



# The Board Beat Magazine

Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board  
Spring 2016 Magazine

Working Together to Educate and Inform the  
Communities Surrounding the Savannah River Site!



CAB Members Cathy Patterson and Nina Spinelli receive a lesson in tank crawler operation from Tim Chandler, SRR.

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

# What's Inside?

Message from the Chair-Harold Simon	Page 1
CAB Tour: Two Perspectives	Page 2-3
Dr. Mickalske Speaks to Overflow Crowd at Newberry Hall	Page 4
March 2016 Environmental Justice Meeting	Page 4
Message from the Chair Continued	Page 5
Upcoming Meetings	Page 6
SRNL Harvests Rare Materials	Page 6
CAB University to be Available to Public	Page 7
Full Board Meetings Will Begin Streaming Live	Page 7
SRNL Engineer Elected to Biomass Board	Page 8
Waste Management Symposium	Page 8
How to Connect with the CAB	Page 9
Take a Look	Page 10-11
April 2016 EM-SSAB Chairs Meeting Held	Page 12
SRNL to Help Train the Next Generation of Robotics Engineers	Page 12
SRNS' Safety Performance Recognized	Page 13
SRR Welding Engineers Impart Expertise on Barnwell Welding Students	Page 13
Member Farewell and Welcome	Page 14-15
SRS Public Tours Program	Page 16
CAB Members Greet Tours	Page 17

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) extends a big “thank you” to everyone that helped make this magazine possible. To all the CAB members who submitted ideas and articles, 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, and distributed in November and May, 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](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

## Message from the Chair - Harold Simon



Harold Simon  
CAB Chair

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is a part of the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), a stakeholder board that provides the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management and designees with advice, information, and recommendations on issues affecting the EM program at SRS. Among those issues are clean-up standards and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship; risk assessment and management; and clean-up science and technology activities.

Agency liaisons from DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources participate at the table during Board meetings.

I would like to welcome two new members to the CAB, Ms. Cathy Patterson and Mr. Jim Lyon. On February 2, 2016, Cathy and Jim attended the new members' orientation and they also attended a tour of the Savannah River Site. A listing of the new members appointed to the Board in 2016 is provided in this issue.

I would also like to highlight some of our activities for 2016 that are within the scope of the Board's Department of Energy, Environmental Management Mission.

Work plan development session: With the addition of eight new members in 2015, we work together as a team to successfully complete our Work Plan within the scope of our EM Mission.

On February 8, 2016, the Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and their DOE SR Points of Contact completed our Annual Work Plan and schedule for 2016. As we pursue our Work Plan for 2016, we must also focus on our stakeholders' concerns, DOE EM, DOE SR and the public. When trends are identified, we must seek clarification and, when appropriate, we must provide substantive advice and recommendations to the DOE EM and the DOE SR from the CAB and the public's perspective.

I would like to thank each member of the CAB, the CAB Support Team, DOE-SR, the respective agencies and the subject matter experts for your dedication and participation as we successfully completed our Work Plan for 2015. We also solicit your continued support as we work to complete our 2016 Work Plan.

Education and Process Session: On February 9, 2016, the CAB members participated in an annual training session. The purpose of this session is to refresh CAB members on general knowledge of Site operations, and to update new Board members on basic site issues.

Presentations were provided by subject matter experts to educate and inform the CAB on the issues at SRS. In addition, the Board reviewed and updated the CAB's Internal Processes.

Integrated Priority List: In March, 2016, the SRS CAB provided input to the DOE SR prioritized activities for FY 2018 budget submission. This document was developed in a public forum. The Board agreed on the following:

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the SRS prioritized activities for FY 2018 budget submission. As in the past, the high level liquid waste management program remains the Board's highest priority. The budget request for FY 2018 should reflect this priority and should be funded at a level that guarantees compliance with all state

Continued on page 5



## CAB Tour: Two Perspectives—by Bob Doerr, CAB Member

We started our day by meeting at the Badge Office at 8:30am. By 8:45am we were on our bus with Kim Cauthen as our host and guide.

By 9:00am Kim was guiding us on a Driving Tour of A Area and M Area and we saw the EM efforts to monitor ground water and to close these areas.

Later Kim Cauthen took us to a conference room in Building 730-1B and gave us an overview of the ACP and monitoring. The overview included a video of the electroshock boat and how the boat checks fish in the Savannah River. As a citizen who lives downstream on the Savannah River from SRS, I was very interested to hear how EM continues to monitor water quality in SRS and what happens when this water gets into the Savannah River. Mark Spires gave us an interesting explanation about his monitoring tours in the Savannah River.



