



February 1994 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Members Present

All members and ex-officio representatives were present for part or all of both sessions, except Kamalakar Raut, Myra Reece and Camilla Warren.

Approximately 50 members of the public, DOE and WSRC representatives were in attendance throughout the two days. Media was also present.

February 17, 1994

Welcome and introductions

WSRC Manager of Public Involvement Mark Musolf called the meeting to order, introducing his co-facilitator Cheryl Lewis of WSRC Human Resources. He briefly discussed the agenda for the day before introducing DOE-SR Acting Deputy Manager Ernie Chaput.

Mr. Chaput welcomed the new members on behalf of DOE, stressing the importance of this meeting. He stated that Board members had been selected by their peers to represent them and their opinions, issues and concerns. He spoke of the open door policy and told members, "This is your board." He encouraged members to be persistent in overcoming hurdles, pledging DOE's help.

Jeff Crane of the Environmental Protection Agency, an ex-officio Board member, briefly addressed the Board, stating that his organization is anxious to have the Board operating.

EPA is 100 percent committed to this process and it is a number-one priority, he said.

Ex-officio representative Ann Ragan of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) introduced SCDHEC Commissioner Doug Bryant. He thanked the Board for their time and participation. Ann added that SCDHEC is excited about the Board becoming operational and wants input from the Board throughout the SRS decision-making process.

Board members were then asked to briefly introduce themselves, with emphasis on why each is looking forward to participating on the Board.

Guidelines for participation

Cheryl Lewis discussed guidelines for effective participation, asked Board members to "buy in." She discussed the day's process and introduced the next speaker.

Charter discussion

Don Beck of the DOE-Headquarters Office of Public Accountability discussed the impact of the Federal Advisory Committee Act on the charter of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. He explained that without a FACA charter for the Board, DOE has no mechanism for reimbursing Board members for travel expenses or for paying per diem and indirect expenses. He said that the group should continue the dialog process while DOE pursues a FACA charter.

Mr. Beck explained that DOE was pursuing several options, both short and long-term, to solve the problem. One option was to make the SRS Board members of DOE's national Environmental Management Advisory Board, which has a FACA charter. Another option would be to pursue a separate FACA charter for an umbrella group made up of members from the various DOE site-specific advisory boards.

Many Board members expressed frustration with the situation, questioning whether they were an official board or not. Mr. Beck apologized, stating that their points were all well taken and DOE Headquarters was pursuing a solution with all speed. He promised to get back to the Board within two weeks with a proposed solution.

Mr. Chaput stated that DOE has funds to cover additional meetings and that additional guidance on this matter would be provided to the Board at a later date.

Budget and finances discussion

Lewis Goidell, DOE-SR Director of Environmental Restoration, spoke about the Board's budget and finances. He addressed the issue of expense reimbursement, saying it is DOE's intention that no member should incur a loss by participating on the Board. He explained that there was a mechanism in place which would allow DOE to pay members for their expenses for this meeting, including hotel bill if they live more than 50 miles away, per diem, and \$100 per day to cover dependent care, lost wages, etc. He said that individual contracts and an expense voucher for members were being prepared and would be distributed for signatures later during the meeting.

Regarding the Board's budget, Mr. Goidell stated that DOE will provide \$250,000 for this fiscal year for operating expenses. The Board can expend these funds in accord with a budget to be developed. He said that several proposals from independent contractors and third-party organizations had been received for providing administrative services for the Board. Board members questioned the appropriateness of examining such proposals before the Board was "official" and better organized. After discussion at several points during the meeting, it was decided that no presentations would be heard and no copies of the proposals would be distributed until a later date. Dr. McClain asked that the proposals be sealed.

Board chairperson

Members suggested that the appropriate mechanism for budget and financial consideration would be a budget committee. This led to discussion of the Board's overall structure, including who would chair the group. After much discussion, the group decided to elect temporary co-chairpersons to serve until a regular chairperson(s) is named. A secret ballot was held, counted by the meeting facilitators Mark Musolf and Cheryl Lewis. Co-chairpersons elected were Bob Slay of Beech Island, South Carolina, and Mildred McClain, Ph.D., of Savannah, Georgia. The new co-chairpersons then assumed the role of chairing the meeting. Dr. McClain and Mr. Slay requested that facilitators' assistance continue. WSRC facilitators will be used in future meetings as requested by the Board.

