



January 1995 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Members Present

Members present were Julie Arbogast, Anne Brown, Thomas Costikyan, Brian Costner, Thomas Greene, Alice Hollingsworth, Thelonius Jones, Walter Jones, William Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Mildred McClain, JoAnn Nestor, Kamalakar Raut, Robert Slay, P.K. Smith, Pat Tousignant and Beaurine Wilkins. Ex-Officio Representatives were Thomas Heenan, Jeff Crane and Jim Brownlow (Alternate).

Members absent were Lenola Cooks, Myles Grant, Rachael Harper, Kathryn May, Lane Parker and Andrew Rea. Camilla Warren of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ann Ragan and Myra Reece of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) were not in attendance. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Thomas Heenan.

This meeting was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Key Decisions Made by Board

Myles Grant was elected as Environmental Remediation Program Subcommittee Co-chairperson.

The Board adopted the draft operating procedures of the Executive Subcommittee.

A special board meeting was scheduled for February 21, 1995, in Barnwell, S.C., for Board members to receive a budget briefing.

A membership replacement election was postponed until March 28, 1995.

The Board adopted a consensus recommendation which provides guidelines for near-term cleanup decisions under CERCLA.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 28, 1994, CAB meeting were approved with one minor change.

Agency Updates

Bob Slay read Dr. Mario Fiori's letter agreeing with and officially accepting the SRS CAB's first recommendation (see attached).

Jeff Crane of EPA stated that the annual development of long-term projections for environmental remediation work, Appendix E of the Federal Facility Agreement, had undergone review and is consistent with previous years. He stated that Appendix D of the FFA for the current year is not due until DOE receives appropriations.

Tom Heenan stated he was pleased the first recommendation had gone full-cycle and said that while it has been a struggle, this Board is one of the most productive in the DOE complex. He announced that the Draft Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement had been released on January 20 and that the comment period extends from January 27 through March 13, 1995. He discussed a Future Use Public Meeting on February 2 in Augusta, Ga., that was being co-sponsored by the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee, DOE and the Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative.

Tom Heenan also addressed the DOE budget in light of recent coverage in the news media. He stated that in response to any cuts, SRS would work even harder to manage overhead and infrastructure while continuing to emphasize cost effectiveness. He said the site was already looking at the effect of various cutbacks and according to scenarios studied thus far, regulatory commitments should be met; assuming that funding requested for FY 1995-96 is secured. He emphasized that the budget situation is highly dynamic and subject to change.

Bob Slay referred to a letter from the Hanford Advisory Board regarding a recommendation concerning the Hanford budget (see attached), and stated he thought it was appropriate for the SRS CAB to provide a similar recommendation. He asked if the Board still had the opportunity to influence the process. Tom Greene asked if the Board would have input on the equity of the cuts. He stated he was concerned that SRS was receiving one third of the cuts even though it did not make up one third of the complex. Brian Costner stated the Board could still influence the process until late March, when appropriations hearings are held before Congress and many key decisions are made.

Board members discussed the loss of a projected 4000 jobs at SRS and how this would be devastating to surrounding communities. They also questioned how various programs would be affected. Jeff Crane stated that the CAB has not yet had a great deal of involvement in establishing priorities at SRS and that in light of the new climate, it is critical and worthy of a subcommittee or task force. He stated programs are being evaluated across the country and not just at SRS. Brian Costner stated that existing subcommittees could focus on a number of these issues and that the recommendation being presented in the afternoon would have some impact.

Thelonius Jones asked about rumors that DOE would be disbanded and become part of the Department of Defense (DOD). He stated DOD places less effort on cleanup and more on security matters. Tom Heenan stated there was much speculation but that regardless of the agency, productive site programs would continue. Mildred McClain stated DOD does not place a high priority on public involvement as does the DOE with the citizens advisory boards. She

stated that if ownership was transferred to DOD, she would advocate a high level of continued public involvement.