CAB Members learn about the phytoremediation project's retention pond. From left: Bob Doerr, Ginny Jones, Jim Lyon, Bill Rhoten, Gerald Blount (SRNS), and Dawn Gillas

Next on the tour was a drive-by of F Area and the F Tank Farm and an overview of current activities at F Area. After seeing F Area Kim arranged for us to go to E Area and witness how the phytoremediation project works. Gerald Blount explained to us how tritium is dispersed into the air by irrigating the trees in this area and we saw the retention pond where additional tritium monitoring is done.

After lunch Kim took us to C Area where we met with Monique Rabin to get an explanation of how C Area has been decommissioned with the use of grout. This grout was developed with the assistance of the scientists at SRNL.

Our final stop on the tour was G Area and the Ameresco Biomass Cogeneration Steam Plant. Ken Chacey and “Sandy” from Ameresco gave a comprehensive presentation of the activities at G Area that included the following:

- Safety by the workers and visitors
- How DOE contracted with Ameresco to provide steam power and electricity to SRS.

The use of renewables like auto tires and wood pulp as fuel for the furnaces that create tremendous heat that generates the steam.

Ken provided us with the safety equipment we needed for the tour: hard-hat, glasses, and earplugs. All were needed as we walked by the turbines, boilers and the furnace. It was interesting to understand how Ameresco provides some of the energy needs in SRS completely with renewable energy sources. It appears to me that DOE made a good investment in their partnership with Ameresco.

We would like to thank Kim Cauthen for our all day tour and the thorough explanation of the activities that are covered by federal dollars apportioned to SRS under PBS 30.



In front of the biomass facility's wood chip pile. From Left: Bob Doerr, Dawn Gillas, Earl Sheppard, Ginny Jones, Bill Rhoten, and Jim Lyon.

## CAB Tour: Two Perspectives—by Virginia Jones, CAB Member

On April 28, 2016, members of SRS CAB attended a tour of selected areas at SRS. Instead of sites such as H Canyon, we visited areas with decommissioning and environmental remediation.



In front of the C reactor building. From Left: Bob Doerr, Ginny Jones, Kim Cauthen (SRNS), Earl Sheppard, Dawn Gillas, and Bill Rhoten.

The tour began with a driving tour through A and M areas to view decontamination and decommissioning (D & D) activities. After a CAB slide presentations of D & D locations, it was surprising to see how well maintained the sites were and the wide variety of finished decommissioned products. The sites varied from flat, grassy areas to areas with high fences and signage to fences with razor wires. Keep in mind, that one cannot enter any of the areas because of the 'guards, gates, and guns,' which surround SRS, in addition to fences and signage.

The next stop was Area 730-1B. After a video presentation on how SRS takes samples of fish from areas of the Savannah River, we got to see the boat which had been pulled to the parking lot, and meet Mark Spires, its Captain. Using electroshock to collect samples, fish are selected that people generally eat while the rest are released. Samples are taken from different river loca-

tions at varying times of the year as part of SRS's mission to check on radionuclides and contaminants in the river.

After driving by F tank farm, we stopped at E Area to observe a phytoremediation campaign. This is a unique plant-based method by which various contaminants are removed from a nearby pond with over 70% success by using irrigation techniques. Our only disappointment on the walking tour of the pond was missing the local alligator.

Following lunch, we went to C Reactor, an example of complex decommissioning. This was my sentimental favorite since it was one of the areas at DuPont/SRS where my father worked as a chemical engineer from the 1950s through the 80s. Due to the secrecy of WWII and the Cold War, my dad could never talk about or show me what he did. Finally, visiting this area fulfilled a life-long dream.

The final stop was the Ameresco Biomass Cogeneration Plant, a highlight of the tour and example of a modern green footprint. Donning hard hats and safety glasses, we walked through an amazing plant of huge conveyer belts, cranes, and equipment that would delight a child who loves to see tiny parts of Cranky the Crane on a real life scale. Climbing up three flights of steps to gaze into the furnace was memorable and brought to mind the flame throwing dragons of the Game Of Thrones.

Be sure to experience as many SRS tours as you can. If pictures are worth a thousand words, being there brings the words and slides to life.



CAB members learning about the Biomass Cogeneration facility's control room.



