



Strategic and Legacy Management Committee Meeting

Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC

March 2, 2006

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Strategic and Legacy Management (SLM) Committee met on Thursday, March 2, 2006, 5:00 PM, at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Recommendation #165 status SRS National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Revision, Historic Preservation status, Recommendation #208 status and to hear public comment. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

- Jimmy Mackey *
- Ranowul Jzar *
- Wendell Lyon *
Bill Lawless
Mary Drye
Leon Chavous
Joe Ortaldo

Stakeholders

Russ Messick
Todd Crawford
Mike French
Jack Roberts
Liz Goodson
Dennis Baker

DOE/Contractors

Nick Delaplane, DOE
Gary Hoover, DOE
de'Lise Bratcher, DOE
Joe Yanek, WSRC
Bill Payne, WSRC
Mark Schmitz, WSRC
Barry Shedrow, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC

**Rick McLeod

* *SLM committee members* ** *CAB technical advisor*

Note: Barbara Paul, Gloria Williams-Way and Meryl Alalof, members of the SLM Committee were unable to attend.

Welcome and Introduction:

Jimmy Mackey, Chair, welcomed all those in attendance and read the meeting ground rules. He then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Mr. Mackey explained that he had an opportunity to visit the site last week to try to get caught up to speed with the Committee and had good visits with Bill Spader, DOE, Paul Deason, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Paul Bertsch, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), Keith Lawrence, US Forest Service, Rob Moon and Adam King, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Jim Heffner, Environmental Permitting and Monitoring, Walt Joseph and Todd Crawford on Historical Preservation. Mr. Mackey said that he wanted to thank each of the individuals for taking the time to speak to him.

In reviewing the evening's agenda, the discussion of the fiscal year 2007 budget was removed from the agenda to give the site an opportunity to review the budget with the regulators. The 2007 budget will be presented at the next SLM Committee at the Combined Committee meeting on March 27. For those of you who can't attend that meeting, he explained that copies of the handouts would be available after the meeting.

Recommendation #165 SRS National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit Revision:

Mr. Mackey stated that in recommendation #165, number 1 was complete and number 2 was turned down by DOE. Mr. Payne would be updating the committee on number 3 in the recommendation.

Bill Payne, the Water Permitting Lead with the Environmental Permitting and Monitoring Group, explained that three years ago, he had addressed the committee on the ephemeral streams and that CAB Recommendation #165 was adopted. The purpose of this presentation was to update the committee on the current status of the recommendation on developing a more reasonable approach to regulating discharges into the ephemeral streams. Mr. Payne explained that ephemeral streams were natural watercourses that flow for no more than twenty-nine days in direct response to rainfall. Perennial streams are streams that maintain water in their channels throughout the year.

Discharges into ephemeral streams must meet the same water quality criteria as they would for perennial streams. The water quality criteria for metals are extremely low. Since there is no dilution in an ephemeral stream, the calculated NPDES limits for metal are very low. The

designated uses for South Carolina ephemeral streams are the same as they are for a river, meaning fishable/swimmable. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) recognize that existing designated uses and water quality criteria may not be appropriate for ephemeral streams. EPA is conducting public meetings to obtain input regarding designated uses for all types of streams.

The metal limits for ephemeral streams are so low that in some cases, lead limits are below laboratory detection capabilities. SCDHEC has allowed reasonable compliance schedules from three to five years. The projected cost will probably be in the range of \$8 to \$9 million total to come into compliance, which is less than \$50 million originally anticipated.

Actions provided by the site to date are:

- Provided comments for the last three years at EPA's National Symposium, Designating attainable uses for the Nation's waters, Washington, DC, June 2002
- Commented on the need for a better definition of ephemeral stream during each three year revision to South Carolina
- Provided comments at EPA's public meeting on Designated Uses and Use Attainability Analyses in Atlanta, August 2005
- Wrote a letter to SCDHEC requesting derivation of appropriate designated uses and water quality standards for ephemeral streams, September 2005
- Provided comments to South Carolina R.61-68 prior to upcoming Notice of Drafting, February 2006
- Supporting South Carolina Manufacturer's Alliance and South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Environmental Technical Committee relative to South Carolina bill H-4501, which redefines ephemeral streams.

For the path forward, the site will continue to comply with all NPDES requirements. The site will also continue to request that EPA and SCDHEC develop scientifically based designated uses and water quality criteria for ephemeral streams.

During discussions it was pointed out that originally the site had about 80 wastewater outfalls. By coming up with some unique methods to eliminate and/or combine the discharges the site has brought it down to about 24 to 25.

Mr. Payne indicated that the site is currently looking at the new NPDES Storm water General Permit which requires that storm water comply with in-stream water quality criteria. While it is still premature to generate numbers on cost of storm water compliance, it is guessed that it could be similar to wastewater.

The committee will continue to receive updates on both the ephemeral streams and the storm water NPDES Permit requirements.

