



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee

### **Meeting Record**

**May 6, 1998**

**N. Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC**

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### **Joint Subcommittee Meeting for Risk Management and Future Use and Environmental Restoration and Waste Management**

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Environmental Remediation and Waste Management (ER&WM), and Risk Management and Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittees met on May 6, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, S. C. The members of the CAB in attendance were P. K. Smith, Kathryn May, Brendolyn Jenkins, Karen Patterson, Lola Richardson, and Bill Lawless. Mike Schoener attended as the CAB facilitator. Todd Crawford attended as the technical advisor to the CAB. Gerri Flemming and Gary Little from the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) attended as the Associated Deputy Designated Federal Official. Jim Hardeman and Bill Slocumb attended as a members of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Agency. Jeff Crane attended as a representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control were Sandra Threatt, Thomas Brown, Ann Ragan Clark, Joy Powell, Michael Moore, Ronald Kinney, Myra Reece, and Jennifer Hughes. Representatives of the Emergency Management Agency included: Burke County - Earl Paterfield, Georgia - Gary Gregory and Patrick Cochran, and Barnwell County - John Angil. Members of the public included David Freshwater, Jim Pope, Murray Riley, Tim Jannik, Lynn Waishwell, Russ Messick, G. Devitt, Bill Gerken, Val Bergren, Mike French, Reed Hodgins, Chris Bergren and Derond Hadlock. Representatives of the DOE-SR were Len Sjoström, Amy Poston, Roger Rollins, Christina Edwards, Jerry Nelsen, Mike Simmons, Philip Prater, Garl Bultz, Brian Hennessey, and John Merrick. Employees of Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. (BSRI) were Paul Huber, Cliff Cole, Bill Rajczak, and Howard Hickey. Employees of the Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) were Steve Glover, Gerald Blount, Jim Lightener, M. Morgenstern, Gail Jernigan, Debra Foutch, Sam Formby, Doug Shull, John Glacke, Ron Malanowski, Ron Steve, Bob Weatherby, Allen Dancy, Bill Littrell, Elmer Wilhite, Helen Villasar, Jack Hammond, Bob Lorenz, Gerry Stejskal, Paul Sauerborn and Jim Moore.

P. K. Smith, Chairperson of the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee, welcomed all those in attendance. Because of the large number of participants, Ms. Smith asked only the CAB members to stand and identify themselves. Ms. Smith reviewed the agenda for the evening. The meeting was then opened for public comment. Craig McMullin, WSRC, with the Facility Decommissioning and Decontamination (FDD) Department, who is the oversight manager of

Duratek, stated that they were in the process of identifying new waste streams to process through the Duratec melter in M-Area and would like to address the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management (ER&WM) Subcommittee in July. Bill Lawless, Co-Chairperson of the ER&WM Subcommittee agreed that if Kathryn May, the other Co-Chairperson could work it out, that was fine. Ms. May agreed. There were no other public comments.

The first topic on the agenda was the SRS Emergency Preparedness Program. Before introducing the first speaker, Ms. Smith introduced Mr. Mike Schoener, who is the new CAB facilitator. Ms. Smith stated that if the presentation on Emergency Preparedness could not be completed within the time allotted, there were two options. They were (1) move into the other room and finish the discussion or (2) meet at another time. Jim Hardeman stated that they had an appointment in the early morning and would have to leave early. They preferred to come back at another time. Ms. Smith then introduced the presenter on Emergency Preparedness, Mr. Len Sjostrom, DOE-SR.

Mr. Sjostrom stated that in the interest of time, he would summarize the first three items: The first item was the lessons learned from the Annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise on January 28 were applied to the February 25 exercise. Action plans were developed to address deficiencies. The evaluation teams stated that "SRS has an overall sound and mature Emergency Management Notifications Program." Mr. Sjostrom pointed out the three types: Regulatory, Emergency and Courtesy. Mr. Sjostrom stated that they keep the states advised on any emergency programs. He stated that they have had positive feedback from South Carolina and Georgia on recent non-emergency event notifications. The third item was Emergency Response Organization Pager Tests. Mr. Sjostrom indicated that in late 1997 there was a slump in personnel response to the test however, sufficient Emergency Response Organization (ERO) personnel were available to activate the Emergency Operations Center. Based on lessons learned, the current responses now meet expectations. He stated that on April 27, 1998, there was an actual "Alert" due to a hydrochloric acid spill at TNX. The ERO was activated within the one hour required.