## Dr. Michalske Speaks to Overflow Crowd at Newberry Hall

Written by: Virginia Jones, CAB Member

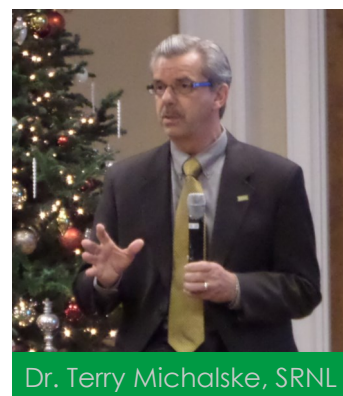
Parking at Newberry Hall to attend the 7:30 AM breakfast speaker-meeting sponsored by CNTA, I was surprised to see a crowd of young adults waiting outside, and wondered if they were at the wrong place. Young people never come to speeches about science. However, they were talking excitedly about one of the speakers, Dr. Terry Michalske, Director of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). Inside, every table was filled. There was standing room only! This was definitely the place to be, and the speeches would be as exciting as the young adults predicted!

Dr. Michalske focused on the present and future missions of the lab. One of the most important missions of the lab is to deal with the legacy waste at SRS in a faster and more efficient way. Some of the exciting future goals include: bringing robotics into hazardous operations; using virtual reality in training; and developing smart manufacturing tools. He shared the presentation with two members of his management team, and will cover other lab missions at future breakfasts.

Steve Tibrea, Manager of R&D Engineering, discussed cyber security. They are working on resilience and response to cyber-attack through process control and data integrity. Another mission is to make wireless secure. Also, their focus is on authentication using trusted locations while working with key partners such as US Army Cyber Command. All this they plan to do in a cost effective way.

Bond Calloway, Associate Director for Clean Energy Programs, spoke of integrating chemistry into computer program modeling, and pushing to make processes smaller. Engineers are involved in saving money, time, and energy as well as minimizing safety risks.

All in all, it was apparent that SRNL is an exciting place to be!



Dr. Terry Michalske, SRNL

## March 2016 Environmental Justice Meeting

Written by: Nina Spinelli, CAB Member



Kyle Bryant, EPA

Voorhees College was home of the Environmental Justice Community Meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2016. Hosted in conjunction by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Imani Group, the meeting brought together various community groups to discuss how their agencies work together to protect the environment. Robert Pope with the EPA discussed the remediation and clean-up of the D-Area Ash Basin at the Savannah River Site, Mary Bright with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control gave a presentation on emergency preparedness, and Kyle Bryant with the EPA reviewed grant writing to build community capacity.

Nina Spinelli, board member of the SRS CAB, provided an overview of CAB activities to the over 50 members of the public that attended the event. "It was a great chance to share all the work that the CAB does in terms of hosting presentations and providing recommendations for clean-up and future land use at the site, shared Mrs. Spinelli. One question posed to Mrs. Spinelli during the presentation was why she became involved with the board. "That is an easy one," Mrs. Spinelli began. "I think it our job to be good stewards of the land that we inherit and cleaning-up legacy waste at the site is so important to provide the next generation the cleanest world possible.

## Message from the Chair Continued

Continued from page 1

and federal agreements, and even accelerate the Radioactive Liquid Waste tank closures. Any funding short of this would be of great concern to the CAB. Thus, as the budget process progresses, we will closely observe the level of funding for PBS 14C, Radioactive Liquid Tank Waste Stabilization and Disposition.

In regard to other Environmental Management mission activities, our second highest priority is PBS 11C, NM Stabilization and Disposition, and PBS 41. The following budget items include several activities that we strongly support.

PBS 11C, Plutonium down-blend processing for disposition to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant;  
PBS 41, 235-F Risk Reduction Project; and  
PBS 11C, Spent Nuclear Fuel down-blend processing for disposition to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

We hope that our input is taken seriously as the budget request for the Savannah River Site is formulated for FY 2018.

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 331, to improve Public Participation at Board meetings: This recommendation was approved by the Board on 28 July, 2015. The Board contends that these meetings should be held in communities that are impacted by the activities at SRS.

Given the scope of the CAB's charter which calls for geographic and demographic diversity, the CAB's Full Board and committee meetings should be hosted in locations that maximize opportunities for public participation.

The areas affected by the Savannah River Site include several counties on both sides of the Savannah River, including: Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper and Beaufort counties in South Carolina, and Richmond, Columbia, Burke, Screven, Effingham, and Chatham counties in Georgia.

