



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Executive Committee

Double Tree Hotel

Savannah, Georgia

May 22, 2006

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Executive Committee met on Monday, May 22, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel, Savannah, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update on the SSAB Chairs meeting and discuss CAB administration.

Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

Karen Patterson
Manuel Bettencourt
Jerry Devitt

Joe Ortaldo

Bob Meisenheimer
Donna Antonucci
Wendell Lyon
Wade Waters
Meryl Alalof
Mary Drye
Jimmy Mackey

DOE/Contractors

Bill Spader, DOE
Gerri Flemming, DOE
Becky Craft, DOE

Yvette Collazo, DOE

Dawn Haygood, WSRC
Mike Schoener, CAB
Teresa Haas, WSRC

Stakeholders

Gary Zimmerman

SSAB Chairs Meeting

Karen Patterson provided an update of the SSAB Chairs meeting held April 26-28, 2006, in Knoxville, TN. She presented two letters produced during the SSAB Chairs meeting for board approval. The first letter addressed incorporation of lessons learned in future site closures and the second letter was a recommendation for EM SSAB input to future site budget requests. Ms. Patterson also discussed changes to the SSAB charter. Board members will be allowed to serve a total of six years lifetime. DOE is interested in broad public involvement and the bylaws will have to be brought into compliance with those procedures. Ms. Patterson commented that impacted board members would be able to complete their current terms, but then that was it. Ms. Patterson said she asked about institutional memory and how DOE proposed to maintain

institutional memory. She commented that with no returning members, the board will lose that history and without history they are somewhat handicapped. She commented that DOE had stated that emeritus members were not a good idea (since all meetings are open to the public anyway) and therefore the CAB will have to get its institutional memory another way.

Ms. Patterson also noted that DOE had emphasized that the SSABs were FACA boards and they were not watchdogs. Their work products should be addressed to EM only and stick to EM issues. Issues such as MOX, GNEP and even Yucca Mountain are not EM issues. She also noted that DOE had stated that recommendations should be made so that DOE EM is capable of executing them. Recommendations should be framed as recommendations and not as requests. Karen Patterson commented that DOE appears to be streamlining and does not want involvement before a decision is made. This is a different approach to business and it appears the culture changes at DOE have finally made it to the SSABs, she said. Ms. Patterson stated that she did not see a diabolical scheme to get rid of the CABs. These changes are a result of DOE policies changing.

CAB Administration

Ms. Patterson noted that although Jeff Allison has been very open regarding the M&O being an appropriate way for the board to be administered. DOE-HQ wants the SRS CAB to come into compliance with DOE-HQ guidance. She noted her discussion with Assistant Secretary Rispoli and his comment that the issue is one of a perceived conflict of interest. Ms. Patterson commented that the CAB administration issue was not about the people who work for the CAB, but rather the ability to get work done and the perception that the CAB is independent of DOE. Ms. Patterson stated that if the CAB wanted to keep things the way they are, then the Board needs to get to the communities and to Congress. She outlined the issues regarding the suggested change in administration, noting access to decisionmakers; institutional memory; the need to maintain independence; and funding and the level of effort. Board members discussed various avenues for working through Congress.

Donna Antonucci noted she had sent a letter to Mr. Rispoli. Karen Patterson noted she had provided talking points and sample letters to editors that could be used in developing letters to Congressman. She also encouraged CAB members to talk to their Congressional staff. She stated that if everyone does this and only if everyone does this, will they be able to stop this change in administration.

Continuation of April Conference Call

The Executive Committee discussed a few additional issues that had been discussed during a conference call in April. They again noted the need to stick to EM issues, commenting on various emails that had been exchanged regarding non-EM issues. They also discussed public comments and whether CAB members should respond to public comments if they are obviously erroneous. The group determined a disclaimer statement would be made by the Board facilitator during full board meetings that public comments are simply that and a lack of CAB response to a comment should not be taken as support or endorsement of the comment.

Additional Comments

Bill Spader asked the CAB to take a walk in a pair of DOE shoes and own this change in administration. He asked the CAB to try and figure out how to make the shoes fit. He asked the CAB to look at the problem from a different perspective and how would the CAB make it work. He encouraged the CAB members to look for ways to make it work rather than stop the inevitable. Joe Ortaldo commented that he was not betting on turning this administration issue around and thought the Board should look at what benefits may be gained over those lost.

Karen Patterson reiterated that she would be sending out information to the full board. Meryl Alalof announced an Administrative Committee meeting would be held June 7 in North Augusta, S.C.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.