

The

Board Beat Newsletter

Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board
Fall 2013 Newsletter



The Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board:

*Working Together for a
Better Informed
Community*

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board is a public board and its mission is to study issues affecting the Savannah River Site in order to provide informed recommendations, from the public's perspective, to the Department of Energy concerning Environmental Management work in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

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The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) extends a big “thank you” to everyone that helped make this newsletter possible. To all the CAB members who submitted ideas and articles for the newsletter, to all the presenters and managers who make Full Board and Committee meetings meaningful, to the Board’s agency liaisons, and to the Department of Energy (DOE) for continued support, as we, the members of the SRS CAB, serve this very important role for DOE and our communities.

The *Board Beat* is published semiannually, by the SRS CAB, and distributed in November and May, primarily by email. Content is provided by Board members and the CAB Support Team. To subscribe to the *Board Beat*, submit a request, with your name and email address, to srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

If you’re interested in learning more about what we do, or think you would like to apply for membership, please check out our website at: <http://cab.srs.gov> or “like” us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB](https://www.facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB)

Contact us at **803-952-7884 (800-249-8155)** or via email at srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

Message from the Chair-Dr. Donald N. Bridges



Donald N. Bridges, speaking at a CAB meeting years earlier.

As I approach the completion of my six-year tenure as a CAB member, and three years as CAB Chairperson, I want you to know how very much I have enjoyed working with each of you, as well as the entire CAB staff. You are a talented and service-minded group, and it a high honor to have been selected as your leader. I feel both honored and humbled. The CAB has a very meaningful and useful role, and we have carried out our tasks admirably. I could not have been more pleased with my experience with the CAB. Thank you for all you have done to make the CAB so successful.

While Site cleanup is well-advanced, it is important to realize that the Site is only about 50 percent cleaned up; an additional 20 to 25 years will be required to finish the task. The CAB will have a vital role for many years to come. As you strive for an even more successful CAB in the future, I would like to offer the following areas for consideration which may help the Board become more effective:

- Increase your input providing thoughtful and useful insights...
 - It's important that everyone contribute to make the body effective.
 - Make it a point to ask at least one or two very thoughtful questions at each day of CAB meetings. Look for opportunities to insert a comment that will make the presenter think. Remember you may have a perspective that even a technical expert may not fully consider.
- Work to increase the number of recommendations to DOE...
 - One of our major work products to DOE is our input on what should be done to improve Site priorities or progress on cleanup. You bring the unique perspective of the citizens you represent to the cleanup picture.
 - As a new member, I suggest that you listen and learn the first two years, but after that, try to sponsor (or be involved in) at least one recommendation every one or two years. Over a six-year tenure this would only be two to four recommendations for each person. Take this on as a challenge.
- Work to get the public more involved, reflecting the views of the public in our deliberations...
 - To be effective we need to seek as much input as we can from the public on critical issues. I encourage each member to stay current on the SRS issues, discuss them with your constituents, and above all ask them to provide input to the Board on topics of real interest or concern.
 - Continue to take the cleanup message to the public particularly your friends and contacts. While this is a difficult task, many of you have done an excellent job in taking our message to civic clubs and groups.
 - After a year or so of experience I recommend that each individual contact some group for a CAB presentation at least once a year, working with the CAB Support Team to schedule them. I encourage you to take this on as a challenge.
- Work on "getting more bang for the cleanup buck"...
 - Budgets will continue to be tight so every opportunity should be taken to use existing funding in the most cost-effective way possible.
 - DOE is dealing with reduced funds impacting all aspects of cleanup. The cut-back is a fact of life and is not likely to change in the near-term.
 - I encourage you to challenge cleanup standards where it appears that unnecessary effort and resources are applied needlessly.
 - We all need to be mindful of the economic climate and work to encourage the prioritization of work so that risk reduction is carried out to the maximum extent possible.
 - It well may be that the Site is facing impacts on cleanup that have not occurred since the CAB was established in 1994.

Membership on the Board is truly a unique and unusual opportunity- a real example of "Democracy In Action." This is a high calling- a group of 25 dedicated people spending considerable time and energy on strictly a volunteer basis with the single motive of trying to make things better for everyone. That is a noble venture.

I once again thank you very deeply for all you've done to support me during my time on the Board. Best Wishes for continued success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. N. Bridges".

Spotlight on:



The CAB Support Team reached out into the community, plastering mailboxes and community centers with fliers and invitations to join the CAB. Areas such as Augusta, Hephzibah, Barnwell, Allendale, Wagener, Aiken, North Augusta, and New Ellenton were canvassed.



Courtney Hanson, Georgia Women's Action for New Directions, spoke to the CAB during its July Full Board meeting about the importance of environmental monitoring in GA.



Donald Bridges, CAB Chair, talks about the SRS Citizens Advisory Board at a Lion's Club meeting in North Augusta. Going out into the community and talking to groups, such as the Lion's Club, has been a major mission of the Board in 2013. Dr. Bridges has also talked to the Aiken City Council, among other groups. If you would like to have a CAB member come talk to your organization about SRS and CAB activities, please email the CAB Support Team at srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov.



Susan Corbett, Sierra Club, makes a public comment during the CAB's July Full Board meeting. Public participation and attendance is very important to the CAB, and is encouraged.

The SRS CAB Has Gone Green!



Please help the Savannah Rive Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) "Go Green" by sending us your email address to add to our CAB database. By receiving email notifications, rather than paper notifications, you will be reducing the CAB's environmental footprint, and helping to save a tree!

