

Summary Notes - August 27, 2013
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Waste Management Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management (WM) Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2013, from 6:00-7:50 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 a performance update on the Actinide Removal Process (ARP)/ Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) and Next Generation Solvent (NGS) outage. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

CAB Members:

Ed Burke- WM Chair
Dr. Don Bridges- CAB Chair
Harold Simon- CAB Vice Chair
Dr. Rose Hayes
Dr. Virginia Jones
Ed Sturcken
Nina Spinelli- *Online*

DOE/ Contractors/ Others:

Terry Spears, DOE-SR
Sandra Waisley, DOE-SR
Jean Ridley, DOE-SR
Patricia Suggs, DOE-SR
Bill Taylor, DOE-SR
Gerri Flemming, DOE-SR
Jeff Allender, SRNL
Sheldon Ray, SRNS
Neil Davis, SRR
Brent Gifford, SRR
Ashley Whitaker, NOVA
James Tanner, NOVA

Stakeholders:

Lee Poe
Joe Ortaldo
Clint Wolfe

Agency Liaisons:

Tom Rolka, SCDHEC
Rob Pope, EPA- *Online*
Martha Berry, EPA-*Online*
Jon Richards, EPA

Welcome and Introduction:

CAB member Ed Burke opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He asked everyone to introduce themselves, including online attendees. He reviewed the committee's focus and provided a recommendation status update. He stated that he had four draft recommendations to discuss after the presentation. He reminded everyone the next WM Committee meeting was scheduled for October 22, 2013 at the DOE Meeting Center before he introduced Mr. Brent Gifford, Savannah River Remediation (SRR) to begin his presentation.

Presentation: Actinide Removal Process (ARP)/ Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) Operating Performance and Next Generation Solvent (NGS) Outage- Brent Gifford, SRR

Mr. Gifford said the purpose of his presentation was to satisfy a WM Committee 2013 Work Plan topic by providing an update on the operating performance of the ARP/MCU and the NGS outage preparations. He provided copies of the "SRS Waste and Material Flow Path" and "Salt Disposition Process Overview" diagrams to illustrate the location and process of the ARP/MCU. He said the mission of the ARP/MCU was to bridge the gap until the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) was complete by processing salt solution for disposal. He discussed ARP/MCU operational performance plans for fiscal year (FY) 2013 and 2014 before he discussed lifecycle enhancements of the NGS. He said the NGS showed improved performance since the modified extractant was included and set the stage for increased MCU throughput. He displayed several pictures of key integrated processing facilities used in the ARP/MCU process before he mentioned all FY 2013 NGS milestones were met on or ahead of schedule. He explained that preparations were underway to introduce the NGS beginning late FY 2013; however, modifications had to be made to the facility before supporting the next generation solvent. He said the ARP/MCU process continued to provide successful interim salt processing while the lifecycle enhancements set the stage for extended ARP/MCU operations. Mr. Gifford explained that implementation of the NGS would provide a

“lower curie cesium waste stream” to Saltstone for the continued operational life of MCU and with additional funding, set the stage for increased throughput. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov

Committee Discussion:

CAB member Burke stated the WM Committee had 10 open recommendations, and DOE had responded to all of them. He briefly discussed each open recommendation before he proposed closing each recommendation at the September Full Board meeting. He then began discussing four draft recommendations, which were titled: 1.) “SRS CAB Recommends that the DOE Review Practices to Assure that Liquid Waste Tanks are Cleaned to the Extent Required to Meet Safety Requirements but not in Excess of Requirements and that any Resources Freed Up are used to increase the pace of Tank Cleaning,” 2.) “SRS CAB Recommends that the Department of Shift Funding from Grouting and Tank Closure to Liquid Waste Treatment, DWPF and Saltstone to Reduce Risk as Quickly and to the Maximum Extent Possible,” 3.) “SRS CAB Recommends that the Department of Examine Strategies to Optimize the Treatment of Liquid Waste by Funding the existing Facilities in a way to Maximize Throughput until SWPF Becomes Operational,” and 4.) “SRS CAB Recommends that the Department of Energy Request sufficient Funding to meet the Liquid Waste Milestones under all Budget Scenarios.” CAB member Burke explained each recommendation before he other CAB members provided comments. CAB member Burke wanted for three of the draft recommendations to be discussed at the September Full Board meeting. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

CAB member Burke adjourned the WM Committee meeting.

The next WM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, from 6:00-7:50 p.m., at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC.

The online recording of this meeting can be located on the CAB’s website at: cab.srs.gov