



May 1995 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board
May 23, 1995 Aiken SC

Members Present

Members present were Julie Arbogast, Ann Brown, Thomas Costikyan, Brian Costner, Alice Hollingsworth, Thelonius Jones, Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Larry McKinney, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, Kamalakar Raut, Andrew Rea, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio Representatives were Tom Heenan, Steve Richardson, Camilla Warren, John Stockwell (Alternate), Ann Ragan and Jim Brownlow (Alternate).

Members absent were Lenola Cooks, Myles Grant, Thomas Greene, Walter Jones, Bill Lawless, Mildred McClain and Pat Tousignant. Jeff Crane of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Myra Reece of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) were not in attendance. The DOE Designated Federal Official present was Steve Richardson.

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

J. Walter Joseph of Aiken, S.C. served as the CAB Facilitator. New Board members Larry McKinney and Vernon Zinnerman were introduced upon arrival.

Key Decisions Made by Board

June Fogle of Savannah, Ga. was elected to fill the vacant position previously held by Rachael Harper of Estill, S.C.

JoAnn Nestor was unanimously elected Bylaws Chairperson.

The Board unanimously adopted Operating Procedures for the Expenditure of Funds.

The Board voted unanimously for the Education Subcommittee, Ann Loadholt and Julie Arbogast to work with SRS representatives on a Barnwell County Pilot Program concerning a risk communication initiative, and return a recommendation regarding Board-level endorsement of the program.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 28, 1995, CAB meeting were approved with no changes. There was discussion regarding the contents of Board minutes. Brian Costner stated he would like to see more of the substantive discussion reflected within the minutes. Andrew Rea moved the Board table approval of the minutes until Mr. Costner could develop suggested changes to the minutes. The motion failed with ten members opposed and four in favor. Board members then voted to approve the minutes as written with ten members in favor, one opposed and three abstentions.

Agency Updates

Ann Ragan of SCDHEC reported that nationally there are ongoing budget recensions that could greatly affect SRS, including the work that can be accomplished and the number of employees the site can maintain. She also stated a bill has been proposed that will take away state's regulatory authority at DOE facilities, beginning at Hanford. She said her agency felt that if this bill passed, other sites would follow, including SRS. Ms. Ragan also reported there is still talk in Washington, D.C. of abolishing the Department of Energy and reconfiguring its activities.

Camilla Warren of EPA announced that a show-cause meeting was held to allow DOE to explain why a penalty should not be issued on overdue Records of Decision for the F and H Area Proposed Plans. She stated much information had been presented by DOE and was being reviewed by EPA with a decision forthcoming. She stated a press release regarding the outcome would be issued.

Camilla Warren also announced that the agencies were in dispute resolution regarding Appendix E of the Federal Facility Agreement, which deals with outyear schedules for milestones, due to budget constraints foreseen by SRS. She stated EPA's position is that the SRS budget is low in regards to environmental cleanup when compared to other sites such as Hanford, Oak Ridge and Fernald. She stated the SRS environmental restoration budget should be increased as opposed to decreased. She said a tentative compromise between the agencies had been reached and that the matter would not be elevated further until June 30, 1995.

Ms. Warren stated EPA is still looking at downstream fish data for contaminants common to SRS streams (Strontium 90 and Cesium 137). She said data is being analyzed for human health exposure. She also reported that public outreach meetings on SRS activities had been scheduled in Savannah for late June.

Steve Richardson of DOE announced a video conference would be held June 8, 1995, by Thomas Grumbly, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, regarding Fiscal Year 1997 budget priorities. He also announced two local open houses being conducted for Defense Waste Processing Facility activities.

Membership Replacement Election and Subcommittee Report

One replacement Board member was elected by silent ballot. **June Fogle of Savannah, Ga. was elected to fill the vacant position previously held by Rachael Harper of Estill, S.C.**

Board members discussed whether replacement candidates should have the opportunity to present to the Board prior to an election. Following discussion, the Membership Replacement Subcommittee agreed to provide a recommendation regarding the screening of replacement candidates at the July 25, 1995, Board meeting.

Nominations/Elections Subcommittee Report

JoAnn Nestor was unanimously elected Bylaws Chairperson by acclamation.

Budget Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Vice Chairperson Thelonius Jones presented a line-item budget summary for the second quarter of fiscal year 1995 (see attached). He emphasized areas the Board was running under budget including the fact that meetings are held bi-monthly, the facilitator has just recently been employed and honorariums will not be funded by the CAB's budget. Brian Costner asked if fiscal year 1996 funding was being addressed. Steve Richardson stated FY 1996 needs would be assessed and projected against the FY 1995 budget. Dawn Haygood stated DOE-Headquarters EM5 Office was currently looking at FY1996 funding. Mr. Costner suggested Tom Greene, Budget Subcommittee Chairperson contact DOE-Headquarters.