Recommendation: The SRS Citizens Advisory Board recommends that the Department of Energy SR:

Schedule SRS CAB meetings in a more geographically diverse manner to allow counties affected by the issues at SRS to host more regional meetings to enable the greatest public participation.

DOE SR response: The Department offers the Board the following options in response to recommendation 331:

Six bimonthly Full Board meetings and five committee meetings: The Full Board meetings will be held in New Ellenton, SC (3), Augusta GA (2) and Savannah, GA (1). All committee meeting will be held in New Ellenton SC. This can be done within the existing budget for the CAB operations and would allow for the CAB's On-line training and development program.

Please visit our web site at [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov), for additional information on the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board activities.

Sincerely,

*Harold Simon*



## 2016 CAB Full Board Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 25-26	New Ellenton Community Center 212 Pine Hill Avenue New Ellenton, SC 29809
March 28-29	Hilton Garden Inn 1065 Stevens Creek Rd Augusta, GA 30907
May 23-24	Holiday Inn Express—Historic 199 East Bay St. Savannah, GA 21401
July 25-26	New Ellenton Community Center 212 Pine Hill Avenue New Ellenton, SC 29809
September 26-27	Hilton Garden Inn 1065 Stevens Creek Rd Augusta, GA 30907
November 14-15	New Ellenton Community Center 212 Pine Hill Avenue New Ellenton, SC 29809

## Join us for a SRS CAB Committee Meeting in 2016!

Upcoming CAB committee meetings:  
June 7, Aug 9, Oct 4, Dec 6:

- Nuclear Materials  
4:30—6:20
- Waste Management  
6:30—8:20

June 8, Aug 16, Oct 11, Dec 13:

- Facilities Disposition  
& Site Remediation  
4:30—6:20
- Strategic & Legacy Management  
6:30—8:20

Can't make it to a committee meeting in person? Consider joining us online in real time! For more details, please visit the CAB's website:  
**[cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)**

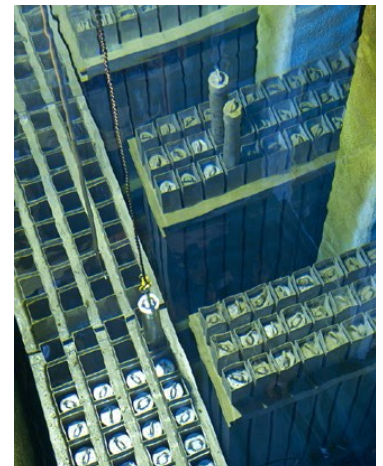
## SRNL Harvests Rare Materials Press release originally posted on [srs.gov](http://srs.gov)

A new program sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is underway at the Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) to recover rare, valuable materials from existing nuclear material assemblies. These assemblies have been stored at the Savannah River Site for more than 35 years and contain greater than 80 percent of the world's inventory of heavy curium and plutonium-244, a rare and economically irreplaceable material. Not only is this program recovering valuable isotopes, it's also moving legacy material out of South Carolina and putting it to use.

Plutonium-244 is uniquely important in high accuracy measurements analysis. The isotope serves as a reference material for analysis of other nuclear materials and is used as a baseline for source identification. It is also used for safeguard and environmental analysis. The curium is used in the production of californium, which has many industrial applications including oil exploration; nondestructive materials analyses; and medical research.

According to SRNL Program Manager Bill Swift, the process allows SRNL to harvest these valuable resources from stored nuclear assemblies and convert an SRS legacy to an irreplaceable resource for our country. "Over a period of several years, we will be removing the assemblies from storage and shipping them to the Savannah River National Laboratory where they will be dissolved," said Swift. "The valuable materials will be captured on an ion exchange resin column and sent to Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee for further purification and will be used to support isotope production."

Making new plutonium-244 and heavy curium is not an economical option. When weapons production reactors closed at the end of the Cold War, so did the ability of any facility in the U.S. to produce these types of materials. The 65 assemblies currently stored at the Savannah River Site are the only economic means to harvest this rare material. This project will be executed in collaboration with Oak Ridge and Los Alamos National Laboratories as the future shipping and storage configurations are developed.





## CAB University to be Available to Public

The Citizens Advisory Board's new training program, CAB University, will be made available for the public in Fall 2016. The training program, comprised of 10 minute videos, fact sheets, and online quizzes, are designed to give CAB members a basic understanding of the programs and processes occurring at Savannah River Site.



