



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee**

#### **Meeting Record**

**December 5, 1995**

**North Augusta, S.C.**

---

The ER & WM Subcommittee of the SRS CAB met on Tuesday, December 5, 1995 at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC. at 5:30 p.m. Subcommittee members present included Bill Lawless and Kathryn May, Subcommittee Co-Chairs, and P.K. Smith. Bob Benson attended from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). SRS representatives included Pam Jenkins, Scott Cannon, Sonny Goldston, Paul Hunt, Elmer Wilhite, Rick Geddes, Rick Ford, Donna Martin, Mickie Seitter, Anne Roe, Mary Flora, and Clay Jones. Members of the public attending included Katherine Geddes, Donna Conrad, George Handy and Lee Poe. Charles Powers attended from the Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). de'Lisa Bratcher of DOE-SR attended as the Associate Deputy Designated Federal Official (ADDFO).

Dr. Lawless welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Mary Flora reviewed a list of issues which the subcommittee plans to address in 1996 and gave out copies of a SRS Citizen's Advisory Board Recommendations Summary database which lists the status of all recommendations made to date.

Thomas Johnson, DOE-SR, gave a presentation on the Three Rivers Waste Management Center and the Solid Waste Technology Center planned for development and construction in 1996. The EPA and SCDHEC municipal solid waste landfill regulations became effective in October, 1993 and required that all waste received after that time must be disposed in a Subtitle D landfill, which requires leachate and passive gas collection systems, unless approved by SCDHEC. Mr. Thomas explained that DOE had provided a grant to study a regional facility to handle municipal solid waste, and this resulted in nine South Carolina counties agreeing to participate in the Three Rivers Waste Management program along with SRS.

The vision of the project is to be the world leader in Solid Waste Management, (SWM), and Technology -- a state -of-the-art facility which would demonstrate innovative technologies to process solid waste. Mr. Johnson explained the locations considered in selecting a site; the preferred site is located in south Aiken County just off Highway 125 on SRS property. After the site was selected extensive hydrogeological investigation was conducted and SCDHEC issued a Letter of Suitability in October 1995.

An Environmental Assessment was conducted and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is expected in December 1995. Mr. Johnson was asked why a full Environmental Impact Statement, EIS, was not conducted given that plant NEPA personnel had stated to SCDHEC that they believed an EIS should be conducted for the site. Mr. Johnson stated that the requirements under subtitle D for leachate collection and treatment allowed for the FONSI decision. The funding of the project and how much and from what source the funding would come was also discussed. Mr. Johnson was asked to provide the subcommittee with answers to three questions:

1. the EA versus EIS issue
2. the question of project funding
3. how and if the project is connected to the Office of Technology<

### **Development's Landfill Focus Area**

Mr. Johnson was also asked to provide a copy of the executive summary of the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority report on the "Investigation of Candidate Landfill Sites on the DOE Savannah River Site", which has been included in the attachments to this report.

Paul Hunt, Engineering Manager for Low Level Waste Disposal and Treatment Facilities at the site, gave a presentation on the SRS Solid Low Level Waste Management. Mr. Hunt explained that Solid Low Level Waste does not include TRU waste, high level waste, mixed (containing RCRA constituents) waste, or spent nuclear fuel. Mr. Hunt explained the location of low level waste disposal facilities was near the center of the site, close to the F and H areas which generate most of the LLW at the site. A chart showing low level waste disposal annually since 1955 was shown, and the increase from the mid-1980's to 1989 was questioned.

Mr. Hunt explained that the increase was due to containerized waste, increased HP requirements for protective clothing and work in the tank farms. The subsequent decrease was due to waste avoidance and waste minimization efforts. Mr. Hunt explained the evolution of LLW commercial practices and the parallel events at the site from the 1950's to the present. Mr. Hunt also reviewed the requirements of DOE Order 5480.2A for Performance Assessments and the establishment of Waste Acceptance Criteria and Performance Objectives.

Mr. Hunt described the configuration of the vaults, each vault contains 12 cells and each cell has capacity for 1,000 boxes, when closed the vaults will be covered with an 8 foot thick berm and cap and a vegetative layer of bamboo. Mr. Hunt reviewed the decision and design basis for the vaults and explained the current and future plans for the facilities. Questions raised during the discussion included: (1) Is there any plan to look at present design and requirements in light of future use policy?, (2) Is there any work being done to modify DOE Order 5480.2A, and (3) What changes in design criteria make sense?

Rick Geddes gave a presentation on potential future use of SRS Canyons for Waste Management purposes. Mr. Geddes described current studies which looked at operation of SRS Canyons for stabilization of SRS nuclear material inventory and the management of offsite materials. It was decided to meet in conjunction with the CAB Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee in

January and pursue the issues raised jointly, possibly with a roundtable symposium on plutonium disposition.

Chuck Powers gave an overview and update on the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS), prepared by DOE-HQ. This document examines the environmental impacts of managing radioactive and hazardous wastes at DOE sites throughout the United States. Five types of waste are analyzed: low-level mixed waste (LLMW), low-level waste (LLW), transuranic waste (TRUW), high-level waste (HLW), and hazardous waste (HW). The WM PEIS considers four categories of management alternatives for each type waste:

- (1) No Action alternatives involve the use of only currently existing or planned waste management facilities;
- (2) Decentralized alternatives minimize the transportation of waste between sites;
- (3) Regionalized alternatives locate waste management facilities at several sites throughout the nation; and
- (4) Centralized alternatives locate large waste management facilities at only one or two sites.

The Waste Management PEIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts associated with the treatment, transport, storage, and disposal of the five waste types. Mr. Powers pointed out there were discrepancies between the WM PEIS and the Baseline Environmental Management Report as well as other documents and suggested that the subcommittee may want to investigate some of these discrepancies. It was noted that the deadline for submitting comments was December 21, 1995 and Dr. Lawless said he would ask for an extension of the comment period (Granted, due to public requests, comment period extended to February 19, 1996, DOE announcement attached). Chuck Powers agreed to pull together and coordinate the comments from the subcommittee working group.

Dr. Lawless adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

#### **Attachments:**

Meeting Presentation Handouts

Investigation of Candidate Landfill Sites on the DOE Savannah River Site

DOE Update: WM PEIS public comment period extension

**Note: Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling the SRS CAB toll-free information number at 1-800-249-8155.**