Just send us your name, email address and the mailing address currently in our database to: srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

Not currently on the CAB's distribution? Send us your email address and we will add you to our list of community citizens that receive routine updates on the CAB that include newsletters, CAB Recommendations, DOE Responses, and more.

SRS CAB Takes a Tour of the Savannah River Site in Order to Better Understand its Mission



CAB member Bob Doerr checks in with SRS security while boarding a bus for a Sept. 16 tour. When possible, the CAB Support Team organizes tours for the SRS CAB, so that its members can see, in person, the projects, activities, and facilities the CAB makes recommendations on to the Department of Energy.



CAB members Bob Doerr, Artisha Bolding, and Earl Sheppard, speak with a facility representative during a Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) tour given to CAB members on September 16, 2013. The SRS CAB has shown great interest to the DWPF project in recent years.



Mr. Terry Spears, DOE Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Projects at SRS, took a few minutes to brief CAB members Artisha Bolding, Bob Doerr, Jessica Granger, and Earl Sheppard, along with CAB Federal Coordinator, Gerri Flemming, on DWPF. Several tour guides took the CAB members through the facility, and answered questions. Mr. Spears also serves as a Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, overseeing CAB activities.

Interested in taking a tour of the Savannah River Site?
Check out SRS's website at:
<http://www.srs.gov/general/tour/index.htm>

Question & Answer Corner: Commonly Asked Questions at CAB Meetings



Q: On occasion, are the employees at SRS exposed to unsafe levels of nuclear radiation?

A: According to national and international scientific experts, one in five adults normally will die from cancer from all causes. This is about a 20 percent chance. This includes such things as smoking, food, alcohol, drugs, air pollutants, natural background radiation and inherited traits. This **DOES NOT** include occupational radiation exposure. A one rem dose may increase an individual

worker's chance of dying from cancer from 20 percent to 20.04 percent. It is also important to note that the risk may also be zero. Since the Savannah River Site began operations in the 1950's, the Department of Energy (and its predecessor Agencies), and the site contractors, have had a policy to maintain radiation exposure to site workers, members of the general public, and the environment "As Low As Reasonably Achievable" (ALARA) taking into account social, technical, economic, practical and public policy considerations. ALARA is not a limit, but rather a process fully supported by site management and workers which has the objective of maintaining doses as far below the regulatory limits as reasonably achievable, and that there is no radiation exposure without commensurate benefit. *Answer provided by a Radiation Protection subject matter expert in the Office of Safety and Quality Assurance at SRS.*

Ask a First-Year CAB Member:

Why Did You Decide to Join the CAB?



Jessica Grainger

“I decided to join the CAB for several reasons. I have lived in Aiken for nearly my whole life and I only had a very limited understanding of what took place at SRS. Deciding to join the CAB gave me an opportunity to learn much more about the amazing efforts at SRS, and also allows me to spread the message about the good, safe work SRS does to benefit all in our community and in our country. “



Virginia Jones

“As a daughter of a SRS startup Engineer in the 1950s who retired at SRS after about 40 years of service, I wanted to ‘give back’ to the CSRA community that has supported my family. Although the terminology was challenging at first, the materials provided are basic enough so that I understand everything. I feel that I give a ‘layman’s view’ to the SRS CAB Board.”

Chris Timmers



“Although I reside in Columbia, SC I believe that the issues of storage, management, and transport of radio-active fuel (and spent fuel) are subjects which should be of concern to all responsible citizens of the Midlands. I need to be informed on these topics and want to be a voice for citizens in the Midlands area to express their concerns.”

Mark your Calendars:

Full Board Meetings Scheduled in 2014

All dates are subject to change, and all meeting locations will be announced at a later time. Make sure to check out the CAB’s website at cab.srs.gov for updates, or call the CAB Support Team at 803-952-7884.

January 27-28: Augusta, GA

March 24-25: Augusta, GA

May 19-20: Augusta, GA

July 21-22: Augusta

September 22-23: Savannah, GA

November 17-18: Augusta, GA



Stay tuned for CAB committee meetings scheduled for 2014! The 2014 committee meeting schedule will be released in February 2014, and will be posted on the CAB’s website. All committee meetings will take place at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC, and will be streamed online.

A CAB Overview of the June 14 Environmental Management Advisory Board Meeting in Augusta, GA

Written by: Harold Simon, CAB Vice Chair



Harold Simon, CAB

Harold Simon is in his second term as a CAB member, and has served as CAB Vice Chair for a little more than a year. He resides in Augusta.

On 14 June, 2013, the Environmental Management, Department Of Energy, leadership met with the Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) in Augusta, Georgia, to discuss a range of topics, from EM's fiscal year 2014 budget request to its technology challenges.

EMAB is an independent, volunteer board that offers EM advice on complex-wide cleanup issues. Its 15 members include experts from a range of disciplines and community leaders who act as a sounding board for EM's managers by providing corporate advice.

The mission of the EMAB is to provide independent and external advice, information, and recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) on corporate issues related to accelerated site clean-up and risk reduction.

The Board works to identify applicable private sector best management practices and provides counsel on how to integrate them into the EM program. The EMAB also provides strategic management advice on where and how to focus the Program's resources to achieve maximum impact and greatest risk reduction.

Sequence of Events: Ms. Karen Guevara, Assistant Manager for Infrastructure and Environmental Stewardship at SRS, welcomed the Board to the CSRA and provided a systemic overview of the missions and concerns at Savannah River Site.