Bob Slay recommended the Board draft a letter regarding the budget reductions on the Environmental Management Program at SRS. He suggested the letter be drafted by him and Mildred McClain and provided to the Board within 30 days for comment. He said a final letter could be agreed upon at the next Board meeting. Mildred McClain echoed this recommendation. Board members discussed various issues they wished to see reflected in the letter. Jeff Crane suggested a more detailed presentation on how the EM budget is to be affected may be helpful to the Board.

(A special meeting of the Board was scheduled for February 21, 1995, at the Barnwell County Museum in Barnwell, S.C., from 10 a.m. - 12 noon for Board members to receive a more comprehensive budget briefing.)

Membership Replacement Election and Subcommittee Report

The Membership Replacement Election was postponed until March 28, 1995, due to information recently made available. One candidate had told several Board members he was relocating out of state and one candidate's qualifications as a public official came into question due to the outcome of political elections held in November 1994. Following discussion of Dennis William's expressed intentions to relocate, a tie vote between Sam Booher and Vernon Zinnerman was reached. Discussion then pursued on the status of Sam Booher as a public official. **Brian Costner moved the Membership Subcommittee contact the three candidates regarding their status as public officials and their ability to serve on the Board and that the election be deferred until the afternoon. P.K. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 16 members in favor and one abstaining.**

Membership Replacement Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins also presented three candidates for replacing the public official position held by Harry Jue. The applications provided to the Board were Paul Feldman of Savannah, Ga.; Larry McKinney of Richmond Hill, Ga.; and Martin Stringer of Columbia, S.C. Ms. Wilkins stated that an election will be held at the Board's March meeting. Following a 15-day public comment period, any comments will be forwarded to the full Board and the Agencies at least 10-days prior to the election, she said.

Beaurine Wilkins also discussed attendance and stated that if a Board member is absent for two consecutive meetings, he or she will be contacted by the subcommittee. She said individuals missing four consecutive meetings would be brought before Board for consideration for removal. She also asked that board members notify the subcommittee by letter if they are to be absent. She presented two letters from Board members Lenola Cooks and Lane Parker as examples. She also stated that the Membership Subcommittee will be closely tracking attendance in 1995, including Board members who arrive late and leave early. She then asked for three volunteers to serve initial two-year terms and when no members volunteered, stated the subcommittee would assign two-year terms to individuals based on attendance.

Bob Slay discussed Rachael Harper's intention to resign from the Board. **Brian Costner suggested the Board pass a resolution to send Ms. Harper a letter encouraging her continued participation. Julie Arbogast seconded. The resolution passed with 15 Board members in favor and two abstaining.**

During the afternoon, the Membership Replacement Subcommittee announced they were only able to reach one individual, Sam Booher, and that he no longer qualified as a public official. **JoAnn Nestor moved the Board vote to break the tie from the morning election, stating that the original applications were the only information from which the Membership Subcommittee had to base their selection of candidates. Thelonius Jones seconded the motion. The Board rejected the motion with a vote of seven in favor, nine opposed and one abstention.**

Much discussion pursued regarding a conflict of bylaws and the fact that the bylaws require replacement of a member from the current pool of applicants on file, yet the current pool is inadequate. **Brian Costner moved the Board fill both vacant positions of public official at the March Board meeting. Tom Greene seconded. The motion died from lack of majority. Bob Slay moved the Board consult with DOE Chief Counsel regarding the conflict of bylaws and seek clearance to advertise for qualified applicants, allowing the Membership Replacement Subcommittee to move forward in replacing the vacant position. Anne Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 14 in favor, two opposed and 1 abstention.** *(The DOE Office of Chief Counsel rendered it legal to solicit the needed applications since a conflict of bylaws was recognized and addressed at the Board meeting.)*

Election of Subcommittee Co-chairperson

Ann Loadholt stated that Myles Grant had been nominated as Co-chairperson of the Environmental Remediation Subcommittee and all proper notices had been made. Bill Lawless seconded the nomination. **Myles Grant was elected as Environmental Remediation Program Subcommittee co-chair by a unanimous vote by Board members present.**

Executive Subcommittee Report

Bob Slay read the draft operating procedures for the Executive Subcommittee (see attached). Brian Costner moved the Board adopt the procedures. P.K. Smith seconded the motion. **The Board voted unanimously to adopt the operating procedures.**

Budget Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chairperson Tom Greene presented a budget summary for the first quarter of fiscal year 1995 (see attached). He stated the Board was running under budget due to several factors, including the fact that no meetings were held in December 1994, a facilitator has not yet been employed and honorariums would not be funded by the CAB's budget. He stated there was currently a high variance but that the budget would smooth out during the next few quarters. Tom Greene also stated that proposals for facilitation were due on January 31. He said he,

Mildred McClain and Bob Slay would conduct a technical evaluation of the proposals in February and that a contract should be awarded shortly.

Education Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chairperson P.K. Smith presented a rough draft of the Board's Action Plan (see attached). She requested feedback from the Board and asked the issues-based subcommittee chairpersons to provide proposed agendas. She stated this was a living document to be constantly updated and revised. Mildred McClain asked that a statement be added to reflect the importance of health effects as a focus of the subcommittees.

P.K. Smith also stressed commitment to subcommittees and encouraged more participation from Board members. Board members decided advertising for subcommittee meetings will be increased and issues-based subcommittees will be given priority on Monday evenings, prior to regular meetings of the Board.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chairperson Tom Costikyan presented draft operating guidelines and provided meeting minutes from a January 10, 1995, subcommittee meeting (see attached).

He stated the subcommittee met on January 10 at SRS to receive an overview of nuclear materials management and tour the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels and F Canyon. He stated there are two upcoming draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to be released in mid-February. These are the Foreign Research Reactor (FRR) EIS and the Interim Materials Nuclear Management (IMNM) EIS. He said the subcommittee would first focus on the FRR EIS and hoped to provide a motion to the full Board at the March meeting. He asked the subcommittee to review the draft FRR EIS and identify areas for additional dialogue. He stated there are several issues to discuss including whether spent nuclear fuel should be returned to the United States and if so where, how long it would have to be stored, how it would be treated and why the government feels it is in the national interest to bring spent nuclear fuel rods back to the United States in the first place.

Board members discussed the need to provide information to the general public and various ways this could be done. Mildred McClain asked members to provide mailing lists to Dawn Haygood to be added to the CAB mailing list. Bob Slay stated JoAnn Nestor and Mildred McClain would be working on a brochure for the Board.

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chairperson Brian Costner presented a timeline and the components for the product being produced by the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee. He stated stakeholder recommendations on future use are due by December 1995 and that the subcommittee planned to draft a recommendation and report to be presented to the full Board at the September meeting. He said four important components of developing this recommendation are current site conditions, the relationship between land use and the long-term environmental

remediation program, guidelines for citing future facilities and descriptions of the public vision for SRS. He stated that on the previous evening, two members of the working group had presented a strawman of their vision of SRS in 30 years and that there was a tremendous amount of overlap. He said Tom Greene would be working with these individuals on this key aspect of the report.

Environmental Remediation Program Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Co-chairperson Bill Lawless presented an introduction and motion summary for near-term cleanup decision-making for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) waste units (see attached). He briefly discussed the status of environmental remediation (ER) at SRS and how political pressures may reduce the ER budget. He stated that if the site is forced to clean to residential standards, the ER program will bankrupt SRS and that there are severe problems which will remain virtually ignored, including the canyons, the high-level waste tank farms and plutonium 238.

Bill Lawless briefly discussed the purpose of the motion, which is to provide a realistic basis for making decisions on remedial actions for CERCLA waste units, and how the motion was developed.

Clay Jones of Westinghouse Savannah River Company discussed the CERCLA process. He explained how waste units are identified, characterized and studied and how remedial alternatives are determined. He discussed exposure pathways and land use alternatives and presented a comparison of residential and industrial cleanup alternatives. Mr. Jones presented fourteen operable waste units that would be affected by the motion if passed and accepted and discussed a decision diagram for CERCLA waste units.

Much discussion revolved around future use of SRS land. Brian Costner stated that the basic premise of EPA and SCDHEC is to get the land back to residential standards. He said there is no guarantee that 50 to 100 years from now the government will maintain institutional control of the land. He stated it is easy to look at industrial and residential comparisons but asked if, for example, the SRL Seepage Basins are cleaned to industrial standards, would the government be willing to spend millions of dollars in 2015 to go back and remove the contamination. He stated he supported the essence of the motion but that institutional control assumes there will always be someone there keeping watch over the land. In response, it was reiterated that CERCLA requires reevaluation of remedial decisions on a five year frequency if all of a contamination site is not removed or stabilized. Therefore, institutional control must be maintained or additional remedial action would be required.

Bill Lawless stated that cleanup to residential standards is a laudable goal but it is not going to happen. He asked why anyone would spend money without guarantees and stated the motion brings rationale to the CERCLA process. He said no one would spend \$100,000 on a house and not get a house.

Ann Loadholt asked about problems with migration of game animals. Clay Jones stated no significant risk have been noted in studies conducted for the Annual Environmental Report and that intruder scenarios are considered in CERCLA evaluations.

Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the ER Subcommittee's motion. Thelonius Jones seconded the motion. Ann Loadholt asked how quickly the motion would influence the CERCLA process, should it pass. Tom Heenan stated it would be reflected in 1996 work plans, but that some work in FY 1995 could also be affected.

Brian Costner presented an amended motion (see attached). He moved the Board accept the original motion as amended. Tom Greene seconded. Bill Lawless stated he had no objections except to the word change from "interim" to "current" in 4.a and its interpretation. Brian Costner stated the word current only reflected the word used in the map's legend. Much discussion pursued on the interpretation of the map. Bill Lawless stated the map would be revised to include groundwater contaminated areas in the industrial boundaries. Jeff Crane cautioned that groundwater must also comply with laws and criteria other than those established by CERCLA.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the motion as amended.

Administrative Items

Thelonius Jones stated he was uncomfortable with only three individuals reviewing the proposals for a facilitator. He also stated he was not comfortable with the process in place to identify Board members for miscellaneous travel to various functions. JoAnn Nestor echoed his concern, stating that the chairpersons only come to the Board after they have discussed the miscellaneous travel with individuals and then they are proposed to the Board. She stated there are no nominations from the full Board on which individuals should attend various functions.

Public Comments

The following comments were provided on Monday, January 23, 1995, at 6 p.m. at a public meeting held by the Board.

Commentor: George Minot, Hilton Head Island Resident

Mr. Minot stated the flow of information to the general public should be increased. He said he had received information about the Consortium for Environmental Risk Evaluation (CERE) Program. He said CERE is conducting a qualitative risk evaluation based on publicly available information and stated that he hoped they had more information than the general public receives. He said the general public is not being told how serious the problems really are at SRS. The latest incident concerns F and H Area groundwater and plans to pump and treat the water and then return it to the ground allowing tritium to slowly decay, he said. He stated he was concerned about the danger of tritium to the drinking water and had requested information two days prior to a public meeting to be held on this issue; however received it two days after the meeting was held. He stated the information he received appeared to be compartmentalized so that no one

could get the full picture. Clay Jones said he had spoke with Mr. Minot about the dynamics of the situation and assured him it would be corrected immediately.

Mr. Minot also commented on future use. He questioned how SRS could develop a simplistic questionnaire for stakeholders on future use when so much is involved. He said future use options should be understandable listing pros and cons and cover all scenarios. He said realistic time frames for future use should also be addressed. He stated he had mailed a letter to Don Druelle of DOE regarding these concerns. Bob Slay asked SRS representatives present to assure Mr. Minot received a detailed response. Brian Costner stated he had similar concerns regarding the questionnaire on future use to stakeholders and asked for a copy of Mr. Minot's letter for distribution at the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee meeting and encouraged Mr. Minot to participate in the subcommittee meeting. He stated Mr. Minot was not alone in his concerns about CERRE and that they had been raised on numerous occasions.

Commentor: Charlotte Marsala, Hilton Head Island Resident Home Owners Association

Ms. Marsala stated she had questions she did not feel had been adequately addressed by the Department of Energy. She stated she had repeatedly contacted WSRC personnel concerning information in the 1992 Annual Environmental Report, but had not received satisfactory responses. She was interested in the effects of earthquakes on seepage basins at SRS and said she had raised this issue at a town hall meeting on the Defense Waste Processing Facility and was told that the request was unrelated to DWPF and no information was available.

Bob Slay requested Ms. Marsala provide him with her questions and Tom Heenan assured a response. Ms Marsala also expressed concern about the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels and a section in the Annual Environmental Report that addressed radiation exposure.

The following comments were provided on Tuesday, January 24, 1995, at 3:30 p.m. during the public comment session.

Commentor: Charlotte Marsala, Hilton Head Island Resident Home Owners Association

Ms. Marsala presented questions to the CAB that she said she did not feel had been adequately responded to by SRS representatives.

Commentor: Dr. Joe Stocker, Hilton Head Island Resident

Dr. Stocker stated that during the Board meeting a point had been made that local citizens were only concerned about tritium, yet materials are being shipped from abroad and one possible port of entry is Savannah. He asked if the CAB had considered such matters as rail accidents and contamination from the shipment of spent nuclear fuel rods.

Dr. Stocker was invited to participate on the Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee and will receive related environmental impact statements.

Commentor: George Minot, Hilton Head Island Resident

Mr. Minot encouraged CAB members to participate in subcommittee meetings. He stated he had volunteered for the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee and had attended a number of meetings but that only CAB members are official members and therefore their participation is critical.

Handouts

- Calendar of Public Involvement Events
- "Citizens Advisory Board Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Tuesday, January 10, 1995 Minutes," Tom Costikyan.
- "Draft SRS CAB 1995 Workplan Overview," P.K. Smith.
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report
- "Environmental Remediation and Health Effects Subcommittee Motion on the Basis for Near Term Decision Making for CERCLA Waste Units," Bill Lawless.
- January 20, 1995 Letter to Mildred McClain and Robert Slay from DOE regarding Independent Technical Review of Savannah River Site Environmental Documents.
- January 20, 1995 Memo to the SRS CAB from Beaurine Wilkins regarding Candidates for Board Member replacement.
- Letter from the Hanford Advisory Board to Secretary Hazel O'Leary regarding Consensus Advice to Honor the TPA in the Face of Budget Cuts.
- Office of Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board Guidance.
- "Operating Guidelines for the SRS CAB Subcommittee on Nuclear Materials Management," Tom Costikyan.
- "Operating Guidelines for the SRS CAB Subcommittee on Risk Management and Future Use," Brian Costner.
- "Operating Procedures for the SRS CAB Executive Subcommittee," Bob Slay and Mildred McClain.
- Pre-decisional Draft for U.S. Department of Energy Proposed Environmental Justice Strategy Executive Order 12898
- Proposed Amendment from Brian Costner on the SRS CAB Environmental Remediation Subcommittee Motion on Basis for Near Term Decision Making For CERCLA Waste Units.
- SRS CAB 1995 Meeting Schedule
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation Subcommittee Motion on Basis for Near Term Decision Making For CERCLA Waste Units.
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Fiscal Year 1995 Budget Summary