



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 1996

Hilton Head Island, S.C.

The Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee met on Monday, January 22 in Hilton Head from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Approximately nine persons were in attendance at the Subcommittee meeting. Subcommittee members in attendance included Bill Lawless and Kathryn May, co-chairs, and Anne Brown. Also in attendance were Ann Ragan and Keith Collinsworth of SCDHEC, Walt Joseph the CAB facilitator and Chuck Powers of CRESP.

Bill Lawless opened the meeting by welcoming the Hilton Head residents to the meeting and introducing the first speaker, Joan Baum of the Department of Energy. Ms. Baum provided a status report of the F&H Groundwater project and an update on the SRS response to the eleven ISPR recommendations on the F&H Groundwater Project. Project contracts have been awarded for the design/fabrication of the wastewater treatment unit and the clearing and grubbing required to facilitate construction. General contracts for electrical and piping were to be awarded in February. The project costs have also been significantly reduced by downgrading the facility nuclear classification to a wastewater treatment unit, using commercial codes and standards, and implementing fixed price contracting. Each of the eleven ISPR recommendations was briefly reviewed with respect to the SRS actions being taken. Mr. Lawless requested that Ms. Baum provide the presentation at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting so additional public members could comment.

Bill Lawless reviewed the Recommendation on High Level Waste to be presented to the CAB the next day. The motion required that criteria (i.e., amount of waste which can be left in the high level tanks) be established to close the tanks farms and an overall strategic closure plan be drafted by the end of the fiscal year (see attached) Both the criteria and strategic closure plan would be subject to an independent scientific peer review. No changes were made to the motion.

Chuck Powers of CRESP provided an overview of the EM draft Programmatic WMEIS and stressed the importance of this document to SRS. Mr. Powers reviewed the range of alternatives and the shortcomings of the document as provided in the recommendations (e.g.):

- Make the document easier to understand,
- Present radionuclide species by volumes and curies for all wastes,
- Discuss the meaning of the data presented on environmental justice,

- Analyze more fully the treatment options considered,
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- Analyze more fully the treatment options considered,
- Present health effects in context,
- Discuss the impacts on the listed endangered species,
- Better discuss worker risks,
- Review and discuss resource and energy recovery plans, etc.

These comments will be provided to DOE-HQ to address in the final EIS.

Bill Lawless next reviewed the revised motion on the definition of an independent scientific peer review (see attached)/ The criteria for team members was modified as a result of past CAB discussion and now requires that "the members shall demonstrate, by publication or previous participation in similar efforts, the experience in theory and practice of evaluating, assessing, and obtaining agreement necessary to complete a competent review on the technical issues identified by the Board". The team member duty to certify their acceptance of the ISPR findings was in question, pending input from the Environmental Advisory Board liaison. This was to be resolved prior to presentation to the full CAB on Tuesday.

The meeting was adjourned.

Note: Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling the SRS CAB toll free number at 1-800-249-8155.