Dr. Donald Bridges, Chair of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, provided an overview of the CAB's mission and the organizational structure to support the scope and responsibilities as part of the Environmental Management, SSAB cleanup mission at SRS.

Mr. David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management provided an overview of issues across the Environmental Management Complex.
He addressed the following:

- EM's FY 2014 budget request (Total \$5.622B) funding by Site
- Where does each dollar of funding go?
- Funding by EM mission areas in FY 2014.
- EM funding levels: FY 2012-2014 (\$M).

Mr. Ken Picha, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tank Waste and Nuclear Material provided an update on Tank Waste Subcommittee Recommendations across DOE. He emphasized that the Waste Management Program encompasses the largest portion of EM's budget. It has the longest duration cleanup mission = 35 years and it presents the greatest technical challenges.

Public Comment Period: Ms. Mindy Mets, Program Manager for the SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) addressed its Nuclear Workforce Initiative in the Central Savannah River Area.

The meeting was very informative and insightful. It provided an overview of topics from EM's fiscal year 2014 budget request, technology challenges, tank waste program challenges and focus into the out years.

Take A Look: CAB Full Board Meetings in 2013



CAB members Clint Nangle and Rose Hayes discuss CAB business before the May 2013 CAB meeting in North Augusta, SC.



Rob Pope, Environmental Protection Agency, talks to the CAB about EPA activities.



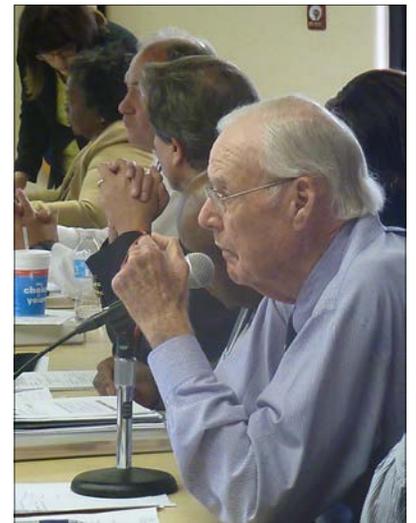
Tom Barnes, CAB, addresses the full board about a recommendation his committee sponsored.



Terry Spears, DOE AM for Waste Disposition Projects at SRS, takes to the mic to answer CAB questions during a meeting.



Earl Sheppard, CAB, discusses his involvement with a recent Environmental Justice Meeting, which was hosted by the EPA.



Clint Nangle, CAB, gives the Strategic & Legacy Management Committee update, of which he is the chair.



The CAB met in Savannah, Georgia for its September 2013 Combined Committees and Full Board Meetings.



Kathe Golden, CAB, takes a moment to talk with her fellow CAB members Rose Hayes, and Bill Calhoun, before the start of a recent meeting.

Take A Look: CAB Full Board Meetings in 2013



Van Keisler, South Carolina Dept. of Health & Environmental Services, addresses the CAB, and answers any questions or concerns.



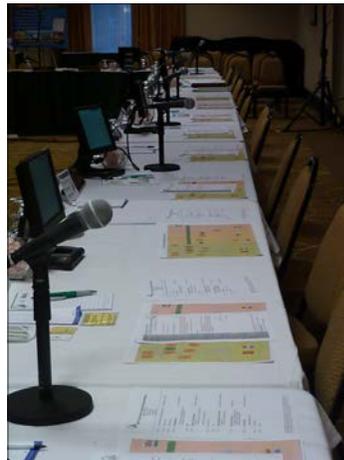
George Snyder, CAB, asks a question during a CAB meeting in the summer of 2013. Discussion around the table is always encouraged.



Joe Ortoldo, a former CAB member, makes a public comment during a heavily attended CAB meeting.



Chris Hanson, DOE-HQ, made the trip from D.C. to present at the May 2013 CAB meeting. Without presenters like Mr. Hanson, CAB meetings would be impossible.



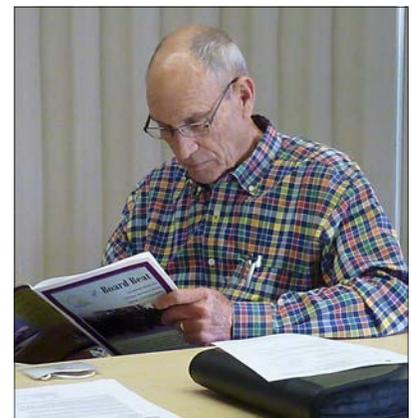
Seats around the CAB table await with information on the day's meeting.



Donald Bridges, CAB Chair, leads CAB discussion at a meeting.



Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth, makes a public comment.



Tom Barnes, CAB, enjoys the CAB's spring newsletter. The CAB publishes two newsletters every year.

CAB Committee Updates



**Rose Hayes,
NM Chair**

This year has been one of the most robust and active years for the **Nuclear Materials committee**. Inspired by the DOE response to the Blue Ribbon Commission and the recent rulings regarding a federal repository, the committee achieved Full Board approval on six recommendations; many of those recommendations hinge on the serious problem of how to remove nuclear materials from South Carolina, and into a final resting place, and address the issue of L-Basin and its quickly diminishing rack space.

Additionally the committee members participated heavily in the position paper drafted by Waste Management chair Ed Burke on spent nuclear fuel. The residents around Savannah River Site participated in that discussion and many of them spoke out with the CAB. As a committee we support this position paper and hope that it will provide DOE with a strong gauge on how the public feels about interim storage of spent fuel at SRS.