Historic Preservation Status Recommendation #208 Status:

For recommendation #208, Mr. Mackey explained that all activities in the recommendation have been completed other than the first item, the upgrade and climate/temperature controlled curation needs of a facility to store the artifacts and the hiring of a qualified curator.

Nick Delaplane, DOE, explained that the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1922, as amended, requires that all Federal agencies consider the impacts to historic properties in all their undertakings. Compliance with NHPA is done in three steps:

1. Inventory resources which are complete.
2. Evaluate SRS buildings for National Register eligibility which is complete.
3. Avoid or mitigate adverse affects to historic properties. This is an ongoing multi-year process.

A Resource Study of SRS Cold War history and facilities was completed in November 2002. The site inventoried 732 facilities that were constructed between 1950 and 1989. 232 site facilities are historically eligible.

The evaluation for the National Register was complete. The SRS Cold War National Register District encompasses SRS's 310 square miles within Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale counties.

The site is currently working on avoiding and mitigating adverse affects to the historic properties. The program is conducted in accordance with the SRS Cold War Built Environment Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). Mitigating actions include: but are not limited to photography, aerial, exterior and interior; oral histories; written documents; preservation of artifacts and structures. The historical preservation process is integrated into SRS activities for all facilities.

Some of the recent accomplishments in 2006 included the following:

- M-area historical mitigation package and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- T-area historical mitigation package and submitted to SHPO
- Issued Letter of Intent for the lease of Building 742-A to the SRS Heritage Foundation
- Included Historical Preservation requirements in site training
- Completed collection of the 719-A Decontamination and Examination Room artifacts

Mr. Delaplane mentioned that during a December 2005 funding cut, the funding for a curator and design work for 315-M was cut. Since that time, the site has reviewed the status of that funding and has reinstated the funding.

For the path forward, the site will hire a historian and a curator and begin documenting artifacts. They will continue to receive and store artifacts, continue to process work packages and review modifications for operational historic facilities. Initiate separations and reactors thematic studies by collecting oral histories. Complete 777-10A and A-area thematic studies and complete design of building 315-M. It was mentioned that the actual restoration of building 315-M will be delayed until fiscal year 2007.

During discussions it was pointed out that 105-C where much of the artifacts are currently be stored, is not climate controlled. During the summer, it does get hot, but the building itself does not let the temperature go above 80 degrees.

Public Comment:

Jack Roberts pointed out that in the NPDES presentation that the site needed to be congratulated if they are able to keep the funding for the ephemeral streams to around \$8 to \$9 million. He also said that the regulations were not well written. There is an opportunity to have to spend a lot of money that is not needed. Since few people in the state are impacted, it doesn't get much notice. It would be helpful to let SCDHEC know if money is being spent foolishly.

Bill Lawless thanked Liz Goodson for her continued interest in attending the meetings. Mr. Lawless proposed that the SLM consider a storm water motion. He also said that the fiscal year 2007 budget for the SRS had a significant cut of \$95 million. Since the budget presentation will not be presented until the Monday of the CAB meeting, he felt that a motion might not be doable, but that a letter should be written asking what programs were affected; what is the impact to the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF); what impact is there on the historic center and the SRNL; what is the impact on employment; what is the impact on high level waste, Transuranic waste and low level waste operations. For the hydrogen fuel cell, the budget has been zeroed out for SRS where the main work has been done, while other sites are getting significant funds.

Mike French was concerned that the site budget was down and wanted to make sure that SWPF was properly funded.

Todd Crawford mentioned that the Historic Museum would start a fundraiser this year. He said there was also a membership application stating at \$35 for a sustaining member going up to \$1,000 for a corporate member. The cost is tax deductible.

Dennis Baker asked if the SLM Committee was the right forum to talk about the vision, future of the site and new missions. He stated that the site had the opportunity to be an economic empire but if so, how or what is the process to make it happen? It was mentioned that the CAB is funded by Environmental Management (EM) and the CAB is limited to discussions on EM only.

There was further discussion on industrial and non-industrial zones, institutional controls, and the National Environmental Research Park.

Adjourn:

Before the meeting was adjourned, Jimmy Mackey mentioned that he had a letter that Charlie Anderson wrote designating the SRNL as the Environmental Management Corporate Laboratory for DOE. Both tritium and hydrogen were mentioned in the letter as part of their scope of work.

The meeting was adjourned.

Follow-Up Actions:

The following are the actions items:

- Bill Lawless requested a copy of the letter Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) sent to EPA or SCDHEC in relation to the water quality standards for ephemeral streams. – Bill Payne, Jim Moore
- Send to Rick McLeod the public comments made by Bill Lawless on the 2007 budget so that Mr. McLeod can develop a letter or recommendation for the March CAB meeting. – Jim Moore/Rick McLeod

Two other comments were made after the meeting:

- Russ Messick requested I contact him to let him know about the next scheduled committee meetings. – Jim Moore (Complete)
- Liz Goodson asked if there was an SRNL annual report. If so, she would like a copy. – Jim Moore (No SRNL annual report is available. Sent note to Ms. Goodson.) (Complete)