# CAB University

Currently, because of the wide variety of activities being undertaken at SRS, it can take several months for new members to become acclimated to just the vocabulary used at meetings. CAB University should turn that around and enable new members to dive right in to the rich discussions at CAB meetings.

Since a basic understanding of SRS benefits the community as well, CAB University will be hosted on the [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov) webpage and available for free to the general public. It is hoped that through these videos the public will be better able to directly engage with SRS.

## Full Board Meetings will Begin Streaming Live

Very soon, the CAB will begin streaming Full Board meetings live. The CAB has been streaming and recording committee meetings since 2010.

In the beginning a service called LiveMeeting was used. Since then, the LiveMeeting software has been discontinued. In 2013 the CAB adopted Google Hangouts. In addition to being free, the meetings are automatically archived on YouTube in a format viewable by nearly every computer device.

Because of technical limitations, Full Board meetings had to be excluded. But that is all changing after an investment in new equipment by DOE. With the new setup, the Support Team will be able to begin streaming and recording every CAB meeting.

Full Board meetings will be recorded in three parts: Monday Combined Committees meeting, Tuesday morning Full Board meeting, and Tuesday afternoon Full Board meeting. While viewers of the livestream will be able to type in public comments, these comments will not be read at the meeting. Instead they will be appended to the minutes of the meeting.



## SRNL Engineer Elected to Biomass Board

Press release originally posted on srs.gov

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Principal Engineer Dr. Elise Fox has been elected to the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Biomass Council (SCBC). Fox will serve as Vice-Chair during 2016 and then as Chair in 2017. Through her role at SRNL, she is considered a trusted leader and an expert in renewable energy research and development.

The SCBC was chartered by the South Carolina Energy Office to increase biomass products and energy production in South Carolina. The objective of the SCBC is to develop long-term strategies to make biomass a feasible utility scale alternative.

“The Savannah River National Laboratory’s participation on the SCBC is an important stepping stone to help solidify SRNL as the expert in the Southeast for energy and power production initiatives,” Fox said. “The SCBC also serves as a platform to highlight and grow SRNL biomass research programs.”

Biomass is a renewable energy source created from plant material and animal waste.

The main source of biomass for energy purposes is paper mill residue and lumber scrap. Sources for biomass fuel include corn grain and ethanol. The Savannah River Site (SRS) is home to the largest federal biomass facility in the nation and is frequently used as an example for utility-scale production potential.

“SRNL and SRS serve as a key bridge between the power production sector, biomass growers, and the academic community,” said Fox.



Dr. Elise Fox

## Waste Management Symposium

Written by: Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice Chair

The annual Waste Management Symposium was held March 6-10, 2016 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Nina Spinelli, board member, spoke on The Effectiveness of Advisory Boards and the Department of Energy Environmental Management Site Specific Experience.

Mrs. Spinelli spoke on Public Participation at the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Meetings following a research period at CAB meetings. “It was a great chance to share the amazing work of the CAB with people from around the country, and the impact that public participation can have on making the process work well. I think was most interesting about the research was public attendance – the overwhelming majority of respondents shared that they had attended over 10 meetings. It seems that once people learn about the CAB and become interested, they tend to come back and participate further,” explained Mrs. Spinelli.



Along with Mrs. Spinelli on the panel was Dave Borak (EM-SSAB Designated Federal Official) who spoke about how the DOE EM office engages the public on complex issues, Belinda Price who shared how the Oak Ridge Site Specific Board is adapting to change, and finally, Rick McLeod with the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization on grassroots efforts to clarify the high-level waste definition.

“The entire conference was a fantastic experience and I think the highlight was the keynote speech by Yasuharu Igarashi, Executive Director of the Nuclear Damage Compensation, on the rebuilding of Japan after the tsunami experience.”



## How can you connect with the CAB?

Search for #SRSCAB to find us on any of these social media sites!



Instagram

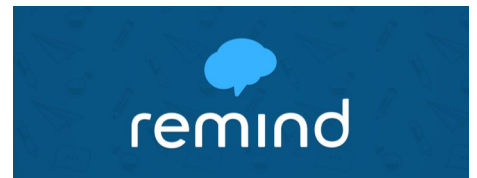


periscope



You can sign up for text message reminders for upcoming meetings!

Text “@cabm” to “81010”.



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 next term.

Please fill out an application at:

<http://cab.srs.gov>

You can email us at:

[srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto: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!