As we move forward through the rest of the year, we are looking forward to receiving an update on the Nuclear Materials system plan and a briefing on upcoming receipts of foreign and domestic research reactor nuclear fuel. These briefings will be critical as we move forward with addressing the upcoming storage problems in L-Basin.



**Marolyn Parson,
FD&SR Chair**

The **Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee** focuses on issues related to site cleanup of contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water and follows actions taken when site facilities are no longer needed for operations and are being decommissioned.

This year the Committee has spent a great deal of time responding to repeated concerns raised by some citizens in Georgia who want the Site's environmental monitoring program expanded to include more sampling in their state. The Committee:

initiated three presentations to educate the public about the past and current monitoring programs in South Carolina and Georgia;

heard a presentation from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that is charged with assessing the impact of the Site's operations on the public; and,

scheduled a presentation to highlight the results and conclusions of the 2012 SRS Environmental Report.

At the December meeting, the Committee will discuss whether or not additional action is needed on the environmental monitoring issue.

The Committee feels that one of its most important charges is to review the annual changes that the Department of Energy makes to the Federal Facility Agreement, a document that is the "blueprint" for site cleanup. In response to a Committee recommendation, the Department provides information about changes in a timeframe that allows for input before changes are agreed to by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control. One of the major concerns is the delay that the Site's budget reduction may have on the cleanup and closing of the High Level Waste storage tanks.



**Ed Burke,
WM Chair**

The **Waste Management Committee's** Charter is to review the management, treatment, storage and disposition of radioactive wastes with a goal of reducing the risks to employees, the public and the environment.

The highest priority for the Waste Management committee is the treatment of the 38MM gallons of legacy wastes from the defense missions of the site. Significant progress has been made to meet this goal but much more effort is needed to safely empty and decommission the storage tanks.

The Environmental Management division of the DOE is under the same financial pressures that all of the Federal Government is experiencing. The 2014 Federal budget has not been kind to SRS as the DOE has perceived needs at other locations to be more pressing. This budgeting issue combined with significant design and construction issues with the new Salt Waste Processing Facility

are delaying the site cleanup. Projections are that the site will not meet the commitments of the Federal Facilities Agreement.

The DOE is tasked with both allocating its limited budget to gain the maximum risk reduction throughout the system and finding ways to reduce risks more cost effectively.

The Waste Management Committee is attempting to help in this task by asking questions about "the way things have always been done" such as safe cleaning levels and appropriately classifying wastes for disposal. Acting together, it is hoped that SCDHEC, the EPA and DOE can find solutions to the problems SRS is currently facing. The Waste Management Committee hopes it can assist in that effort.



Clinton Nangle,
S&LM Chair

As I look back on this past year, I am extremely proud of the work that the Strategic & Legacy Management committee has accomplished. Since our June meeting we have focused in on developing recommendations to promote the Savannah River National Labs and the SRS Heritage Foundation. Though still in the drafting process, I believe that these recommendations, once approved by the Full Board, will have a positive impact on economic development in the area.

Additionally we have spent time looking at the site budget, which is no small task in these trying fiscal times, as well as the military training initiative on site. The S&LM committee strongly believes in the beneficial reuse of site resources through outside organizations. The military training program is a small but important step in opening up SRS and its vast resources to projects and programs from outside the site.

Looking forward we will be receiving an update on Enterprise SRS, asset revitalization, EM Performance Metrics, and a workforce update. We are especially keen on seeing how the government shutdown has affected each of these areas. This information will be critical as we move forward with reviewing the strategic outlook of the site in years to come.



Nina Spinelli,
A&O Chair

The **Administrative and Outreach (A&O) Committee** has worked hard this year to share the Citizens Advisory Board's mission and purpose with communities surrounding the Savannah River Site. Earlier this year, the A&O Committee finalized two presentations for CAB members to use at local speaking engagements and events. In July, CAB Chair Donald Bridges used one of the presentations to provide an overview of the CAB to the Aiken City Council and North Augusta Lions Club. Other board members have also met with local area organizations and presented an overview of the CAB in order to inform the community of pending recommendations and ongoing activities at SRS.

An integral component of the CAB's mission is to represent the community at-large, and sharing these presentations has been a great way to help spread the CAB's purpose and help attract future members.

The Committee also had the privilege of hosting several speakers during Full Board meetings, including Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA). The A&O Committee continues to seek out guest presenters so the CAB can be updated on other organizations views about clean up and remediation activities. Local organizations providing community presentations at the Full Board meetings have helped the CAB and members of the public understand additional perspectives that relate to the Environmental Management mission.

Savannah River Site Releases 2012 Environmental Monitoring Report

Reprinted excerpt from www.srs.gov

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) maintains a comprehensive environmental monitoring program on the site and in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). During 2012, the site's airborne and liquid releases to the environment continue to show a long-term decreasing trend and are currently well below health-based standards with minimal impact to SRS employees and the public. Any potential radiological dose to the public has been determined to be indistinguishable from the natural background radiation received by people who live in the CSRA. Data on the Site's environmental performance can be found within the final Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2012, which has been is available to the public and posted on the SRS website at: <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>

A comprehensive environmental monitoring program is maintained throughout SRS and the CSRA The Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2012 details both radiological and non-radiological conditions at SRS. The results of this program have been provided to the public for more than 50 years.