Thelonius Jones also presented Draft Operating Procedures for the Expenditure of Funds. The following clarifications were made to the procedures: 1) when applicable, both co-chairpersons must approve expenditures; 2) each quarter, expenditures up to \$700 are permitted per subcommittee; and 3) Subcommittee expenditures totaling over \$700 but less than \$2500 are approved by the SRS CAB Co-chairperson and the Budget Subcommittee. **Lane Parker moved the Board accept the Operating Procedures for the Expenditure of Funds as amended. Vernon Zinnerman seconded the motion. The procedures were unanimously approved.**

Motion Submitted by Andrew Rea - Definition of Independent Scientific Peer Review

Andrew Rea submitted a motion to better define independent scientific peer review and provide guidance to the agencies (see attached). Ann Brown seconded the motion. Kathryn May moved the Board table the motion and refer it to the Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee for further deliberation since this subcommittee had initiated all recommendations regarding independent scientific peer reviews. She stated a proposed definition could be presented by the subcommittee at the next Board meeting. Alice Hollingsworth seconded. **The Board voted to table the motion until July 25, 1995, with thirteen members in favor, two opposed and one abstention.**

Board Business

Walt Joseph presented an outline of facilitation responsibilities (see attached) and Board members provided the following criteria for processes to be developed by Mr. Joseph.

Process for Coordinating and Tracking Public Responses

The following items should be addressed by the process:

- a) It should be noted if the question or comment is directly related to Board activities.
- b) It is the Board's responsibility to forward issues unrelated to the CAB to SRS and send confirmation to the requester noting the site's responsibility to respond.
- c) One contact person should be identified.
- d) A standard conduit should be established with a central mailing location.

Process for Tracking Board Recommendations

The following items should be addressed by the process:

- a) Clearly define when a recommendation left the CAB.
- b) What is the agency response to recommendation.
- c) Provide a comparison of the response to the recommendation.
- d) The initiating subcommittee should be identified.
- e) A regular status update should be provided to Board allowing time for discussion.
- f) A tracking document should be placed in the DOE Public Reading Room.

Board members also discussed CAB news releases. Walt Joseph will take an active role in the development of news releases. News releases will be provided when the Board takes an action and may also be issued following agency response to the recommendation following Board discussion. Board members also discussed producing an effective communication tool designed for mass audiences, such as a newsletter.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan presented a proposed recommendation on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (FRR EIS). (See attached.) He stated that six alternatives were reviewed regarding the handling and interim management of spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors and that the subcommittee was providing recommendations on a number of related issues. He stated the subcommittee strongly supports the nuclear nonproliferation policy of the United States and then discussed specific recommendations to support the objective of accepting and managing spent fuel in the United States. He stated that approximately 22,000 fuel elements were being addressed by the FRR EIS and that bringing them to the United States is in utmost support of the nonproliferation policy.

Mr. Costikyan stated the subcommittee supports a ten-year acceptance policy for low-enriched uranium elements and an indefinite acceptance policy for high-enriched uranium not received within the ten-year time period. He said the subcommittee agreed that 16,000 aluminum-clad fuel elements should be received by SRS but that upgrades and scrutiny of the L Reactor Disassembly Basin would be required. This would be the first phase of managing the fuel elements in wet storage, he said, and the second phase would be to chemically separate the fuel elements at SRS, followed by blending to low-enriched uranium (see proposed recommendation). Mr. Costikyan stated the subcommittee recommends that DOE subsidize the return of fuel only when a nation cannot afford to do so and the nonproliferation policy is in jeopardy. He said the final section of the recommendation was related to shipment and handling of fuel elements, stating that the subcommittee considers these risks to be minimal. He emphasized cost effectiveness and stated a well-conceived education program regarding transportation would be beneficial. Discussion revolved around the differences in low-enriched uranium and high-enriched uranium, corrosion in the L Reactor Basin, the inventory of the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels, dry storage technology and shipping requirements.

Following the afternoon break it was recognized that a quorum had been lost. Options were discussed and the Board decided to contact DOE-Headquarters regarding a deadline for the acceptance of public comments on the FRR EIS. It was determined that if Headquarters would not give the same amount of importance to comments received after the deadline, then a special Board meeting would be conducted. (*A special meeting was scheduled for June 20, 1995 to vote on this proposed recommendation.*)

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Chair Brian Costner provided copies of the latest version of the subcommittee's *Draft Vision Future Land Use - Savannah River Site* report (see attached). He stated the document primarily focuses on industrial uses but that additional values are being incorporated, some a result of the previous evening's subcommittee meeting. He credited Todd Crawford, subcommittee working group member, for the majority of work on the report stating he was working closely with Board member Tom Greene and Dave Christensen, another member of the working group.

