline to help mold the new vision for SRS’ future and the roadmap to achieve it.”

The MOAs were entered into by DOE, SRS and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) with three private companies - Hyperion Power Generation Inc.; SMR, LLC, a subsidiary of Holtec International; and NuScale Power, LLC. The agreements will help these companies obtain information on potential SMR reactors siting at SRS and provide a framework for developing land use and Site services agreements to further these efforts.

“We have a unique combination of nuclear knowledge and laboratory expertise, infrastructure, location and much more to make the Site a natural fit for advancing the small modular reactor technology,” said Moody. “I hope our communities will see this announcement as an ‘awakening’ that we have a clear vision for the future and a firm determination to succeed.”

By strengthening information sharing and access to Site facilities and technical expertise, these MOAs will help break down engineering and testing barriers to advanced nuclear reactor research and development, while providing these nuclear companies with the resources to support effective deployment plans.

“This kind of public/private effort is an important component of the value that Enterprise•SRS brings for the future. It’s important to ensure that government assets like SRS are revitalized to serve a new purpose for the nation, and it’s exciting for us to be involved in helping enable something that can be a game-changing technology in the energy industry. SRNL hopes to support multiple small modular reactor projects, and we’re actively working with others who we expect to be interested in pursuing a similar approach,” said SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske.

The MOAs build on DOE’s recent work to develop nuclear power as a vital part of America’s energy strategy. The MOAs do not constitute a federal funding commitment. DOE envisions private sector funding will be used to develop these technologies and support deployment plans. The agreements, and the officials and offices involved with these activities, are separate and distinct from DOE’s Funding Opportunity Announcement for small modular reactor cost-share projects announced earlier this year.



Small modular nuclear reactor technologies are a key component of the Enterprise•SRS vision.

To receive this press release in its entirety, please contact the Office of External Affairs at 803-952-7697.

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, or visit the CAB website and complete an application at:

cab.srs.gov

Please call, mail, fax, or email your comments and suggestions to:

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Stay Informed With Live Meetings!

With live meetings, we can reach a larger audience.

Live meetings are a viable option for you when coming in person to a meeting is not possible. Just go to the CAB's website, click on "Meeting Recordings," find the appropriate meeting date and join us.

CAB members: Encourage your friends and neighbors to view you and your committee in action!

cab.srs.gov



CAB Online: Same Great Content, Easier Access

We would love for you to visit the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) website for updates, meeting schedules and summaries, presentations, recommendations, Board information, and more. Now, you can access the same great information, but with our shorter web address!

The new, shorter CAB website address is :

cab.srs.gov



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