



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Waste Management Committee

Meeting Summary

March 27, 2000
Houndslake Country Club
Aiken, SC

The Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Monday, March 27, 2000, at Houndslake Country Club, Aiken, SC. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

Wade Waters*
Georgia Leverett*
Karen Patterson*
Bill Lawless
Lola Richardson*
Beckie Gaston-Witter*

Stakeholders

Brandon Haddock
Larry Callair

Regulators

Mira Malek, SCDHEC
None, EPA

DOE/Contractors

Maxcine Miles, DOE
Elmer Wilhite, SRTC
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
Helen Villasor, WSRC

*Denotes Committee Member

Wade Waters opened the meeting by asking for introductions and then reminded the attendees to complete and return the survey form. Mr. Waters briefed the attendees on his successful two-day orientation of the waste management activities at Savannah River Site on March 21-22, 2000. Mr. Waters mentioned that if other members of the Waste Management Committee are interested in a similar tour they should let Helen Villasor know.

Schedule Review: Helen Villasor advised the attendees of the CAB's decision to pilot CAB committee meetings every other month. Ms. Villasor noted the WMC agenda items planned for April 25, 2000, the first scheduled committee meeting day.

Review of the Draft Waste Management Equity Motion: Bill Lawless, Motion Manager for the Waste Management Equity Motion reviewed the draft motion background and the recommendation portion of the draft motion. The concern of the CAB is that while meaningful dialogue exchange is being conducted, there has been no resolution on the question of SRS being able to ship its orphan waste offsite in exchange for equity such as the treatment of DOE mixed wastes at the Consolidated Incineration Facility. Equity issues between the State of South Carolina and DOE were discussed. Bill Lawless reminded the attendees that while the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WMPEIS) resolves some of the issues, the importance of this motion is to ensure that the issue of equity needs to be implemented. It was agreed that the recommendation portion should be edited to reflect the Statement of Principles signed by the Secretary of Energy and the Governor of South Carolina.

Issues: Portions of the recommendation need to be revised to include the reference to the Statement of Principles cited in the comment section of the draft motion.

Actions: Helen Villazor to make changes as noted.

Compacted Versus Non-compacted Waste Disposal in the E-Area Trenches: Beckie Gaston-Witter, Motion Manager, read the background information on the draft motion. In essence, SRS is implementing the Solid Waste System Plan that allows SRS to use the E-Area trenches for low level waste (LLW) that meets the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC). A study of three major LLW streams compared the trench WAC versus vault disposal. The need to sort and compact certain waste types prior to trench disposal emerged as an issue. Since this waste stream meets the WAC, the question of the need to compact this waste arose. A savings of \$24 million can be realized if this waste does not need to be compacted prior to disposal. In addition to the cost savings, the SRS CAB considers a reduction in SRS worker exposure as an added benefit to eliminating the need to sort and compact the waste stream.

Issues: None.

Actions: Helen Villazor to make editorial correction as noted.

Waste Management Committee Commendation, "Use of the E-Area Trenches versus the E-Area Vaults for Low Level Waste Disposal": Wade Waters, Chair of the WMC read the commendation that the SRS CAB concurs with the use of the E-Area trenches for disposal of LLW meeting the trench Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC). This commendation arose from a prior CAB recommendation that noted the use of the trenches can be used for low-activity LLW versus valuable vault space. Expensive vault space could be saved, thus extending the vault life for 14 years. In addition, a predicted total savings of over \$63 million would be realized by using the trenches instead of the vaults. Before the earlier CAB recommendation, the low-activity waste vaults were expected to be full in 2010. The decrease in waste going into the vaults will extend vault life until 2024. This is a significant accomplishment, one that both SRS and the CAB were instrumental in achieving.

Issues: None.

Actions: None.

Public Comments: None.

Wade Waters adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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