To receive a copy of the 2012 report, call or write:

Amy Meyer
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Building 735-B, Savannah River Site
PO Box A
Aiken, SC 29802-99568
Telephone: (803) 952-8660
Email: amy.meyer@srs.gov



SRS CAB Adopted Two New Position Statements in 2013

How Does the CAB Utilize Position Statements?

CAB position statements are statements developed by the CAB on site functions and activities that express how the CAB membership generally stands on those topics. The agreement of the position may not include the opinion of all CAB members, but must represent the majority.

Two CAB position statements were passed at the July 2013 CAB Full Board Meeting. Both can be found in full on the CAB's website at : <http://cab.srs.gov/cabpositions.html>

CAB members vote on position statements, and use them as talking points when talking to outside groups. Position statements do not always represent the view of every CAB member.

Below are brief summaries of the two position statements adopted at the July 2013 CAB Full Board Meeting.

[Position Paper for the Savannah River Site's Citizens Advisory Board on Using SRS for Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel](#)

An excerpt from the position statement reads, "The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board would like to make clear that:

- a. The CAB is not taking any position on commercial nuclear power generation.
- b. They are not concerned that the DOE would initiate a program that anticipated the unsafe storage of nuclear waste at SRS.

The reasons for the CAB's opposition are:

1. The belief that no site for a long term geologic site superior to Yucca Mountain exists and any alternative site will be technically inferior.
2. The reopening of the repository selection process and, as a consequence, creation of interim storage sites will be a very costly endeavor in a time when the nation does not have the financial resources.
3. The completion of a new repository is generations away and there is no reason to believe the currently proposed 2048 availability date will be adhered to.
4. Future generations of South Carolinians and Georgians will not be well served by having the Savannah River Site become an interim storage site for commercial nuclear waste, and for what will be an undetermined length of time.

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board wants the Department of Energy to know that it is opposed the use of SRS as a site for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear reactors."

Position Statement approved at July 2013 Full Board meeting. This paper will be up for renewal July 2014. There is also a minority statement on this position statement available on the CAB's website.



The CAB had a packed meeting in May to discuss its proposed position statements.

[The Savannah River Site Citizen's Advisory Board's Position on The President's 2014 Budget Proposal](#)

An excerpt from this position statement reads, "Even if funding is restored in future years, the setbacks to the Liquid Waste program due to FY 14 reductions will make it difficult if not impossible to be able to meet the commitments that have been made in the Enforceable Agreements. Most critically, the citizens of South Carolina and Georgia will be placed at increasing risk due to the failure of the tanks that have already exceeded their useful life. The costs of remediation if a tank failure occurs will far exceed the short term savings. The remediation costs will be in addition the higher program costs due to a delayed schedule. The Savannah River Citizen's Advisory Board strongly believes that full funding should be restored to the Liquid Waste Cleanup program. The budget restoration makes sense in the financial long term and from a safety perspective for the people of the region."

Position Statement approved at July 2013 Full Board meeting. This paper will be up for renewal July 2014.

CAB Member Rose Hayes Headed to Waste Management Symposia in 2014

The annual Waste Management Symposia, first held in 1974, is an international conference for the management of radioactive material and related topics. Every year, CAB members are encouraged to submit their own papers to present at the conference. Rose Hayes, who has been a CAB member for nearly five years, submitted an abstract for the 2014 Symposia and has been selected to present her final paper at the conference in March. Below is the abstract of her paper. **Please note that Dr. Hayes will pay for her own expenses for the Symposia, and is not attending the conference on behalf of the CAB.**

The Failure of U.S. Deep Geologic Repository Programs

by Rose O. Hayes, Ph.D.



Rose Hayes, CAB

The United States has unsuccessfully attempted to plan and construct a deep geologic repository since at least the 1960s. Technical, institutional, economical, and social problems have obstructed the efforts. The failures have cost billions of tax dollars and left millions of American communities at potential risk. Current inventories amount to over 75,000 tons of commercial spent nuclear fuel and billions of gallons of defense waste plus other radioactive materials that are hazardous to human health and the environment. The history of U.S. efforts to establish geologic repositories has been re-constructed via research in the White House Central Files of American presidents, government documents, museum archives, news articles, and site visitations. Current planning by the U.S. Department of Energy's 2013 Strategy for Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste includes a pilot site, one or more interim storage sites, and a permanent deep geologic repository to be made available by 2048. Research for this paper indicates that current efforts to establish a deep geologic repository inside U.S. borders will inevitably fail for several reasons, including a consent-based siting requirement. Consent-based siting requirements have repeatedly failed in America due to the NIMBY ("not-in-my-backyard") syndrome. Additionally, earth scientists predict the failure of deep geologic repositories due to their physical realities: They are "open systems". Open systems are composed of continuously interacting variables that, as a result of their interactions, unremittingly alter their environments. Engineering models, which predict that such repositories will provide safe storage for long-term periods, are challenged by earth scientists who contend that such computer modeling cannot account for all the involved variables of "open systems". As Donald Rumsfeld was fond of saying, "We do not know what we do not know that we do not know". In conclusion, public opinion will reject such sites. Deep geologic repositories will inevitably fail due to their physical compositions. Current technology cannot destroy existing and future radioactive waste. Therefore, it is time to think outside the deep hole of a geologic repository. Alternative approaches, using 21st century science and technology, must be developed.

The SRS CAB is always looking for new members to join the Board!

Do you live in an area affected by cleanup activities at SRS? Would you be interested in learning about SRS and working as a team to help inform local communities? If the answer is "yes", you would be perfect for the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. We are currently recruiting new members to the CAB for the 2015-2017 term.

