



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

We, the 12 members of the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), are pleased with having developed this 2024 Work Plan to help us keep focused during the year as we provide informed and timely recommendations at the request of the United States Department of Energy, through the Savannah River Operations Office.

Our recommendations fall in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities. Each January, Department of Energy-Savannah River presents a list of planned and ongoing activities at the Savannah River Site that assists us in identifying issues and topics that are of particular interest to the CAB and will be considered as a request for public advice during the current calendar year. From this list, we developed the 2020 Work Plan as a tool to help us target appropriate topics for each of our four issues-based subcommittees:

- Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation
- Nuclear Materials
- Waste Management

The CAB activities for 2024 are structured to focus on the topics identified in this Work Plan.

We invite members of the public to meet with us at our scheduled meetings and assist us as we review the topics in our Work Plan.

Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Subcommittee

The Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Subcommittee addresses the remediation of contaminated soil, groundwater, and surface water. The Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Subcommittee deals with issues related to the Federal Facility Agreement, risk management/assessment, the regulatory process, and other cross-cutting issues pertaining to environmental restoration. The Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Subcommittee also follows deactivation and decommissioning actions taken to reduce risk and costs following shutdown of excess industrial, radioactive, and nuclear facilities. Topics under consideration for the Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Subcommittee in 2024 include:

Topic 1	Work Plan Item:	Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) System Plan
	Description:	The SRS D&D program is responsible for the safe deactivation and decommissioning of facilities at Savannah River Site. To further the goals of this program, SRS is in the process of drafting a system plan that will lay out how this work will be completed across the long-term with a focus on which facilities should be prioritized. Provide a recommendation on your input regarding this system plan.
	Recommendation Deadline:	
Topic 2	Work Plan Item:	Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Management at SRS
	Description:	PFAS is an emerging contaminant worldwide, and in November 2023, the CAB received a presentation on SRS's PFAS investigations in advance of EPA's pending regulations. If the EPA issues PFAS regulations in 2024 and the Site's PFAS actions change as a result, we will update the CAB on those changes. Provide a recommendation on how you would like this information to be shared.
	Recommendation Deadline:	

Long Term Missions and Budget Subcommittee

The Long-Term Missions and Budget subcommittee was established to study strategic issues that are relevant to the Environmental Management clean-up program at the Savannah River Site. This includes performance assessments as well as long-term policy, planning and cross-cutting issues related to other CAB subcommittees. Specific areas of interest are development and deployment of technology, the Department of Energy–Savannah River budget decision-making process, long-term stewardship, future land use, and relevant national environmental policy.

Topic 1	Work Plan Item:	Budget Process and Update
	Description:	The Budget provides Savannah River Site funds to accomplish scope for the year. From a community perspective, provide a ranking of the site's budget priorities.
	Recommendation Deadline:	March 2024

Nuclear Materials Subcommittee

The Nuclear Materials Subcommittee was established to study issues that involve nuclear materials (generally uranium and plutonium) that have an impact on present or future Savannah River Site activities. Issues include spent nuclear fuel program activities (foreign and domestic), nuclear materials management, and nuclear materials integration. The Nuclear Materials Subcommittee addresses consolidation, storage, and disposition issues related to legacy materials that were once part of the nuclear weapons production cycle. The Nuclear Materials Subcommittee also studies issues related to the receipt and storage of foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel. Topics under consideration for the Nuclear Materials Subcommittee in 2023 include:

Topic 1	Work Plan Item:	Stored Nuclear Material
	Description:	<p><u>Background:</u> SRS safely stores significant quantities of Nuclear Materials. The CAB continued backing of our activities would demonstrate local support. Plan to educate CAB on Infrastructure/ Project update for FY24, Spent Nuclear Fuel Working Group activities/recommendations, discussion on the Plutonium System Plan, update on Criticality Control Overpacks, latest changes to the DOE Standard 3013 and update on the K Area Transition.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> From a community perspective, the SRS CAB will provide a recommendation if the CAB will continue to support this program.</p>
	Recommendation Deadline:	

Topic 2	Work Plan Item:	H-Canyon Operations
	Description:	<p><u>Background:</u> H Canyon was an area of concern for the CAB last year. DOE will provide updates on efforts to dissolve Non-Aluminum Spent Nuclear Fuel, inform the CAB what we are doing to maintain strong Conduct of Operations (ConOps) culture, discuss dissolution of Fast Critical Assemblies, increased fissile loading of ABD canisters, expanded use of the 6.4 dissolver to handle MTR Fuel, and efforts to support outside High Activity Low Enriched Uranium fuel fabrication to assist with their understanding of the current operations of the Canyon.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> From a community perspective, the SRS CAB will provide a recommendation on if the CAB will continue to support H-Canyon operations.</p>
	Recommendation Deadline:	

