

**Summary Notes- April 23, 2013  
SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
Nuclear Materials Committee Meeting**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, from 4:00-5:50 p.m., at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC. It was also streamed online via Google Hangouts.

The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update of the L-Basin Used Nuclear Fuel Program. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

**Attendees:**

**CAB Members:**

Dr. Rose Hayes- NM Chair  
Dr. Donald Bridges- CAB Chair  
Harold Simon- CAB Vice Chair  
Bill Calhoun  
Nina Hazen- *Phone*  
Dr. Virginia Jones  
Ed Sturcken  
Ed Burke  
Christopher Timmers- *Online*

**DOE/ Contractors/ Others:**

Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR  
David Eisele, DOE-SR  
Pat McGuire, DOE-SR  
Soni Blanco, DOE-SR  
Delisa Carrico, DOE-SR  
Gerri Flemming, DOE-SR  
Stan Howard, SRNL  
Jeff Allender, SRNL

**Agency Liasons:**

John Richards, EPA-*Phone*  
Thomas Rolka, SCDHEC

**Stakeholders:**

Nancy Bobbitt  
Joe Ortaldo  
Jessie Young  
Connie Young  
Tom Clements

**Welcome and Introduction:**

CAB Chair Don Bridges opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reviewing the meeting rules. He asked everyone to introduce themselves, including online attendees. He reviewed the NM committee's focus before introducing Ms. Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR, and Mr. David Eisele, DOE-SR, to begin their presentation.

**Presentation: L-Basin Used Nuclear Fuel Program Update- Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR, & David Eisele, DOE-SR**

Ms. Maxted stated the purpose of her presentation was to provide an update on the Used Nuclear Fuel (UNF) program and to fulfill a NM Committee 2013 Work Plan topic. She provided a copy of the "SRS Waste and Material Flow Path" to illustrate L-Basin's location at SRS. She explained that "L-Bundled Fuel, High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) Fuel Racks, and Isolation Cans" were the types of materials stored in L-Basin before she explained the life expectancy of L-Basin. She stated that the implementation of the Enriched Uranium Disposition Project would have resulted in L-Basin being emptied by 2019; however, a decision was never made to begin the project. Ms. Maxted explained that since the project never began, DOE asked Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) to perform a study to determine how many years the fuel within in L-Basin could continue being stored safely in the water. She stated that the report showed that the concrete and water in L-Basin could safely store fuel for at least another 50 years, if additional activities were completed to confirm the assumptions used to determine the analysis. She explained that from SRNL's analysis, in January 2012, DOE developed the Augmented Monitoring and Condition Assessment Program (AMCAP) to address the activities that needed to be done in order to ensure, and prolong, the life of L-Basin.

Ms. Maxted discussed the recent Amended Record of Decision (AROD) that was signed on March 26, 2013, which eliminated the need for any new rack storage space in L-Basin. She explained that the ROD would also enable L-Basin to process up to 1,000 bundles of UNF and 200 HFIR cores. She provided a chart titled, "Extended Basin Storage (EBS) Bundle Positions Filled by Base FRR/DRR plus Receipt Scenarios" that represented how the AROD

affected the capacity of L-Basin along with projections for completing the processing of various fuels stored in L-Basin. She provided a brief overview of the AMCAP, which is a periodic examination of L-Basin's structural integrity and an assessment of the fuels that are bundled and in isolation cans; however, the AMCAP focuses on current programs such as water chemistry testing, corrosion evaluation, structural integrity, aging facility management assessments, and infrastructure maintenance. She said the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Technical Report 38, issued in January 2013, addressed a subset of stored fuels that were vulnerable to oxidation. She explained that the vulnerable fuels were found within 400 sealed and vented cans that were stored in either 12 oversized isolation cans or 200 bundles. She explained that the challenges within the AMCAP were the structural integrity of fuel and/or containers, risk of L-Basin contamination and cleanup, and an undefined disposition path.

Ms. Maxted said that other issues within L-Basin were the "cobwebs" that were identified underwater on top of various fuel bundles in 2011, the L-Area Basin Isolation System (LABIS), and dry storage. She summarized her presentation stating that the recent AROD eliminated the need for any new storage racks, UNF in L-Basin would continue to be stored safely, and a disposition path for the remaining fuel in L-Basin will be determined in the future. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

**Committee Discussion:**

CAB member Hayes provided a recommendation status update, stating that recommendation 302 was open and that the status of seven recommendations had been changed to closed with exception at the March 2013 Full Board Meeting. She stated that the NM Committee had two new draft recommendations. The first was titled, "Chemical Separation or Partitioning and Transmutation (P/T) of Used Nuclear Fuel and Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste" and "Plutonium Equivalent Curies in SRS Facilities." She read and explained each recommendation before other committee members joined the discussion. The recommendation titled "Plutonium Equivalent Curies in SRS Facilities" was tabled, while "Chemical Separation or Partitioning and Transmutation (P/T) of Used Nuclear Fuel and Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste" was moved to be discussed at the May 2013 Full Board meeting. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth, stated that he would love to hear a status update of the GE PRISM Reactor that used plutonium. He also mentioned spent fuel storage and reprocessing, saying that he thought the recent AROD was not written in stone. He encouraged the CAB to push for the completion of the dry cask storage study. He stated that 12 community groups requested a supplemental environmental impact statements on the High-Level Waste (HLW) stored at the Chalk River facility.

CAB member Hayes adjourned the NM Committee meeting.

**The next NM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, from 4:00-5:50 p.m., at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC.**

**The online recording of this meeting can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)**