Please fill out an application at
<http://cab.srs.gov>
You can email us at:
srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov
Or you can give us a call at :
803-952-7884 or (800-249-8155)



As a CAB member, one of these seats could be yours at CAB Full Board Meetings. Join us and have a seat!

**Like the CAB
on Facebook!**

1 Million Gallons of Grout Poured into SRS Tanks 5 and 6

Press release republished from www.srs.gov

On September 23, 2013, the one-millionth gallon was poured, leaving approximately 800,000 gallons remaining before the next two SRS waste tanks are grouted and operationally closed. It took 625 cement trucks to reach the 1 million gallons poured. Grouting is expected to continue to December. During grouting activities, there have been no safety incidents or injuries.



SRR Produces 40 Canisters in August; Most Ever in History

Press release republished from www.srs.gov



Savannah River Remediation's (SRR) one-of-a-kind shielded canister transporter hauls one canister at a time from the Defense Waste Processing Facility to the Glass Waste Storage Building at SRS. The transporter is 18 feet tall, 25 feet long, and weighs 235,000 pounds.

A total of 40 canisters were produced last month, exceeding the previous total of 37 canisters produced in December 2011. The 40 canisters equates to 151,616 pounds of glass poured.

“DWPF canister production started the year slow due to some technical challenges that we had to overcome, but the record month demonstrates the ability and resilience of our team,” said Steve Wilkerson, Waste Treatment Project Director. “The team aggressively attacked each technical issue and overcame them by implementing numerous process improvements to increase production. We are now reaping the benefits from those improvements. I could not be more proud of what the team has accomplished.”

What is also amazing is the work of the melter, DWPF's 64-ton tea-pot shaped melter, where hazardous waste mixed with borosilicate frit forms a molten mix that is poured into the stainless-steel canisters for temporary storage at SRS.

Wilkerson said that during August, the melter was fed waste a total of 710 hours out of a possible 744 hours in the month to accomplish the record.

“We have always said the melter is the heart of the DWPF process, but for it to feed and pour canisters for all but 34 hours during the month is nothing short of amazing,” Wilkerson said.

Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office, congratulated SRR and the DWPF employees and called their work essential to the SRS mission.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment and I congratulate all who were involved,” Spear said. “Every canister poured means we are reducing the single most substantial environmental risk to people and the environment in the State of South Carolina.”

Through August 2013, the DWPF has produced a total of 3,728 canisters since startup in 1996. It is estimated that 7,824 total canisters will be required to complete the liquid waste operations mission at SRS in the future.

Understanding the Recent Lapse in Government Appropriations

By: The DOE Office of External Affairs



Back in August, we heard if the Federal budget was not agreed-upon, then the Government would shut-down. We have heard it before and it has come oh so close, but always a just-in-time agreement would be reached and the Federal employees continued working. So when we heard the Government might shutdown this year, we were concerned, but not worried... that is, until it actually did shut-down!

What does a Government shut-down mean? It means the amount of funding needed to operate all Federal Government agencies has not been agreed upon by Congress; therefore, NO funding is released until a decision is made. No funding means no way to continue operations, pay salaries, maintain infrastructure, or support programs. So, the Government shuts down!

The Savannah River Site currently has 10,289 employees, but after being shut-down, placed 1400 employees of the Liquid Waste Contractor, Savannah River Remediation, on furlough. About 270 employees of the site's Security Contractor, WSI-SRS, were furloughed and plans were in place for furloughing thousands of employees of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Then it would have furloughed the majority of the 272 Federal staff. Major preparations were put into place to maintain the site in a Safe, Secure, non-operational state.

Just when we were about to fear the worst, Congress approved a short-term funding plan and the engines of the Federal Government were humming, again. Savannah River Site has resumed operations and procedures and systems are being brought back on-line with an emphasis on safe and disciplined operations.

Bottom line: Although none of us can control what decisions, or when decisions, are made in Congress, it's important to know that safety at SRS will not be compromised.

The EM SSAB Chairs Held a Meeting in Ohio



Donald Bridges, CAB Chair, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Alice Williams, EM, for his dedicated service as Chair of the SRS CAB. Dr. Bridges will be retiring from the Board after January 2014.

On November 5-7, 2013, the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) held a Chairs' meeting at the Deer Creek State Park in Mt. Sterling, Ohio, to discuss complex-wide issues and recommendations.

The agenda was full with presentations from Alice Williams, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM, a "round robin" discussion where Board Chairs' shared the major concerns of their respective Sites, and an EM HQ update from Christine Gelles, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management. There were also two educational sessions, an EM HQ Update from Terry Tyborowski, DAS Program Planning and Budget, DOE-EM, and a product development session where Chairs' discussed three possible complex-wide recommendations. In addition, Cate Alexander, EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer, gave an overview of DOE-HQ "News and Views," and

Dave Huizenga, Senior Advisor, Office of EM, gave his own EM Program Update via webcam.

These meetings are held twice a year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall. Like SRS CAB meetings, these sessions are open to the public and have public comment periods scheduled each day. The next EM SSAB meeting will take place in Hanford, Washington, in the Spring of 2014.

CAB Recommendations-*Since May 2013*

Recommendation 304

Revising DOE Order 435.1

Adopted: May 21, 2013 by the Waste Management Committee

Status: Open

The SRS CAB recommends that DOE:

1. Identify to the CAB by the September 2013 the proposed changes to DOE Order 435.1 that would help implement sensible change for site cleanup and waste disposition and will help save scarce resources and time at SRS.
2. Provide to the CAB by January 2014 a summary of the EFCOG Working Group decisions and recommendations concerning the proposed changes to DOE Order 435.1
3. This recommendation should be included in public comments on DOE Order 435.1.

