



# **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

## **Stewardship Subcommittee**

### **Meeting Summary**

March 8, 2001  
Savannah River Ecology Lab, Aiken, SC  
Fort Discovery, Augusta, GA  
Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, GA

The Strategic and Long Term Issues (S&LTI) Committee Stewardship Subcommittee held a videoconference meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. Videoconference locations and facility facilitators were as follows:

- **Savannah River Site (SRS) Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL), Aiken, SC**  
**Facilitator - Marie Hamilton, SREL**
- **National Science Center – Fort Discovery, Augusta, GA**  
**Facilitator - Dr. Chip Schuster**
- **Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, GA**  
**Facilitator - Carla Campbell**

The topics of discussion were completion of the charter, review of SRS stewardship program, and path forward. Those attending the meeting were:

**SREL**

Stakeholders

P.K. Smith  
Mike Serrato  
Karl Overcash  
Mike French  
Todd Crawford

DOE/Contractors

Jim Buice, DOE  
Don Scott, DOE  
Angelia Adamn, DOE  
George Mishra, DOE  
Gary Davis, WSRC

**Fort Discovery**

CAB Members

J.G. Long  
  
Stakeholders  
Chuck Gorman, DHEC  
Sam Booher

DOE/Contractors

Sonny Goldston, BNFL  
Helen Villazor, WSRC

**Coastal Georgia Center**

CAB Members

Jean Sulc  
Mel Galin  
Walter Becker  
Beckie Gaston-Dawson

Stakeholders

Jerry Artest Lloyd  
Jim Laplander

Jim Moore, WSRC

Lynn Waishwell, CRESP, participated via conference call.

### Welcome and Introduction

P. K. Smith welcomed those in the various locations to the meeting. They were asked to introduce themselves. Ms. Smith reviewed the agenda and stated that reference materials without web site addresses were available at each location for perusal. Members were asked not to remove any of the reference material but request copies from Jim Moore or mark the sign-in sheets.

### Review of the Charter

Gary Davis, WSRC, facilitated the review of the charter. He stated that in order to save time, he would like to review the changes indicated on the charter by exception. The only modification at the meeting occurred in the objective section of the charter. (The modified charter will be distributed to all members of the subcommittee with Section 8 of the draft Comprehensive Plan that was requested later in the meeting.)

In the task description/ deliverables, Mike French suggested that a time period be specified for the development of a process for ongoing public involvement. It was determined that enough information was not available at this time to set a specific date. It was recommended that the subcommittee revisit the charter later to make modifications as information became available and perhaps set a date for the development of that process.

### Review of SRS Stewardship Program/Plan

Jim Buice, DOE, stated that this was the first time DOE has had a real opportunity to discuss long-term stewardship (LTS) at SRS and DOE-Headquarters (HQ) with the public. He stated that Don Scott, DOE, would give some background on all that is going on with stewardship at SRS and DOE-HQ.

Mr. Scott stated that he would review stewardship history/status of DOE-HQ activities, the SRS approach and stewardship issues. He first reviewed definitions related to LTS.

The DOE-HQ initiatives include the LTS study for Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) settlement, the Congressional report on LTS, a central internet database, LTS planning guidance, the LTS strategic plan and other efforts.

The LTS study was a result of the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) lawsuit and was the beginning of LTS at DOE-HQ. It cut across the entire DOE complex and will be issued after public comments have been reviewed. Sam Booher requested that both DOE-HQ and DOE-SR include in the plan the protection of natural resources and protected species that is currently being done at SRS so that this important work will not be dropped if some other agency takes over SRS from DOE. Mr. Buice stated that DOE-HQ has issued a transition policy for any new owner that a work scope and baseline would be developed, a work scope established, an adequate budget defined, and responsibility for LTS. The Internet address for the study is <http://its.apps.em.doe.gov>.

Mr. Scott stated that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Long-Term Stewardship Report was two volumes, was sent to Congress and copies to the Site should be in the mail. This report provides initial scope of existing and projected site-by-site long-term stewardship activities. Mr. Scott stated that three members of the public sent in comments on the SRS

supplement to the LTS study. A formal letter with response was sent to the three members that sent in comments. The Internet address for this report is <http://its.apps.em.doe.gov>.

The PEIS settlement agreement required the development of an integrated database. The database will give available information on waste, is limited to available site data, and will be operational for five years. The database will be operational in the spring 2001. The Internet database is located at the following Internet address <http://cid.em.doe.gov>.

Mr. Scott stated that DOE-HQ is sending guidance for an LTS plan. This guidance will provide general principles and identify key elements for development and implementation of the site LTS plan. The final guidance will be received in the Fall 2001. At SRS, the site is planning on using the discussion draft SRS Long-Range Comprehensive Plan Chapter 8 to satisfy the LTS plan requirements. Based on the guidance, the Comprehensive Plan will be modified.

