



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Waste Management Committee Meeting

**Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC
January 3, 2006**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Tuesday, January 3, 2005, 5:00 PM, at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the WMC path forward for the Salt Process/High Level Waste Program, WMC Topics for 2006 and to hear public comment. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

- Bob Meisenheimer
- Manuel Bettencourt
- Joe Ortaldo
- Bill Willoughby
- Perry Holcomb
- Jerry Devitt
- Art Domby
- Bill Lawless
- Jean Sulc
- Mary Drye
- Leon Chavous
- Tracey Carroll
- Karen Patterson

Stakeholders

- Bill McDonell
- Todd Crawford
- Madeleine Marshall
- Lee Poe
- Mike French
- Murray Riley
- Jack Roberts
- Colin Austin
- Bill Weiss

- John Contardi, DNFSB

- *Rick McLeod

DOE/Contractors

- Bill Spader, DOE
- Terry Spears, DOE
- Bill Clark, DOE
- Greg Johnson, DOE
- Julie Petersen, DOE
- Bob Hinds, WSRC
- Ron Campbell, WSRC
- Elmer Wilhite, WSRC
- Joe Carter, WSRC
- Jim Cook, WSRC
- Bob Hiergesell, WSRC
- Teresa Haas, WSRC
- Charlie Hansen, Parsons
- Jim Moore, WSRC

Regulators

- Dawn Taylor, EPA
- Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC
- David Wilson, SCDHEC

- *WM committee members* * *CAB technical advisor*

Note: Cassandra Henry is a CAB member of the WMC, but was unable to attend this session.

Welcome and Introduction:

Bob Meisenheimer, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves. He mentioned that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's final report, Technical

Evaluation Report for Draft Waste Determination for Salt Waste Disposal, is now available either electronically or hard copy.

WMC Path Forward for the Salt Process/High Level Waste Program:

Mr. Meisenheimer mentioned that at the last meeting the WMC heard from Department of Energy (DOE), the Defense National Facility Safety Board (DNFSB), the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and Parsons on the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) and the schedule delay. The pros and cons were discussed. Since the WMC meeting, the above parties have had a meeting to discuss the issues. Bill Spader, DOE, was asked to give an update since the last meeting.

Bill Spader explained that Mr. Meisenheimer was alluding to a follow up meeting to the DOE decision on SWPF confinement held on December 19, 2005. Representatives from DOE, DHEC, the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB), and the South Carolina Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council attended the meeting called by DOE. All the principles were in one place to lay a foundation for working collaboratively and shared a strong commitment on developing a strategy to move forward. All share the common objective of disposing of the waste and closing the tanks. There was an open and frank discussion of each organizations position. There was real value in bringing all the principles together to talk about their respective issues and share perspectives. All agreed to continue to communicate and share in the decision making process.

Most all the questions, concerns and issues had been voiced in the December 13, 2005 WMC meeting. The first objective will be to revise the strategy. In the near term, by the end of January, a usable optimistic strategy must be developed for tank space. A status of the progress will be given at the WMC meeting on January 31 and the WMC will continue to be informed. If questions, the members of the WMC are welcome and encouraged to pick up the phone and call.

The decision on confinement for SWPF has been made and the objective now is to move forward. A schedule and strategy for the Deliquification, Dissolution, and Adjustment (DDA) facility, Actinide Removal Process (ARP), Alpha Finishing Process (AFP), Alpha Strike Process (ASP) and Caustic Side Solvent Extraction (CSSX) needs to be resolved. The WMC had heard on December 13 that DHEC had said that the Interim Salt Process was now off the table so a new strategy has to be developed. Concerning the acceleration the SWPF schedule, as the design on the SWPF matures, issues will be identified but also opportunities to reduce cost and improve schedule will be found.

Terry Spears interjected that the site has no plans to add more curies to Saltstone but hopes to reduce the curies.

A member of the WMC emphasized the importance of getting the DDA and Interim Salt Process started to help with tank space and hoped that these facilities were not held hostage. The site needed to stick with the startup dates for the facilities. He felt it was the right thing to do.

In response to questions concerning the timelines for SWPF, Interim Salt Process and tank closure, members of the WMC expressed their opinion that pieces of the old schedule had been

expressed to them but that a schedule showing all the pieces together had never been presented. Mr. Spears explained that the old schedule for these activities should be available. Mr. Spears explained that the new schedule will be based on the new strategy that is still being developed. Until the strategy has been worked out, a new schedule would not be available. It was suggested that it would be in February sometime before any such strategy and new schedule could be available.

Discussion continued with the following comments/observations from the WMC members.