Recommendation 305

Replacing Glass Waste Storage Building (GWSB) # 3 with GWSB #1

Adopted: May 21, 2013 by the Waste Management Committee

Status: Closed

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Complete an inventory of existing vitrified high-level waste in GWSB #1 and #2 and a projected inventory of planned vitrification to determine if the waste in the vitrified canisters can meet the current or revised WIPP WAC for transuranic wastes and report this inventory to the CAB by November 2013.
2. Determine the feasibility of converting GWSB #1 from a storage facility for vitrified sludge wastes canisters to a shipment and receiving facility to transport the canisters from SRS directly to WIPP (making GWSB#1 a dual-use storage and shipping facility). The results of this study should be reported to the CAB by November 2013.
3. Compare the economics of converting GWSB #1 from a storage facility for waste canisters to a shipping and receiving facility capable of transporting the canisters from SRS directly to WIPP versus building separate and new dual-use storage and shipping facility storage pad. This study should be reported to the CAB by November 2013.
4. Present DOE's framework (including timing and proof of concept requirements) to the CAB by November 2013 to transport from GWSB#1 to WIPP assuming the canisters of waste that meet the WIPP WAC requirements. License the Remote Handled Transuranic Waste (RH-TRU) transportation system to use the RH 72B containers for initially transporting canisters directly from SRS directly to WIPP.
5. Include in DOE's framework a plan that addresses the necessary changes to public policy, DOE Orders, Regulatory Permits and State and Federal law to support the shipment of SRS vitrified tank waste that meets the WIPP WAC directly to WIPP.

Recommendation 306

Chemical Separation or Partitioning and Transmutation (P/T) of Used Nuclear Fuel and Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste

Adopted: May 21, 2013 by the Nuclear Materials Committee

Status: Closed with Exception

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Provide a status update on technology in the area of Partitioning and Transmutation (P/T).
2. Provide your assessment as to what extent this technology should be supported and used by Environmental Management (EM).
3. At the September 23-24, 2013 Full Board meeting provide a presentation to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) on this topic by the leading Department of Energy (DOE) experts, contractors, or advisors.

See entire recommendations and all DOE Responses on the CAB's website at cab.srs.gov!

Recommendation 307

Transferring Materials in L-Basin to Auxiliary Dry-Cask Storage

Adopted: July 23, 2013 by the Nuclear Materials Committee

Status: Open

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that:

1. A cost-comparison analysis be developed to determine the true cost, including assumptions, of adding dry cask auxiliary storage to L-Basin and the savings, if any, of supplementing cooling pool storage space with dry-cask storage.
2. A study should be conducted to determine operational impacts specifically relating to SRS programs.
3. DOE should request assistance with the conduct of the recommended studies and evaluation from the National Academy of Science to include presentations to the CAB.

Recommendation 308

Request for Long-Term Assessment: Disposition of Research Reactor Fuels stored in L-Basin

Adopted: July 23, 2013 by the Nuclear Materials Committee

Status: Closed with Exception

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Assess the disposition of Research Reactor SNF being stored in L-Basin and Research Reactor SNF yet to be received and:
 - Advise the CAB of the process for reaching a decision on the disposition of the remaining Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel
 - Provide the CAB some insights on when such a decision will be made.
 - Provide the CAB some insights on where the program is going “long term” if the disposition decision is not imminent within the next 2-3 years.

Recommendation 309

Consider Nuclear Waste Management Plan for Interim Storage of Defense Waste in Yucca Mountain, and Temporary Storage of Used Nuclear Fuel at Generation Sites

Adopted: July 23, 2013 by the Nuclear Materials Committee

Status: Open

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Develop a national nuclear waste management plan which considers Yucca Mountain as an Interim Site.
2. Develop a plan to complete, at the earliest possible date, the development of Yucca Mountain as an engineered environment to be temporarily used as an Interim Site for the storage of high-level defense waste.
3. Based on viability of Yucca Mountain as an interim repository site, request congressional funding for Yucca Mountain’s development as an Interim Site in accordance with the guidance of the BRC and DOE 2013 Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste.

Recommendation 310

Budget Requests Sufficient for Liquid Waste Milestones

Adopted: September 24, 2013 by the Waste Management Committee

Status: Pending

The Savannah River Citizens Advisory Board Recommends that DOE:

1. The Department of Energy include in the 2015 budget request sufficient funding to meet all FFA commitments to clean and close the liquid waste tanks at SRS.
2. In the future, all budget requests will contain the sufficient funding to meet FFA requirements in all the scenarios submitted.

Recommendation 311

Review Tank Cleaning Criteria

Adopted: September 24, 2013 by the Waste Management Committee

Status: Pending

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. The DOE review the past level of clean-up to determine if efficiencies achieved from a different balance of short term and long term risk were applied it would free-up money and resources to accelerate the cleanup of additional tanks reducing short term risks without creating increased long term risks.
2. The DOE review evaluated risk scenarios to determine if more realistic risk scenarios would free-up resources for short term risk reduction at SRS or other locations and still protect the public in both the long and short term.

Continued on page 16...