Mr. Sjostrom started the discussion on item 4, Emergency Preparedness: Technical Basis, by defining zones. Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), the Emergency Preparedness Hazards Assessment (EPHA) and the Ingestion Pathway Zone (IPZ). Mr. Sjostrom gave a brief history of Emergency Preparedness at the SRS. He stated that in 1996, SRS hazards no longer supported EPZ's beyond the Site boundary. He stated there were ongoing discussions with South Carolina and Georgia regarding changes in the SRS Emergency Preparedness Technical Basis. Mr. Sjostrom stated that most issues were resolved but there were still three noteworthy issues. They were (1) Analysis of waterborne releases and ingestion pathway projections, (2) Coverage of security incidents by EPHAs, and (3) Impacts of the DOE Emergency Classification System on South Carolina and Georgia responses.

In reference to the waterborne releases and ingestion pathway projections, Mr. Sjostrom stated that SRS remains committed to providing information to the states for timely recommendation to affected counties. He said they would continue to evaluate the need for additional information and analysis to support SRS, South Carolina and Georgia emergency preparedness. In addition, he stated they would maintain the existing SRS 50 mile ingestion pathway zone and the program

for notification of South Carolina and Georgia environmental health agencies and downstream water treatment plants and industry.

In reference to the security incidents, Mr. Sjoström stated that EPHAs should encompass security incidents. The current issue is whether the EPHAs need further validation of coverage of security incidents. He stated the path forward will be to maintain existing EPZs, while expanding discussions of EPHAs pending satisfactory disposition of issues. He stated they would revise SRS documentation and analysis to improve emergency preparedness and communications between SRS, South Carolina and Georgia, and continue discussions.

In reference to the DOE Emergency Classification System, Mr. Sjoström stated that the current Emergency Classification System can sometimes imply overly severe off site consequences. This could result in overly conservative responses by off site authorities under some circumstances. Mr. Sjoström stated that the path forward would be to work with South Carolina, Georgia and local authorities to develop emergency notification procedures to clearly define the severity of off site consequences and appropriate response actions.

Mr. Sjoström introduced Mr. Jim Hardeman who is manager of the Environmental Radiation Program in the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Hardeman stated that he had two missions. They were monitor radiation material and analyze incidents and report to the Governors office or the Emergency Response Management Department. Mr. Hardeman was encouraged by the very recent discussions and progress. He reiterated the need for all agencies to work as a team to protect the public. He felt the benefit of building the scenarios was that it would help in team building and aid decision making. Mr. Hardeman pointed out that Georgia's EPZs associated with SRS were also the EPZs for Plant Vogtle (Ga. Power) and would remain in place regardless.

Mr. Sjoström had earlier introduced Ms. Sandra Threatt with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Ms. Threatt stated that her job was comparable to Mr. Hardeman's. She was responsible for providing the Governors office of South Carolina with prompt action plans involving incidents. Ms. Threatt stated that her goals were to improve avenues of communication between South Carolina, Georgia and SRS while increasing the awareness of the public concerning perceived threats. She stated that their department had reviewed over 400 incident scenarios for EHPAs. Mr. Thomas Brown, SCDHEC, gave a review of the SCDHEC process for technical review of the scenarios. It was pointed out that in reviewing the data related to SRS Hot Spots and the SCDHEC Rascal 2.1 and Rascal 2.2 data, that there was no significant difference in the results.

At the end of the presentations, there were several questions. One was, what can the CAB do tonight to help resolve the issues? Mr. Hardeman stated that a couple weeks ago they seemed to be at loggerheads but now they seemed to be on the right track. He felt that the role of the CAB would be to continue to monitor the situation. Mr. Hardeman stated that there could not be much involvement due to the political situation. In response to the question, "What kind of assurance can you give us that if an incident did occur that Georgia, South Carolina and SRS would work together to resolve the incident?" Mr. Sjoström stated that there were policies and programs in place and that SRS, Georgia and South Carolina already demonstrated that they can work