Other LTS activities include:

- The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) database of sites with past involvement in nuclear weapons related activities.
- National Academy of Sciences study on buried transuranic waste
- Resources for the Future analysis of funding mechanisms options.
- Internet URL (links to above): <http://em.doe.gov>

The SRS has had various activities prior to the LTS initiative. They include the source unit and groundwater remediation with the Environmental Restoration (ER) program, disposition of onsite wastes and materials with Solid Waste, High Level Waste, Spent Nuclear Fuel and Nuclear Materials Stabilization programs, and the Facilities Disposition program. The projected end date of the ER program is 2047.

A single LTS Project Baseline Summary (PBS) has been developed to provide for post-cleanup surveillance and monitoring (S&M) of SRS facilities. Included as part of the post-cleanup S&M are engineered controls including maintaining the integrity of the building structure, ventilation controls and filtration, access control, and the monitoring of air and groundwater. Mr. Booher requested that environmental protection be included in this PBS description.

Site assumptions for LTS are:

- Site will remain under the Federal government's ownership with its current boundaries in perpetuity.
- Site will have ongoing missions for the foreseeable future – not a near-term "closure site".
- Facilities deactivated to maintain condition more cost-effectively.
- Limited decontamination and decommissioning planned.
- Site zoning will remain consistent with the Site Comprehensive Plan.
- Environmental Management (EM) missions will be completed by 2047 and then transitioned to LTS.
- LTS scope and cost for deactivated facilities and remediated soils and water are considered as part of the EM liability.
- Additional characterization and treatability studies are still required in some areas prior to initiating LTS.
- ER activities are fairly well defined – facility disposition activities will be developed during a detailed planning phase, based on then current regulatory requirements and available technologies.

It was suggested that since active and passive institutional controls are considered part of the LTS, they should be spelled out to clarify dates.

Current site LTS planning efforts include:

- Unique PBS created to track LTS activities/costs in EM's Corporate Database.
- SRS Long-Range Comprehensive Plan issued with a separate chapter for LTS (Chapter 8).
- Beginning to define issues related to LTS and determine paths for resolution.

Mr. Scott reviewed the LTS SRS Life Cycle Phasing chart. It shows three phases:

- Operations Phase complete by 2035 with 57 PBS's at \$28 billion.
- Disposition Phase complete by 2047 with 19 PBS's at \$4 billion.
- LTS Phase complete by 2070 with 1 PBS at \$4 billion.

Some of the LTS complex-wide issues are:

- No common definition/understanding/agreement of LTS elements.
  - SRS's definition may include pump and treat while another site may not include pump and treat.
  - No standardized model for projecting LTS lifecycle costs.

Some of the LTS SRS issues are:

- Relevancy to SRS given long-term nature of on-going and new missions.
- May be 20 years or more before any significant LTS activities are needed.
- Uncertain disposition plans for surplus facilities, e.g., reactors and still operating facilities such as DWPF.
- No Records of Decision (RODs) or agreements with regulators as to acceptable final disposition methodology, e.g., cacooning, grouting, greenfield, etc.
- Unknown technological advances and their impact on the cost of LTS, especially given the number of years before significant LTS requirements emerge.

### Path Forward

P. K. Smith asked the attendees where they would like to see the Stewardship Subcommittee proceed? Responses were as follows:

- Jean Sulc suggested that Chapter 8 of the discussion draft SRS Long-Range Comprehensive Plan be reviewed. Copies of Chapter 8 will be forwarded to all the members. Jim Buice suggested that the whole document be reviewed. The web site address is included in the reference material and is <http://sro.srs.gov/pubact1.htm>. It was suggested that any comments on Chapter 8 be forwarded to Jim Moore by June 1.
- P. K. Smith suggested that members of this subcommittee represent LTS on the CAB and other committees they serve on. She also suggested developing a checklist to make sure LTS is addressed in the other committees.
- Mel Galin suggested that subcommittee members submit path forward ideas in three to four weeks to be reviewed at the next meeting. Ideas should be sent to:

Jim Moore  
Savannah River Site

742-A Room 182  
Aiken, SC 29808  
[jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov)

- Mike French suggested that SRS ensure funding and resources are provided for LTS activities in their budgets.
- Chuck Gorman, DHEC, suggested that the Land Use Control Assurance Plan for the Savannah River Site be included in the reference material.
- Jean Sulc asked about the status of the principles discussed at the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting in Las Vegas? P. K. Smith said she would send out an e-mail with the status of that meeting.

It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled for June. With no other comments, the meeting was adjourned.

*Copies of meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.*