



# January 1996 Meeting Minutes

**SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

**January 23, 1996 8:30 a.m.**

**The Hilton**

**Hilton Head Island, S.C.**

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## **Members Present**

Members present include Ann Brown, Tom Costikyan, Bill Donaldson, Tom Greene, Alice Hollingsworth, Thelonious Jones, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Mildred McClain, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, Kamalakar Raut, Andrew Rea, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Pat Tousignant, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio Representatives present include Tom Heenan, Lee Watkins, Ann Ragan and Myra Reece.

Members absent were June Fogle, Walter Jones and Kevin Reed. Currently, there are two Board vacancies. (Lenola Cooks resigned in late November 1995.) Jeff Crane and Camilla Warren of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were not in attendance. The DOE Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan.

This meeting was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

J. Walter Joseph of Aiken, S.C., served as the CAB Facilitator.

## **Key Decisions Made by Board**

The Board approved proposed Bylaws amendments.

Bob Slay and Ann Loadholt were elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board.

All subcommittee chairpersons for 1996 were also elected.

Comments regarding the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement were unanimously adopted by the Board.

The Board adopted a consensus recommendation regarding the development of high-level waste tank closure criteria and strategic closure plan by September 30, 1996.

The Board adopted a definition for independent scientific peer review (ISPR) to provide guidance to the Agencies when selecting ISPR teams.

The Board approved the final Vision document, a document supporting the Board's Recommendation No. 8 on future uses of the Savannah River Site.

The Board approved its 1994-95 Annual Report.

Board members agreed to proceed with a community forum regarding plutonium disposition.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November Board meeting were approved with no changes.

### **Agency Updates**

Tom Heenan referred to the DOE responses to all recommendations adopted at the November meeting and stated that all had been accepted. He said more dialogue was needed regarding independent reviews of the Defense Waste Processing Facility, since many have already been conducted. Mr. Heenan also announced that SRS had received its fiscal year 1996 budget allocation and that it is sufficient to meet SRS commitments. He stated the allocation was \$100 million less than requested, but most likely only administrative functions would be effected by the shortfall. He said the site was accomplishing field work at an increased pace, which requires much coordination with the agencies. The agencies are already working on a process to minimize any administrative delays, he added.

Ann Ragan said SCDHEC was looking forward to working with DOE on the challenges mentioned by Mr. Heenan, stating they were in an ideal situation to do so. She also discussed the Centers for Disease Control citizens board which has recently been formed to look at SRS issues and suggested the SRS CAB may want to interface with the CDC board. She also presented SCDHEC responses to SRS CAB Recommendations 11-14.

### **Facilitator Report**

Board facilitator Walt Joseph discussed the issue of attendance at subcommittee meetings. He stated this was a concern of the issues-based chairpersons and provided three alternatives for conducting subcommittee meetings. The goal is to increase participation in subcommittee meetings. The first two alternatives would standardize the subcommittee meeting schedules to allow for better planning. He suggested the subcommittees meet either all day on the Monday before a regularly scheduled board meeting or meet every other Tuesday on the Board's off month. The third alternative was to continue to meet on an irregular basis. Much discussion pursued regarding commitment of time, compensation and the lack of subcommittee participation. The Board decided to continue holding subcommittee meetings on an adhoc basis, but with a special effort being made to accommodate all Board member's schedules.

### **Bylaws Subcommittee Report**

JoAnn Nestor referred to the draft Proposed Bylaws Amendments and asked for comments. (Board members had the opportunity to review the proposed amendments on several occasions.)

She said the major change included forming one administrative subcommittee to handle the work of the Bylaws, Nominations and Membership subcommittees. Also, the number of public officials required was decreased by two positions, while the number of general public representatives was increased by two positions, she said. Lane Parker moved the Board approve the proposal to amend the Bylaws and Bill Lawless seconded the motion. The Board approved the revised Bylaws with a vote of 13 in favor, one opposed and three abstentions.