## Take a Look: March Full Board Meeting

*A snapshot of presenters, CAB members, and more*





## Take a Look: March Full Board Meeting

*A snapshot of presenters, CAB members, and more*





## The EMSSAB Chairs' Meeting was Held in Oakridge on April 20-21

*Written by: Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice Chair*

The semi-annual Chairs Meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EMSSAB) was held April 20-21 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. After a tour of the Oak Ridge facility, the Board Chairs heard an update on the Environmental Management Program by Mark Whitney, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Of interest, was discussion regarding the budget and movement towards tank closure plans. At this time, DWPF for high level waste is working at 1/3 capacity, and the program could run with greater efficiency and output. Treating and closing tanks was described as a priority for the Environmental Program, and currently, 7 of the 51 tanks have been successfully closed. The Department of Energy Environmental Management (DOE EM) requested \$6.1 billion in funding, the largest request in 5 years, and 40% of this budget is ear-marked towards tank closure.

The EMSSAB received an update by Mark Senderling, Director of the Office of Disposition Planning and Policy, on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plan recovery. The goal of DOE is to reopen WIPP as soon as it is safe to do so, and DOE is continuing to work on creating a safety culture, practicing procedures through cold operations, and completing an operational readiness review. Work is continuing to ensure that the mine remains healthy and over 5,000 bolts have been installed for ongoing mine stability. When WIPP does reopen, there is no current plan on which site's waste will be taken first and how much can be accepted initially. Safety and stability is the top priority as WIPP works toward reopening.

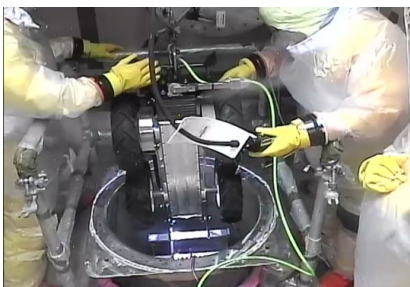
Each EMSSAB had a chance to participate in a round-robin discussion and share happenings and news at their own individual site. The Savannah River Site CAB focused on the recently completed budget priority letter.

Portsmouth focused on their creating of a lifecycle baseline for their site; Paducah focused on their desire for DOE to maintain an annual funding equal to prior years to ensure the successful target completion of milestones, and Oakridge focused their hosting of public workshops and community events. As the meeting drew to a close, the CAB's collaborated on product development and working on two new recommendations to bring back to their own individual boards for discussion and voting. The next meeting of the combined EMSSAB will be held in August 2016.



## SRNL to Help Train the Next Generation of Robotics Engineers

*Press release originally posted on srs.gov*



The five-year cooperative agreement will train graduate students in specific disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics related to robotics. As part of this effort, SRNL will bring real-world problems and field applications together with academia to help develop the next generation of robotics engineers and the next generation of technology.

“Carnegie Mellon is one of the premier robotics universities in the country,” said Luke Reid, Manager of Mechanical Systems and Custom Equipment Development at SRNL. “This partnership, when coupled with the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, is the first step in establishing SRNL

as the ‘go-to’ robotics lab in support of very real and very challenging environmental cleanup efforts throughout the Department of Energy complex.”

SRNL has a rich history in advanced robotics for use in environmental management and high-hazard conditions. SRNL recently deployed robots to successfully inspect the H-Canyon Air exhaust tunnel. These inspections were necessary to validate the condition of the 60 year old tunnel and ensure that it is safe for continued operations. Remote devices have also been used to inspect reactor tanks and to safely recover and contain contamination sources.

“Teaming with universities to conduct research and development in technologies such as robotics is essential in developing a next generation workforce,” said SRNL Laboratory Director Terry Michalske. “The need for new technologies is critical to the Environmental Management mission and to addressing some of the most critical tasks in nuclear chemical manufacturing.”



## SRNS' Safety Performance Recognized

News Release and picture originally posted online by SRNS

The Savannah River Site's management and operations contractor, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), was recognized by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce for exemplary safety performance at a safety awards luncheon on March 22, in Columbia.

"I am proud of the SRNS team for their daily contributions to make the Savannah River Site a safe and reliable neighbor to the surrounding community as well as all of Georgia and South Carolina," said SRNS president and CEO, Carol Johnson. "We are a team that believes that safety is core to who we are."

The company was recognized by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce for completing 2015 with four lost-time cases in the operations division and zero lost-time injuries in the construction division.