Recommendation 312

Liquid Waste Treatment Maximization

Adopted: September 24, 2013 by the Waste Management Committee

Status: Pending

The Savannah River Citizen's Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. The DOE review the available technologies for liquid waste treatment and any feasible technological improvements and determine the optimal way to allocate resources to reduce risk most rapidly until the SWPF facility can be completed.
2. The DOE report to the CAB by January 2014 on their findings if an approach is determined to be available that can reprioritize resources to reduce risk more rapidly.

Recommendation 313

L-Basin Inventory as Trail Test for a Federal Repository

Adopted: September 24, 2013 by the Nuclear Materials Committee

Status: Pending

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

Given the urgent need to find increased storage capacity at the SRS L-Basin facility, the need to process certain at-risk materials in the basin, and the deferment of disposition pathways due to current budget exigencies, the Savannah River Citizen's Advisory Board recommends:

1. DOE develop a contingency plan for utilizing older and critical eligible L-Basin materials in a trial test at a federal repository in order to develop processing, containerization, transporting and permanent storage requirements for securing U.S. nuclear waste and used/spent nuclear fuel in a deep geologic national repository.
2. Provide the necessary funding for developing the contingency plan in 2014.
3. Provide regular interim status reports to SRS CAB during the contingency plan development period.
4. Provide a completed contingency plan to the SRS CAB by FY 2016.

Recommendation 314

Planning for Disposition of SRS Canisters

Adopted: September 24, 2013 by the Nuclear Materials Committee

Status: Pending

The SRS CAB recommends that DOE:

1. DOE-Environmental Management work with and advise the organization charged with implementing a federal repository nuclear waste program relative to the latest DP quantities and the "state of readiness" of the SRS canisters.
2. DOE- Environmental Management offer for consideration use of the SRS canisters for a federal repository demonstration program in the event such a program is considered useful or necessary.

Recommendation 315

Public Meetings on Background and Status of High-Level Waste Tank Closure Program

Adopted: September 24, 2013 by the Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee

Status: Pending

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

- 1) Hold public meetings to provide accurate, honest, frank, up-to-date information about the human health and environmental dangers, technological challenges, budget details, timetable, and successes of the tank closure program. a. How budget constraints will impact the timetable of the tank closure program in FY 2014 and beyond must be included.
- 2) Hold the first such public meetings before the end of 2013, and annually thereafter, in the cities of Aiken, and Bluffton, SC, Augusta and Savannah, GA, and other communities deemed to be appropriate by the Department with input from the Citizens Advisory Board. stations.
- 3) Invite the local drinking water suppliers to participate in the public meetings.
- 4) Invite the Environmental Protection Agency (including Environmental Justice staff), SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the GA Department of Natural Resources to participate in the public meetings.
- 5) Invite members of the Citizens Advisory Board to attend the meetings.
- 6) Develop a questionnaire to be distributed to those attending the public meetings so that the effectiveness can be assessed and additional concerns can be identified.
- 7) Consider expanding the public information meetings in the future to include other environmental concerns expressed by the public.
- 8) Invite members of the press to attend and report.

See entire recommendations and all DOE Responses on the CAB's website at cab.srs.gov!

The CAB Says Farewell to Three Members



Dr. Donald N. Bridges

Dr. Bridges joined the CAB in 2008, after retiring from the Department of Energy. Residing in North Augusta, SC, Dr. Bridges has been a very valuable member to the Board, offering guidance to other CAB members, as well as technical know-how when writing recommendations. He has been a member of several committees while serving on the CAB, and was Vice Chair before becoming Chair of the CAB in 2011. During his tenure, Dr. Bridges has championed outreach and recommendation contributions from the CAB to DOE. He is retiring from the Board after meeting his 6-year term limit. Thank you, and best wishes, Don!



Ed Burke

Mr. Burke joined the CAB in 2008, and has devoted much of his time to Nuclear Material and Waste Management issues. Although he retires from the CAB as Chair of the Waste Management Committee, he has also served on the Nuclear Materials Committee as Vice Chair. Mr. Burke has volunteered for CAB outreach events, and was instrumental in adopting a CAB position paper in 2013 asking DOE to not use SRS for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. Residing in Waynesboro, Ga., Mr. Burke provides a perspective outside of South Carolina. He is retiring from the Board after meeting his 6-year term limit. Thank you, and best wishes, Ed!



Kathe Golden

Ms. Golden joined the CAB in 2008, and has served as Administrative & Outreach Chair, helping to implement outreach procedures and plans. She has also been very active in other committees such as Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation and Strategic & Legacy Management. Ms. Golden, a retired school counselor, is always the first to ask a clarifying question that usually shines a demystifying light on technical subjects. When she joined the Board, she lived in North Augusta, SC, but has since moved to Hilton Head, SC, where she still represents her community's views. Ms. Golden is retiring from the Board after meeting her 6-year term limit. Thank you, and best wishes, Kathe!

Check us out online!

Everything you need to help you understand the issues being reviewed by the SRS CAB can be found on the Board's website:

cab.srs.gov

The CAB's website has copies of recommendations, DOE correspondence, dates of SRS tours, CAB biographies, meeting schedules, position statements, and more.

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SavannahRiverSiteCAB

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Key criteria for Board membership includes a time commitment and the willingness to study the issues and work toward clear, implementable recommendations.

To apply for membership to the Citizens Advisory Board, please call 1-800-249-8155, or visit the CAB website and complete an application at:

cab.srs.gov

Please call, mail, fax, or email your comments and suggestions to:

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Visit the CAB online at: cab.srs.gov

Call us at 803-952-7884
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