together and resolve incidents. Mr. Hardeman stated that they all have the same common goal. He stated that in a real emergency response, the us versus them concept evaporates. When asked why SRS would want to get rid of the 10 mile zones and keep the 50 mile zones, Mr. Sjoström stated that mainly it was a matter of having the resources; dollars, time and people. When asked about the scenarios, Mr. Sjoström stated that the vulnerability assessments are security scenarios rather than incidents. They are way out scenarios that have been classified. The consequence value is not intended to be used for emergency planning. They have been requested to change assumptions to include more incidents related issues so scenarios can be used. When asked if they were linked, Mr. Hardeman stated that no they weren't. He stated that there was a wide band between the EPHAs and the extreme security scenarios. Mr. Hardeman stated that they would like SRS to consider more moderate vulnerability scenarios. Mr. Sjoström stated that he agreed with Mr. Hardeman and Ms. Threatt that they needed to continue to work together. He stated that SRS did not want to take any action unless Georgia and South Carolina were comfortable. It was asked if the three could come back to the CAB Subcommittee by the end of the next 3 months and report that the issues have been resolved. Mr. Sjoström stated that they could not have the issues resolved within the next 3 months because there was additional analysis required.

Mr. Sjoström, Mr. Hardeman and Ms. Threatt adjourned to discuss timing of resolution of the issues and agreed unanimously that they could not predict a completion date for resolution of the issues. They agreed to come back to a RM&FU Subcommittee meeting in September to give an update. At this time, P. K. Smith adjourned the CAB RM&FU Subcommittee. Mr. Lawless started the ER&WM Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Lawless continued with the ER&WM Subcommittee meeting as prescribed in the agenda. Ron Malanowski made a summary presentation on the Savannah River Integrator Operable Units. There were no comments on the SRIOU or the motion at this time.

Jerry Nelson presented the Proposed Interim Action for the C-Area Burning/Rubble Pits. Todd Crawford suggested the use of horizontal wells, however it was determined that because of the area of contamination the horizontal well approach to remediating the site was not acceptable. Karen Patterson also suggested the use of a Plug-in ROD approach to remediating the burning / rubble pits on SRS. The variability of the contamination around the site made a Plug in ROD approach unacceptable. The path forward will be that proposed in the presentation, which for soils is the use of a native soil cover and for the groundwater, In situ Air sparging / SVE. The Interim Action objectives revolve around controlling solvent migration in the soils beneath the pit and the groundwater.

Bill Lawless gave a follow up to the SCDHEC Fish Fact Sheet which had been discussed in detail at a previous meeting. The purpose of Mr. Lawless follow-up was to give the regulators comments on there Fish Fact Sheet. The most sensitive issue of the fact sheet is the reference to Cesium and Strontium. In his appeal to the regulators he used several examples to illustrate that radiation from eating SR fish was not as detrimental to your health as fish that has been fried. After a round of debate the Subcommittee agreed not to hold up the issuance of the Fish Fact Sheet by the regulators, but encouraged there considering the removal of the reference to radionuclides in future issues of the Fact Sheet.

At this time, various draft motions were presented for review and discussion. The first to be reviewed was the D-Area Oil Seepage Basin motion which simply states that the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) concurs with the selection of the preferred alternative. It was accepted with no discussion.

The second motion for review was the Savannah River Integrator Operable Units (SRIOU). In the recommendation the Subcommittee stated it is concerned that the costs of the IOU program may not be justified by the benefits received. After discussion the subcommittee agreed to reframe the motion to point out their concerns that the additional costs and time be of benefit to the overall remediation process.

The last draft motion regarded SRL Seepage Basin Disposal of Contaminated Vegetation and Soils Remediation Alternative Selection. The following path forward was agreed to by the regulators, DOE, and WSRC: Analysis results ready for review by end of the week of 5/11/98; meet and decide on preferred alternative before 5/22/98; revise and submit document by 6/15/98; and the effect of the delay is to move the scheduled early start from March 1999 to May 1999, and to continue to work on Record of Decision documents in parallel. Each agency stated they felt the issue could be resolved. All this discussed, the Subcommittee requested that a status of the SRL Seepage Basins be given in Savannah, Ga. 5/18/98. The three agencies (DOE,EPA,SCDHEC) have not yet resolved where/how the contaminated soils and vegetation should be disposed. The CAB is concerned that this process not take so long the remediation start date of March 1999 can not be met.

There being no other issues, Mr. Lawless thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

***Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.***