



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

Joint Subcommittees

**Meeting Summary**  
**February 8, 1996**  
**Allendale, S.C.**

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A Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) joint subcommittee meeting was held to discuss the Fiscal Year 1998 Budget Priorities for SRS on February 8, 1996, in Allendale, S.C. Board members in attendance were Bill Lawless and Tom Costikyan. Other individuals present included Walt and Paula Joseph, Chuck Powers and Rick Geddes. Clay Jones, Dawn Haygood and Mary Flora of Westinghouse Savannah River attended and Virginia Gardner served as the designated deputy official for the Department of Energy.

Clay Jones gave a brief presentation of the budget process and how stakeholders had been involved in developing the criteria for prioritizing activities to be funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 1998. He reviewed the stakeholder criteria and the Draft Stakeholder Input Based Priority List (see attached). Mr. Jones then discussed the Preliminary Balanced Priority List (see attached). He explained how activities were ranked top to bottom with higher rated activities in green and lower rated activities in red. He discussed how five basic priority lists had been developed for the Department of Energy-SR for comparison sake. These lists were generated using the following criteria: stakeholder concerns, risk, regulatory compliance and cost effectiveness. These lists, ranked using the different criteria, were compared to develop an optimized list to be used for budget development.

Mr. Lawless stated that developing criteria according to risks is useful but also subjective. He was concerned that the longer you wait to perform functions, the more likely that expertise of personnel may be lost. Mr. Costikyan noted that priority lists driven by regulatory compliance pushed Defense Board activities down and environmental restoration activities up in the ranking. He stated that focusing on regulatory compliance may result in not supporting activities that have higher risk to the public. Mr. Costikyan also inquired about the implications of spent nuclear fuel stabilization and offsite fuel receipts being so far down on the preliminary priority list.

Clay Jones then presented the brief scope descriptions of the activities. Discussion pursued regarding the difficulty of prioritizing activities that were still uncertain, such as plutonium disposition. It is not clear yet how these activities will be conducted or funded. Mr. Costikyan stated that "if for compliance reasons, we're diverting funds from urgent needs, then that upsets me."

Clay Jones then presented the DOE-Savannah River approach for submitting the budget to DOE-Headquarters. He explained that rather than giving Headquarters a top to bottom priority list, a list grouping the activities into three priority blocks would be submitted instead. Priority one

activities are considered non-discretionary and the site's position is that they must be supported, at a minimum, he said.

Bill Lawless and Tom Costikyan then discussed specific feedback regarding the priority list. Mr. Lawless stated he had strong feelings regarding item (7) the High Level Waste System and filling 200 canisters with vitrified waste each year and stated he would like to see all activities from No. 7 - 28 funded on the Preliminary Balanced Priority List (see attached). Tom Costikyan said he felt as if items No. (50) Long Term Plutonium/Highly Enriched Uranium Disposition,(55) Offsite Aluminum Clad Fuel Stabilization and (36) Reactor Material Highly Enriched Uranium Disposition are critical and should be moved to Priority 1. Both subcommittee chairs stressed that budgets would not be better in the outyears. Bill Lawless congratulated DOE-SR for taking the stand that there is a minimum level of funding that is needed to accomplish the amount of work DOE-SR feels is necessary in FY98.

Mr. Lawless and Mr. Costikyan discussed the path forward and determined Mr. Lawless would draft a motion to be provided to Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Chair Vernon Zinnerman and the Executive Subcommittee. This motion would then be provided to the full Board for consideration at the March Board meeting. (A motion has since been drafted and provided to the issues-based chairpersons.) Both Board members thought the board's recommendation should be provided to the South Carolina and Georgia congressional delegations and governors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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