Brian Costner encouraged Board members to review the report. He said Julie Arbogast and Beaurine Wilkins were creating descriptions of SRS in manageable units, to describe how areas would fit into a future use plan. Mr. Costner also expressed dismay over a news article regarding the previous evening subcommittee meeting, stating it missed the point and he would speak with the reporter regarding the subcommittee's intentions.

Barnwell Pilot Program on Annual Environmental Report

Clay Jones of Westinghouse Savannah River Company gave a presentation on a Community-Specific Risk Communication Initiative (see attached). He discussed a Barnwell County pilot program in which surveys, interviews and group meetings with citizens will be conducted to determine their perceptions of environmental risk and other key concerns. A community-specific strategy will then be developed based on these perceptions and key concerns and addressed in a

customized form that is meaningful to the local community. This process could then be applied to other communities based on lessons learned in Barnwell County, he said. He stated this initiative had been suggested by Ann Loadholt and Julie Arbogast as a way to better communicate with Barnwell County citizens and asked the Board of its desire to be involved.

Following discussion regarding the Medical University of South Carolina's role as subcontractor conducting the pilot program, the need for credibility and the Board's level of involvement, **JoAnn Nestor moved that the Board authorize the Education Subcommittee and Ann Loadholt and Julie Arbogast to work with SRS representatives on the Barnwell County pilot program and return a recommendation regarding Board-level endorsement of the program. Brian Costner seconded the motion. Board members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

Administrative Items

Thelonius Jones requested the Board consider formation of a Disadvantaged Community Outreach Subcommittee. Board members voted not to add this item to the day's agenda by a vote of nine in favor, five opposed and three abstentions. It was agreed Thelonius Jones would author a motion for consideration at the July 25, 1995, Board meeting.

JoAnn Nestor asked for comments on a draft brochure mailed to Board members prior to the meeting. She stated comments would be incorporated prior to printing a final brochure.

Brian Costner asked Board members to examine his letter dated May 16, 1995 regarding his review of the Board's first five recommendations and provide individual feedback if it could not be discussed during the meeting. Bob Slay stated time could be requested on the next agenda to discuss the recommendation review.

Public Comments

Walter Futrell, local resident

Walter Futrell stated it was frustrating to attend a day-long meeting and lose a quorum. He told the Board to get with the program or go away. He stated he is a fire protection engineer with concerns regarding the operation of the canyons. He stated he is not opposed to operating the canyons but concerned that it is done in a safe manner. He said the Board should be concerned with safety issues as well as employment issues. He stated the Board's recommendation should document the need for the highest fire protection standards. He closed by stating he had attended a DOE fire protection conference and that in order to save money, DOE was reducing safety standards. He said if the costs of safety improvements presented a problem, DOE should find others to conduct this type work. He stated facilities being depended upon should not be lost to fire.

Ten citizens attended a public meeting held Monday, May 22, 1995, at 6 p.m. at the Partridge Inn in Augusta, Ga. Clarifying questions were asked regarding Board recommendations and four individuals requested copies of all Board recommendations.

Handouts

- Letter, DOE to SRS CAB, dated May 12, 1995, subject: CAB Recommendation No. 3 - Independent Scientific Peer Review of A/M and F& H Groundwater Remediation Projects
- Letter, DOE to SRS CAB, dated May 16, 1995, subject: Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Environmental Impact Statement
- Facilitation Responsibilities of Walt Joseph
- SRS CAB Fiscal Year 1995 Budget Summary
- SRS CAB Draft Operating Procedures for the Expenditures of Funds
- Motion on the Constitution of CAB Recommended Independent Scientific Peer Reviews, Andrew Rea
- SRS CAB Draft Recommendation on Draft EIS on Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel, May 23, 1995
- News Article, dated Tuesday, May 23, 1995, subject: SRS gets land use proposal, Augusta Chronicle, South Carolina Edition
- Draft Vision Future Land Use - Savannah River Site, Brian Costner
- Community-Specific Risk Communication Initiative slides, Clay Jones, WSRC
- Letter, DOE to SRS CAB, dated May 22, 1995, subject: CAB Recommendation No. 3: Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) Statement of Work and Selection of ISPR Lead Investigator
- Letter, Brian Costner to SRS CAB, dated May 16, 1995, subject: Review of the CAB's Recommendations
- Letter, EPA to DOE-Paducah, dated May 18, 1995, subject: Revised FY95 Deliverables and Outyear Milestones Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
- Calendar of Public Involvement Events
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report