"For a company that conducts the highly technical and hazardous work that we do, the fact that SRNS employees worked nearly 10 million hours in 2015, with four lost time injuries, speaks to the safety culture we hold dear. What's more, SRNS employees feel that four injuries are too many, and they work as a team striving for zero injuries. I am very proud of their commitment and find the safety culture at SRNS to be world-class and nothing short of inspirational," said Mary Flora, SRNS Deputy Director for the Environmental Stewardship, Safety and Health division.

Every year, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce recognizes South Carolina-based companies who have finished the previous year with commendable safety performance. With this most recent award, SRNS has received recognition from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce every year since SRNS became the Site's prime contractor in 2008.



## SRR Welding Engineers Impart Expertise on Barnwell Welding Students

News Release and picture originally posted online by SRR

The welding students spent a day away from BCCC, a multi-district Career Center with programs designed to help students begin training in their career path of choice, to tour the liquid waste facilities at SRS. The students spent time with a group of SRR welding professionals and managers to learn what it is like on the job as a welder at SRS.

The students visited a welding shop in H tank farm, one of two "tank farms" at SRS that contain a total of 36 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste. While at the welding shop, the students were instructed on what it takes to pass an initial welding exam, shown examples of different types of acceptable welds performed at SRS, and given practical professional development guidance on obtaining a job after high school graduation. The information shared with the students was passed from generations of welders with significant expertise at SRS, according to Brandon Witt, SRR Construction Manager. "The knowledge transferred to the students during their visit was invaluable," Witt said. "The team of welders shared guidance from years of professional and personal experience that will help guide the students when they begin making career decisions."

Supporting education in the surrounding communities is a core value for SRR, said Mark Schmitz, SRR Acting President and Project manager, and a personally important part of his job; a passion he shares with other SRR employees. "SRR recognizes the need to transfer knowledge and equip the next generation of students who will eventually become part of our workforce," Schmitz said. "Our workforce is made up of many parents to high school-age children, myself included, and sharing our experience at SRS is one of the best part of our jobs."

## The SRS CAB Said Farewell in January 2016...

### James M. Streeter (Columbia County)



Mr. Streeter is a retired Richmond County educator. He is interested in educational and environmental issues, and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Retired Sergeants Major Association. Mr. Streeter holds a Bachelor of Science in Business, a Master of Science in Education, and an Educational Specialist degree. He resides in Grovetown, Georgia, and was appointed to the Board in January 2012.

## Would You Like to Be A Member?


WHO WE ARE: The SRS CAB is one of eight Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Boards funded by the Department of Energy

WHAT WE DO: Meet to discuss Environmental Management issues involving SRS and submit recommendations to DOE from a community view-point. We also inform the public of key issues and upcoming decisions related to SRS

WANT TO JOIN? We are always looking for new members! If you would like to apply, complete the application on the CAB's website: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

Board membership requires a time commitment of approximately 20 hours per month, and includes attending meetings and active participation on at least one issues-based committee. Some overnight travel may be required. Board members receive travel reimbursement, but are not paid for their time.

Find an application at:  
**CAB.SRS.GOV**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (EM SSAB) Savannah River Site			
Application No. (Please leave blank) _____			
<b>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>			
(Please print or type)			
Last Name		First Name	Middle Initial
Street Address			
City	County	State	Zip
Please list phone number(s) where we can contact you:			
Primary Phone <input type="radio"/> home <input type="radio"/> work <input type="radio"/> cell		Alternate Phone <input type="radio"/> home <input type="radio"/> work <input type="radio"/> cell	
Fax			
E-mail			
Occupation	Employer	Dates of Employment	
<input type="radio"/> No longer employed <input type="radio"/> Retired (If currently not employed or retired, provide last occupation, employer, and dates of employment above)			
Are you an employee of a DOE Contractor or Subcontractor?		Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
Are you a Consultant to DOE or one of its Contractors or Subcontractors?		Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
Do you work for a Waste Management/Environmental Restoration Firm?		Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
Are you a registered Federal lobbyist?		Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
<b>Membership Commitment</b>			
<i>If selected to serve on the EM SSAB, I agree to attend board meetings and related training events, review background materials, and work cooperatively with the membership to fulfill the purpose of the board. Furthermore, I understand that the commitment of time expected is approximately 10 to 20 hours per month. I also understand that I will be a representative of my community and my work with the board will be directed toward issues affecting the EM program, specifically the following site-specific issues: clean-up standards and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship; risk assessment and management; and clean-up science and technology activities.</i>			
Print Name _____		Signature _____	Date _____
 <b>EM Environmental Management</b> safety ♦ performance ♦ cleanup ♦ closure			
			2 <a href="http://www.em.doe.gov">www.em.doe.gov</a>



