



February 1995 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Members Present

Members present were Brian Costner, Tom Greene, Ann Loadholt, Bob Slay and P.K. Smith. Others present included Tom Heenan, Steve Richardson, deLisa Bratcher, Jim Buice and Bill Brumbly of the Department of Energy; Mary Flora, Clay Jones, Dawn Haygood and Leslie Huber of Westinghouse Savannah River Company; and four members of the general public (see attached). The Department of Energy Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan.

Tom Heenan presented the Environmental Management (EM) Program Budget Outlook for the Citizens Advisory Board (see attached). The purpose of this presentation was to provide the Board with anticipated funding levels for the Savannah River EM Program for Fiscal Years 1995-2000 and to receive input from the Board regarding the appropriate process to involve SRS stakeholders in the decision making process, focusing on prioritizing sitewide activities for the FY 1997 budget submittal.

Tom Heenan discussed the ability to fund environmental remediation projects versus the requirements of the program and stated DOE is working with its regulators to address the funding shortfall and taking other actions to improve efficiency. He stated that although substantial improvements have been made there is still a substantial delta between initial cleanup cost estimates and currently projected estimates. Board members asked if the delta would be reduced by renegotiating compliance agreements and how much efficiency improvements were based on reducing contract employees and the ratio of the DOE to the contractor. Mr. Heenan stated bottom-up stakeholder involvement is necessary to re-establish the priorities for the Site. He said the environmental remediation program is manpower intensive but can be accomplished with fewer people. He stated it was critical for the site to demonstrate cost effectiveness.

One Board member questioned whether standards are addressed in compliance agreements. Tom Heenan stated the pace of the work is what is addressed. Another member observed that if standards are held constant, then the opportunity to develop new technology exists. Mr. Heenan agreed stating that it may be better and more cost effective in some instances to stabilize and protect and then focus on future technologies. One Board member stated that DOE is under pressure to show results and that technology development is currently mostly on paper and that it is far more expensive to go into the field to prove technologies. He said it was important to identify the most significant and cost effective programs in FY 1996-97 and target these for implementation the way they were initially intended.

Tom Heenan discussed the expanded scope of the SRS EM Program in 1995. He stated that EM normally thought of as the cleanup program but now more appropriately reflects a broader scope post Cold War management program. He discussed proposed significant budget cuts of approximately \$4.4 billion over the next five years for the DOE complex-wide EM Program and stated that DOE, in cooperation with stakeholders, must assess site needs and priorities and determine actions to be taken to mitigate and resolve the impacts of these cuts.

Board members discussed the SRS Cost Estimate Profile Compliance Case and the same information including productivity savings (see attached). One member thought the layout of the chart should be modified stating it appeared to illustrate that if the ER program is deleted, then the funding issues could be resolved.

Tom Heenan presented the Savannah River FY 1996 Outlook stating that absent of the workforce reduction, DOE is still looking at a 20 percent reduction of baseline costs in the EM program by cost improvement initiatives. He gave an example of one cost improvement initiative that was realized working with the regulators and stated that \$5 million a year was being saved with reduced groundwater sampling.

Mr. Heenan stated DOE would achieve a greater than 15-20 percent savings by downsizing the contractor work force by 4200. He also stated that minimum regulatory requirements will be met in FY1996 assuming required budget amendments in FY 1996 and reprogramming in FY 1995. He stated current funding levels will require deferral of some nuclear materials management planned to address a recommendation from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

A Board member stated that during the ER Stand-down, one initiative was for DOE employees to serve as ER project managers taking more ownership. He asked if the new contract allowed DOE to go further with this idea. Tom Heenan stated there previously had not been resources, but DOE is assembling to implement the project. Tom Greene asked if DOE staffing is falling in proportion to the contractors with the workforce reduction. Tom Heenan stated that DOE staff is increasing as DOE takes more ownership of projects previously supported by contractors.

Tom Heenan discussed the outlook for FY 1997 and beyond stating that proposed funding levels will not support all required activities. He said public involvement is needed in the 1997 budget submittal and discussed a path forward for stakeholder participation. Bob Slay stated that at the National SSAB meeting held February 14, 1995, Assistant Secretary Thomas Grumbly had asked for CAB input on priorities by April 17, 1995. Tom Heenan stated SRS had been working with computer models to help prioritize SRS projects since December and that two, long and short prioritization lists had been developed. Clay Jones gave a brief description of the computer model used to establish the priority lists. He stated eight criteria were used and numerical points were assigned to each activity depending on the answers derived by a matrix of questions applied to each activity.

Board members decided to hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 1995, to receive a briefing on the SRS prioritization process and attempt to make a recommendation regarding the SRS FY 1997 budget submittal. They decided SRS regulators, Beth Partlow of the Office of the Governor of South Carolina and other interested members of the general public were to be invited as well.