### **Nominations/Elections**

Bob Slay and Ann Loadholt were elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board, respectively. The following subcommittee chairpersons were elected to serve in 1996:

Administrative Subcommittee- Beaurine Wilkins  
Budget Subcommittee- Thelonious Jones  
Education Subcommittee- P.K. Smith  
ER&WM Subcommittee - Bill Lawless and Kathryn May  
Nuclear Materials Management - Tom Costikyan  
Risk Management & Future Use - Vernon Zinnerman  
Outreach Subcommittee - Lane Parker

### **Environmental Remediation & Waste Management (ER & WM) Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Co-chair Bill Lawless began with an explanation of the subcommittee's first motion, which is to provide comments on the Draft Programmatic Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (WMPEIS). The subcommittee's review of the document was in response to a September 21, 1995, letter from Tom Heenan which relayed the importance of the document. Lawless stated the subcommittee had requested an extension of the comment period to allow a thorough review of the document. He then introduced Chuck Powers of the Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation, who had aided in preparation of the subcommittee's background support documentation regarding the WMPEIS.

Chuck Powers discussed what the Draft WMEIS is, where it came from, what led to it's being published and its relationship to other recent documents. He also discussed the contents of the WMPEIS and how it is conveyed. He discussed the different approaches to managing five types of wastes within the WMPEIS, the laws driving these approaches, and how a lawsuit compelled DOE to prepare the document.

Mr. Powers discussed the bottom line for SRS, stating that while there are some increased risks for aggressive alternatives within the document, the payoff is increased employment. He discussed concerns about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WiPP) and said the WMPEIS assumes WIPP will be open by the year 2016. He said implications regarding transuranic waste would be addressed in a WIPP Supplemental EIS.

Following Mr. Power's presentation, Bill Lawless presented the subcommittee's draft WMPEIS motion (see attached). The Board reviewed each item of the comments and made the following modifications:

- In item 2, the word "funding" was added before "disadvantage" in the last sentence.
- In item 4, the sentence was reconstructed to read: "Analyze more fully the treatment options considered; e.g., as presented for the TRU waste central treatment option. It fails to address the feasibility of safe shipments of untreated Pu-238..."
- In item 5, the last sentence was deleted and replaced with "Data should be provided with a clear explanation of health effects, in order that it not be misleading or create undue anxiety among the public."
- In Item 7, the words "discuss better" were transposed.
- Item 9 was deleted following a vote of twelve members in favor of deleting, four opposed and two abstentions.

**Vernon Zinnerman moved that the Board accept the motion and submit the comments on the WMPEIS as amended. Katherine May seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favor of providing comments with support documentation on the WMPEIS.**

Bill Lawless introduced Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager of the High Level Waste Division, Department of Energy, who provided a brief presentation regarding high-level waste (HLW) tank closure (see attached). Mr. Watkins gave an overview of high-level waste re-engineering efforts and discussed efforts to develop closure criteria for the tanks. He also discussed challenges faced by waste retrieval and tank closure and referred to a demonstration of retrieval and closure. Photographs of the interior of several tanks were provided as well.

Following discussion regarding the cost and funding for tank closures, removal of residues, life estimates for tanks, monitoring and the lack of closure criteria to date, Lane Parker moved that the Board adopt the subcommittee's motion regarding the development of closure criteria as presented by Bill Lawless (see attached). JoAnn Nestor seconded the motion. **The Board unanimously approved the motion regarding the development of high-level waste tank closure criteria and strategic closure plan by September 30, 1996.**

Bill Lawless also presented a definition for "independent scientific peer review" (see attached) to be provided to the Agencies as guidance when selecting individuals or teams to conduct independent reviews. Ann Loadholt moved that the Board accept the definition as presented and JoAnn Nestor seconded. **Following a brief discussion on what constitutes a "nationally recognized expert" and how ISPR team members are selected, the Board unanimously adopted the definition for ISPR.**

### **Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chairperson Vernon Zinnerman presented the draft Vision document (see attached) for final Board approval and highlighted all changes made in Monday's subcommittee meeting. The Board made the following modifications during discussion of the document:

- On page 8, paragraph 4, "environment" and "but, in general, they are of less concern that the cesium-137" were deleted.
- On page 9, paragraph 4, "where possible" was deleted.

- On page 10, paragraph 1, " the first right of refusal on buying their" was changed to "the right of first refusal to buy."
- All acronyms are to be spelled out within text.

**Ann Loadholt moved the Board approve the final Vision document as amended and Bill Lawless seconded the motion. The Vision document was accepted by a unanimous vote.**

The Board also discussed the SRS Future Use Site Project Report. Ernie Chaput provided a brief explanation of the final draft and the three minor exceptions the Department had with the Board's future use recommendation. He said that: 1) the industrial areas were smaller and within the Board's suggested industrial areas 2) the right of first refusal would require new legislation by Congress and 3) the recreational future uses described were less proactive that the Board intended, due to public safety issues.

Vernon Zinnerman then introduced Clay Jones of Westinghouse Savannah River Company to give a brief description of the fiscal year 1998 budget prioritization process in which the subcommittee had been very involved. He described the overall process, which requires submitting an initial site priority list to DOE-Headquarters by February 1 and a final priority list/budget submittal by April 15. He also discussed the criteria recommended by the SRS CAB subcommittee in developing the site priority lists. Stakeholder criteria included public health and safety, safeguards and security, worker health and safety, environmental protection, current mission impact, mission viability, cost effectiveness/mortgage reduction, and social/cultural economic impacts. He said these criteria were weighted relative to their importance, although all were considered important. He then presented the priority list, which had been discussed at length at five subcommittee meetings, and discussed its implications.

Following discussion regarding funding shortfalls, environmental compliance and opportunities to influence the priority list, the Board decided to hold a joint subcommittee meeting on the fiscal year 1998 budget prioritization prior to the March Board meeting.

### **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan announced that the Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement had been delayed and therefore his subcommittee did not have much information at this time. He said the subcommittee plans to review the document, including an independent review by Bill Sutcliffe, and hopefully provide a recommendation for consideration by the full Board in March.

### **Membership Replacement Election and Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Beurine Wilkins presented 39 candidates for membership in the 1996 elections. (see attached) She explained the process for selecting candidates and asked all Board members to carefully review this material prior to the March meeting, when they will vote on the new Board members.

### **Annual Report/Work Plan**

P.K. Smith presented the draft final Annual Report and asked for comments. **Ann Loadholt moved the Board approve the report and let P.K. Smith work with the issue-based chairpersons to finalize it. Anne Brown seconded. The Board agreed by a unanimous vote.**

P.K. Smith also presented a proposal to conduct a Plutonium Forum to provide an educational forum for the public to receive information regarding this timely issue. She said the forum would be co-sponsored by other organizations and would provide an objective overview of the issues surrounding plutonium disposition. The Board was in favor of proceeding with an information plutonium forum but agreed to address details, such as funding, at the next Board meeting.

### **Public Comments**

#### Mary Elfner, Savannah, Ga.

Ms. Elfner introduced herself as an employee of the City of Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission and stated she supported the efforts of the CAB. As one of the candidates running for election in March, she said she wanted to introduce herself.

#### Pat Present, Hilton Head Island League of Women Voters

Ms. Present said she thought the idea regarding a plutonium forum is an excellent one. She also asked about advertising for the day's meeting. She said it was a shame there was no media coverage for the meeting.

#### George Minot, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Mr. Minot congratulated the Board on work being done. He also cautioned the Board about its public image and moving forward with a forum regarding plutonium disposition, stating the Board should do its homework by asking questions and determining the interest in a forum before this expensive project was undertaken. He said the Board should look hard at how resources are spent and how subcommittee work is conducted. He recommended the Board take another look at compensating or formally sanctioning members of the public as subcommittee members. He said he thought more individuals would be willing to drive to Aiken and Augusta to participate if they were partially monetarily compensated. He asked that the issue be readdressed and the limitations identified.

#### Vivian Miller, Vice Chair of the Community Roundtable, HHI League of Women Voters

Ms. Miller stated it is imperative for the Board members to go back to their communities and drum up support for activities such as a plutonium forum. She said grass roots support is imperative.

The following public comments were received on Monday, January 22, 1996:

#### George Minot, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Mr. Minot discussed the need to advertise broadly the scope of work for independent scientific peer review. He said a vast number of experts were in the region and that many retirees will work for free. He encouraged the Board to publish on a wide scale requirements for independent reviewers.

Gail Matthews, New Hampshire resident

Ms. Matthews stated she wanted the air and water kept pure in Hilton Head Island. She stated she was looking for real estate in the area and had been reading about SRS and the aquifers and wanted to learn more. She was interested in which organizations were testing water and asked if private citizens were testing. Ms. Matthews discussed her work with a cancer registry in Massachusetts and relayed how thirteen children on one street had died of leukemia, which was discovered by a priest. She said it sometimes takes emotions to get to the facts. She stated you could not always believe DOE and EPA. Ms. Matthews formally requested information on how SRS is going to affect water and life on Hilton Head and suggested a realtor should be on the Board.

David Jordan, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Mr. Jordan was interested in the waste forms at SRS and how waste is stored.

(Ms. Matthews and Mr. Jordan were provided responses to their questions following the public meeting)

Charlotte Marsala, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Ms. Marsala provided the following formal comments: "If retrospect and rhetoric were college courses, most of us would score high enough to make the Dean's list, when it comes to the situation at SRS. It is productive to deal with what we now have and possible solutions to problems."

"The local papers have articles regarding the minimal progress by Westinghouse to clean up the Dupont/Westinghouse radioactive and hazardous waste mess at the SRS. The Department of Energy funds the current contractor-Westinghouse over one billion dollars annually for all activities at SRS."

"Reprocessing tritium, a continuous radioactive waste generating process, is ongoing as we speak. Maintenance of stockpiles and the ongoing reception of foreign spent nuclear fuel originating in this country accounts for some of that billion dollar expenditure. But, who is being held accountable with reasonable progress reports and timely cleanup quotas? Do they get a bonus? What is percolating in the buried tanks, any hybrids? Why is the tried and true reactor being passed over for an accelerator?"

Bob Newman, Fripp Island, S.C.

Mr. Newman commented on the tritium spill in December 1991. He stated the spill had been analyzed by many sources and all had the same result. He said samples were well within the EPA safe drinking standards; however the Beaufort-Jasper Water Authority still shut down the water system for six days causing fear among the public. He stated actions should not stem from emotion. The public meeting ended before Mr. Newman was able to finish speaking and he said this has happened time and time again and it got to him tonight. (Mr. Newman was offered a formal apology and the opportunity to open the Board's next public meeting session in March.)

## **Handouts**

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, January 23, 1996
- Proposal for Bylaws Amendments, JoAnn Nestor
- ER&WM Subcommittee Recommendation on High Level Waste dated 1/23/96
- High Level Waste Tank Closure slides, Lee Watkins
- Motion: Draft Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement
- A Background Statement on the Draft Waste Management Programmatic Impact Statement, issued by the Environmental Management Office of DOE, 1995
- Motion: Definition of Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR)
- Vision, Future Land Use Savannah River Site, dated January 23, 1996
- Draft Savannah River Site Future Use Project Report, dated January 1996
- Draft SRS CAB Annual Report, P.K. Smith
- CAB Recommendations Summary
- Letter from Lewis Shaw, SCDHEC, to Mildred McClain and Bob Slay, dated January 22, 1996 regarding Recommendations 11-14
- Letter from Mario Fiori, DOE to Mildred McClain and Bob Slay, dated January 19, 1996 regarding Recommendation No. 12 & 13
- Letter from Mario Fiori, DOE to Mildred McClain and Bob Slay, dated January 19, 1996 regarding Recommendation No. 14
- Letter from Mario Fiori, DOE to Mildred McClain and Bob Slay, dated January 19, 1996 regarding ceremony celebrating Defense Waste Processing Facility
- Memo from P.K. Smith dated January 18, 1996
- Plutonium Roundtable: Risks and Solutions Report
- DOE News, news release dated January 18, 1996
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report
- 1996 SRS CAB Schedule
- SRS Public Involvement Calendar

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