## James H. Lyon (Chatham County)



After 12 years with Parsons Corporation, Mr. Lyon retired in March 2015, as senior project/program manager for Saudi Arabia Parsons in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was adviser to the Saudi Ministry of Education and Princess Nora Bint Abdul Rhahman Woman's University Rectification Program. Over the past 12 years his work has focused on educational facilities, schools and training campuses. During this time, Mr. Lyon's other projects included large scale vertical, horizontal and infrastructure installations. He is also a retired Army officer with 27 years of service. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural History and has expressed an interest in environmental and economic development issues. A native resident, Mr. Lyon resides in Savannah, Georgia.

## Cathy R. Patterson (Aiken County)



Ms. Patterson is a senior programmer analyst with Centerra (formerly Wackenhut Services, Inc.), the SRS security force. She has expressed an interest in educational and economic development issues. Ms. Patterson holds a Bachelor of Science in Math and Computer Science, a Master of Arts in Theology, and a Master of Business Administration in Accounting. She is a member of the Concerned Ministers Fellowship and resides in Aiken, South Carolina.

You can find profiles of all current members at [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)





## SRNS Public Tours Program

In 2016, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC once again will offer a limited number of Savannah River Site (SRS) tours for the general public.

Twenty-two general site driving tours of SRS will be offered to the public throughout 2016, providing openings for approximately 1,100 people to visit the site. Tour check-in begins at 12:30 p.m., at the Aiken County, S.C., Applied Research Center, (located off Highway 278), near the northern boundary of the site. Guests are given an overview presentation safety briefing, tour of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and general driving tour of the site. The tours conclude at approximately 4:30pm.

Site tours provide an opportunity for those interested in SRS to better understand the Department of Energy's facilities and workers that changed the face of Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale Counties, nearby cities and helped win the Cold War. Guests also learn about facilities supporting future missions of the Savannah River Site.



All tours are free of charge and each will accommodate 50 participants. Tour participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be U.S. Citizens. Two forms of identification are required at check-in the day of the tour. If no internet access is available, individuals may call 803-952-8994 for assistance.

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.

## The SRS CAB Has Gone Green!



Please help the Savannah River 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](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

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

## Stay Informed With Online Meetings!

*With online meetings, we can reach a larger audience.*

Online 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.



Visit the CAB online at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

Call us at 803-952-7884  
(800-249-8155) for more information!

## CAB Members Greet Tours

Written by Virginia Jones, CAB Member

This April, members of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), began greeting the public taking SRS tours. CAB greeters chat informally about how they represent the public's concerns about SRS. When available, they also hand out cookies!

### Questions frequently asked by visitors:

- Why does one become a CAB member?
  - ⇒ To understand the nuclear industry in our area. Also, some of us have family members who work at SRS, and we want to give back to the community.
- What benefits does one receive from being a CAB member?
  - ⇒ You will represent your community.
  - ⇒ You will understand what happens at SRS.
  - ⇒ You will FINALLY be able to communicate with your friends who are employed at SRS
- How much time does it take to be a CAB member?
  - ⇒ CAB members serve 2 hours a month for committee meetings, and on alternating months, two days for full board meetings. Members are expected to read emails and write recommendations if desired.
- Does one need a science background?
  - ⇒ No. CAB is looking for regular citizens who are interested in their community.
- What do CAB meetings consist of?
  - ⇒ CAB meetings consist of videos and slide presentations given by SRS personnel. Committee meetings also include time for discussion and drafting recommendations.
- Are CAB members paid?
  - ⇒ No. However, DOE reimburses for mileage driven from home to CAB meeting sites.



## Check us out online!

Everything you need to help you understand the issues being reviewed by the SRS CAB can be found on the Board's website:

[cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

The CAB's website has copies of recommendations, DOE correspondence, dates of SRS tours, CAB biographies, meeting schedules, position statements, and more.

Search for #SRSCAB on any of these social media networks:



You can sign up for text message reminders for upcoming meetings! Text "@cabm" to "81010".



## 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](http://cab.srs.gov)

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

de'Lisa Carrico  
Assistant Federal Coordinator  
SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Building 730-B, Room 1185  
Aiken, SC 29802  
Phone: 1-800-249-8155  
Local: 803-952-7884  
Fax: 803-952-9228  
Email: [srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)



de'Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR