



## **Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board**

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Meeting

### **Meeting Summary**

**April 13, 1996**

**Savannah, Georgia**

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A meeting of the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was held on April 13, 1996, at 3:00 p.m. at the DeSoto Hilton, Savannah, Georgia. CAB members attending were Vernon Zimmerman, Andrew Rea, Anne Brown, and Bill Donaldson and Kamalakar Raut. Walt Joseph, CAB Facilitator, Clay Jones (Westinghouse Savannah River Company, [WSRC]), and Gail Jernigan (WSRC) also attended. Private citizens who attended were Adell Moore and Allen Brown. Gerri Flemming attended as the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) designated federal official.

Vernon Zimmerman, chairman, started the meeting by saying that he was glad that this subcommittee could meet in Savannah as he would like to get input from the citizens in that area. He reviewed that agenda and asked Clay Jones to provide a status report on the fiscal year (FY) 1998 budget prioritization.

Jones reviewed the package that has been discussed at prior budget meetings with the list of activities prioritized according to values from the CAB and public and input from site managers. He began by explaining the budget process: the site prepares a package of budget information to the Department of Energy Headquarters Office (DOE-HQ) which performs an internal review. With budget packages from all sites within the complex, DOE-HQ prepares a budget for the entire Department of Energy. This budget is sent to the Office of Management and Budget in September. The Office of Management and Budget assembles a Presidential budget which is submitted to Congress in February. Congress votes on the budget usually before the fiscal year begins in October.

Jones then reviewed the actual priority list as developed with input from the CAB. He explained that the list is divided into three colors: the activities in green are considered the most critical and most likely to be funded; the activities in yellow are still considered critical (Priority 1) but not as critical as the activities in Priority 1 activities; activities in red are less likely to be funded. This information was sent to DOE-SR and Dr. Mario Fiori, Site Manager. Although the budget target for FY97 that was given to SRS was about \$1 billion, Dr. Fiori believes that about \$1.2 billion is necessary to perform adequate surveillance and maintenance activities, protect the public and worker health and safety and the environment, and to meet regulatory commitments both with regulators (the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) and with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. SRS is submitting a target budget for this critical non-discretionary scope.

Jones explained that this a first time that the site has submitted a budget that is more than the targeted budget set by DOE-HQ. A February 2, 1996, letter explains that the \$1.2 billion is what is essential for critical needs. (A copy of the letter was distributed.)

Andrew Rea said he was pleased to see the site take this position. He believes that this will help with credibility within the community and commitment to the regulators. Zinnerman asked what CRESP (Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation) is doing with the Risk Activity Data Sheets. (Risk Activity Data sheets explain what the activity is, what would happen if the activity was not done, and what is the risk if the work is done.) Jones explained that CRESP has reviewed the data sheets, found some inconsistencies, and found that, in general, they were written for an informed audience rather than the general public. The narratives have been changed, based on recommendations from DOE and CRESP, to be more consistent and rewritten for a more general audience. Jones said that stakeholders can still impact the FY 1998 budget by working through DOE and their elected officials. The subcommittee has been asked to participate in the FY 1999 budget prioritization process. Zinnerman told the group that he hoped that the CAB can use the lessons learned from the FY 1998 budget process to improve the FY 1999 process.

Zinnerman discussed the list of activities from DOE-SR that the subcommittee may wish to work on for the next 18 months. The list from DOE-SR was sent to P. K. Smith; the regulators will also provide comments on the list. At the CAB meeting in March, Ann Ragan said that the list was a good one and that she will provide others that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control may identify.

Zinnerman also suggested that the subcommittee should work on risk management education, similar to the Risk Management course provided to the subcommittee by the Medical University of South Carolina. He asked the participants if there were other issues that this subcommittee should work on. Rea would like to see the subcommittee work on any activity that produces waste or contaminants the environment. Although some may not feel that producing tritium or performing weapons work is within the scope of the CAB charter, he believes that anything that may produce waste or that may potentially impact the environment is covered under "and related activities" in the charter.

Jones reminded the group that the Nuclear Materials Subcommittee is looking at stabilization activities in the canyons and management of spent fuel. Rea is also concerned about importing wastes and interim storage of glass canisters. Jones told the group that tritium production is not covered under the Environmental Management program; in fact, the technology to be used has yet to be decided. Bill Donaldson expressed concern over the importing of European spent nuclear fuel. This fuel is scheduled to go through the port in Charleston, but Donaldson is concerned that it may go through the port in Savannah at some point in time. Jones recommended that he contact Tom Costikyan, chairman of the Nuclear Materials Subcommittee for information on the CAB's role in spent nuclear fuel decisions.

Kamalakar Raut said that he is on a CDC health effects subcommittee. Their next meeting is Monday, April 15. Zinnerman asked Raut to discuss the results of the April 15 meeting with Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee.

The group also discussed the need for a balanced approach on discussion on risk management, specifically the biology, human health effects and risks, and ethics. They asked if there was someone from "outside" SRS who can provide another perspective to many of the activities. Zinnerman said that Todd Crawford and Dave Christensen may be able to provide some names; Rea suggested contacting Brian Costner for other names.

Zinnerman also reviewed Lee Poe's letter on how to work on the FY 1999 budget prioritization with a schedule. The group decided that they would prefer to meet once a month and that they would rotate through four communities: Savannah, Beaufort/Hilton Head, Aiken/Barnwell/SRS, and Augusta. The meeting was adjourned after the following schedule was decided:

- May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Savannah (Regular subcommittee meeting before the CAB meeting)
- June 1 at 3:00 p.m. in Aiken/Barnwell/SRS or Augusta area
- July 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Aiken (Regular subcommittee meeting before the CAB meeting)
- August 24 at 3:00 in Hilton Head/Beaufort area
- September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Beaufort (Regular subcommittee meeting before the CAB meeting)

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