Topic 3	Work Plan Item:	Solid Waste Processing and Removal
	Description:	<p><u>Background:</u> The Assistant Manager for Nuclear Material Stabilization is responsible for Solid Waste Processing and removal. Last year there were several questions from the CAB regarding solid waste and a returned container. An update and discussion on the returned container as well as status of E Area and increased shipments to WIPP would address concerns expressed at CAB meetings.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> From a community perspective, the SRS CAB will provide a recommendation if the CAB will continue to support this program.</p>
	Recommendation Deadline:	

Topic 4	Work Plan Item:	Deactivation Work
	Description:	<u>Background:</u> The Assistant Manager for Nuclear Material Stabilization has a number of facilities that are now inactive and are in the process of deactivation or have been deactivated. A discussion of several of these facilities including F/H Laboratory Deactivation and other facilities will educate the CAB on facilities no longer in use. <u>Recommendation:</u> From a community perspective, the SRS CAB will provide a recommendation if the CAB will continue to support this program.
	Recommendation Deadline:	

Topic 5	Work Plan Item:	H-Canyon Long-Range Planning
	Description:	<u>Background:</u> The H-Canyon facility became operational in the early 1950's. While it is a robust facility capable of many different missions, it is reliant upon a disposition pathway for liquid waste generated during processing; the liquid waste program is scheduled to be completed in 2037 and the canyon is currently more than 70 years old. Planning should be underway for future technologies that could replace the canyon when and if necessary. <u>Recommendation:</u> From a community perspective, the SRS CAB will provide a recommendation on their preferred long-term plan for a H-Canyon.
	Recommendation Deadline:	

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Waste Management Subcommittee

The Waste Management Subcommittee reviews the management, treatment, storage and disposition of radioactive wastes, including transuranic waste, low-level waste, mixed low-level waste and radioactive liquid waste and provides advice and recommendations to the Savannah River Site on these activities. Principal goals of the Waste Management Subcommittee are: to see (1) a trend of reduction in risk to the public, workers, and the environment posed by these wastes, and (2) integrated and comprehensive system approaches used in weighing Savannah River Site waste management and disposition options. Topics under consideration for the Waste Management Subcommittee in 2023 include:

Topic 1	Work Plan Item:	Update to the Integrated Liquid Waste Processing System at Savannah River Site, Liquid Waste System Plan, Revision 23
	Description:	<p><u>Description:</u> The <i>Integrated Liquid Waste Processing System at Savannah River Site, Liquid Waste System Plan, Revision 23 (System Plan Rev23)</i> was approved and issued by the Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Operations Office (SR) in March 2023. The purpose of the System Plan is to integrate and document the activities required to disposition the existing and future high-level waste (HLW) and remove from service radioactive liquid waste (LW) tanks and facilities belonging to DOE-SR through a risk-based approach. <i>System Plan Rev23</i> is the roadmap for the LW mission to complete in 2037.</p> <p>The LW contractor, Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), utilized a recently developed, in collaboration with DBD, Inc., a combination process and chemical optimization model, capable of simulating various scenarios to better predict alternate paths to complete the LW mission by the end of 2037. As a result of <i>System Plan Rev23</i>, the Federal Facility Agreement between DOE-SR, the Environmental Protection Agency, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control was modified with updated regulatory milestones and commitments. The next update is due in December 2024.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #1:</u> From a community perspective, review <i>System Plan Rev23</i> and make suggestions on how the information may be made more clear or easier to understand. Consider whether more information is needed in any section to provide improved understanding on the path to closure and termination of the LW program. Provide suggestions on needed additional sections, as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #2:</u> From a community perspective, provide an analysis and opportunities to reduce the time between preliminary cease waste removal and operational closure of tanks.</p>
	Recommendation Deadline:	

Administrative and Outreach Subcommittee

The Administrative and Outreach Subcommittee shall advise the CAB on any question that arises pertaining to the substance or scope of the CAB Internal Processes. The Administrative and Outreach Subcommittee also oversees the election of CAB and Subcommittee Chairs. Additionally, the Administrative and Outreach Subcommittee directs the public outreach efforts of the CAB, provides comments on membership selection to the Savannah River Site, and coordinates the CAB's speakers bureau. Topics for consideration provided for the Administrative and Outreach Subcommittee for 2023 include:

Topic 1	Work Plan Item:	Assist the Federal Coordinator with the election of CAB Chair, Vice Chair, and Subcommittee Chairs
	Description:	Encourage members to explore leadership opportunities within the CAB.

Topic 2	Work Plan Item:	Community Outreach
	Description:	Develop a strategy to promote the Citizens Advisory Board to the community.

Topic 3	Work Plan Item:	Member Recruitment
	Description:	Develop a strategy to encourage members to recruit candidates for the CAB.