Operating procedures, meeting schedule

A great deal of discussion was generated on meeting frequency, time, and location. A series of votes showed the majority of members favored the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next three meetings are March 22 at SRS, April 26 on Hilton Head Island, and May 24 in Savannah, Georgia. It was agreed that the WSRC Public Involvement staff will continue to make meeting arrangements and coordinate logistics until the Board can examine other options. The Board, by vote, specified that interim leaders could be considered for regular chairperson position(s) in the future.

FACA update

At this point Tom Heenan, one of the two DOE ex-officio representatives on the Board, provided an update on the FACA issue. He stated that after this two-day meeting, DOE could not provide any expense reimbursement or per diem to members until the charter issue was resolved.

Additional frustration was expressed by Board members, with some members urging the Board to proceed while a solution was being pursued by DOE. Others said they felt there was no point. DOE-SR General Counsel representative Lucy Knowles was asked to provide her opinion. She stated it would be appropriate for the Board to continue meeting to discuss internal issues, such as operating procedures and by-laws, but that they should not discuss issues or provide recommendations until they were officially chartered.

The Board at this point decided to cancel the photo session scheduled for the evening, as well as the discussion of issues set for Friday afternoon. However, they voted to listen to the technical briefings Friday morning, as planned. They agreed to draft a letter to DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary, expressing their displeasure at not being officially chartered.

February 18, 1994

Co-chair comments

Interim co-chair Mildred McClain opened the day's session. She requested several documents for CAB members, including the "Keystone Report" and documentation of environmental regulations.

Ex-officio comments

Ex-officio representative Jeff Crane introduced Board members to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). He reviewed the table of contents to acquaint them with the various aspects of the agreement. Ann Ragan of SCDHEC cautioned the group not to get bogged down trying to comprehend all of the details of the FFA, which she termed "a complex document." She indicated that her agency would be willing to provide more detailed training for the Board on the regulatory framework which covers site activities.

Tom Heenan addressed the Board on the scope of the SRS EM program. He stated the site management's objectives in dealing with the Board are to provide a viable mechanism for feedback and ensuring that the Board has what it needs to produce results. He told the Board that the agencies are willing to provide educational opportunities ranging from one-on-one tutoring to tours and group workshops. He introduced DOE-SR employee Virginia Gardner as the DOE point of contact. He also discussed the recent DOE nationwide "standdown," in which the Department took time off to brainstorm ways to work more effectively. The Board indicated that it would like to receive follow-up information on the issues identified during the stand-down process.

Briefings

DOE-SR technical personnel briefed Board members on the following topics:

- Solid waste, Mike O'Rear, Solid Waste Division Director
- High-level waste, Lee Watkins, Deputy Assistant Manager for High-Level Waste Division
- Environmental Restoration and technology development, Lew Goidell, Director, Environmental Restoration Division

A presentation on DOE's planning and budgeting process was postponed.

Board members requested that technical briefers be available at subsequent meetings to answer questions and provide more detail. They also asked that copies of the speaker's visuals be provided, with explanatory comments attached. Specific requests were also made for the following:

- More information on transuranic (TRU) waste storage and handling
- More information on low-level waste stored in cardboard boxes
- More information on remedial activities such as compacting, clay-capping, and pumping effectiveness

Handouts

Written information provided to Board members during the meeting included the following:

1. Keystone "Interim Report Of The Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialog Committee"
2. SRS "Improving Projects Performance Initiative" (DOE Stand Down Action Plan)
3. EPA "Superfund"
4. EPA "Superfund Fact Sheet: The Remedial Program"
5. EPA "Public Involvement in the Superfund Program"
6. EPA "The Superfund Removal Program"
7. EPA "Facts About RCRA: Comparing RCRA and Superfund"
8. EPA "Environmental Fact Sheet"
9. EPA "Facts About RCRA: Cleaning up Hazardous Waste Sites"
10. EPA "Facts About RCRA: Getting Involved in the Permitting Process"
11. CAB letter to DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary dated February 18, 1994

Public involvement opportunities

The public was invited to ask questions or make comments during the second day's session. However, there was no response at that time.

Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at noon on Friday, February 18. The next three meetings are scheduled for March 22 at SRS, April 26 on Hilton Head Island, and May 24 in Savannah, Georgia. Media advertisements and press releases will be used to notify the public.