



June 1995 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Aiken, S.C

Members Present

Members present were Julie Arbogast, Anne Brown, Lenola Cooks, Thomas Costikyan, Brian Costner, Thomas Greene, Alice Hollingsworth, Thelonius Jones, Walter Jones, Bill Lawless, Larry McKinney, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, Kamalakar Raut, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio Representatives were Tom Heenan, Mike Sellers (Alternate) and Ann Ragan.

Members absent were Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Mildred McClain, Andrew Rea and Pat Tousignant. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was not represented and Myra Reece of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) was not in attendance. The DOE Designated Federal Officials present were Tom Heenan and Mike Sellers.

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. Board Member Myles Grant was not present due to his resignation effective June 14, 1995.

This meeting was called to discuss and vote on a Nuclear Materials Subcommittee proposed recommendation which was first presented at the May 23, 1995, Board meeting. Due to a lack of a quorum at that meeting and a public comment period deadline of June 20, 1995, a special meeting was required to take action on the proposed recommendation regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (FRR SNF EIS).

Bob Slay opened the meeting stating that agenda times were approximate and the Board may adjourn early following a public comment opportunity. He then read Article VI of the Board Bylaws regarding proxy voting at special meetings and stated that proxy instruments had been provided to five individuals who were unable to attend. He said four proxy votes were returned. Bob Slay said he would entertain a motion that the recommendation be voted on as presented prior to amendments. **Tom Greene moved that the first vote taken on the proposed recommendation be verbatim in order to give those voting by proxy fair consideration. Lane Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed with 12 members in favor, one opposed and five abstentions.**

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan briefly presented the six elements of the proposed recommendation on the Draft FRR EIS (see attached.) He stated that the recommendation endorses bringing the spent fuel rods to the United States in maximum support of the nonproliferation policy. It also supports a policy duration of ten years, he said. Mr. Costikyan stated the subcommittee agreed with the selection of SRS to receive the aluminum-clad fuels and stated subcommittee attention has focused on the L Reactor Disassembly Basin for Phase 1 of the wet storage period at SRS. He said the recommendation urges intense scrutiny of corrosion activity in the L Reactor Basin.

Mr. Costikyan stated the subcommittee considers chemical separation of spent fuel rods at SRS, followed by blending to low-enriched uranium, to be the preferred alternative during Phase 2 of the program. He presented a slide regarding reasoning for why chemical separation is preferred over dry storage (see attached). He discussed the fifth element of the recommendation stating that some of the 41 nations in the Atoms for Peace program may not be able to pay to return the spent fuel rods and therefore the recommendation includes subsidies be provided to nations only to the degree that they are required to assure cooperation in the program's implementation. Regarding the sixth element of the recommendation, Mr. Costikyan stated the subcommittee sees minimal risks to workers but acknowledges citizen's concerns and encourages DOE to provide an education program to better familiarize affected communities.

Discussion revolved around the upgrade of the L Reactor Disassembly Basin and required facility modifications, existing corrosion in the basin, seismic considerations and safety problems. Brian Costner presented proposed amendments and supporting rationale to two elements of the recommendation (see attached). Board members further discussed safety documentation and independent overview by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board regarding the L Reactor Disassembly Basin, reprocessing versus dry storage as methods for handling spent fuel rods, associated cost assumptions and the lack of a good analysis of the two methods within the FRR EIS. During discussion, Tom Costikyan presented an additional view graph regarding H-Canyon historical dissolutions (see attached).

Following the public comment session, Tom Costikyan moved the Board approve the proposed recommendation as written. Walter Jones seconded the motion. The recommendation was approved as submitted by the subcommittee by a majority vote of 15 members in favor, four opposed and three abstentions.

Public Comments

Tom Ciravolo, Aiken, S.C. resident

Tom Ciravolo inquired about the safety of the L Reactor Disassembly Basin in a seismic event and asked if the basin could collapse during an earthquake. Rick Geddes of Westinghouse Savannah River Company discussed the analysis provided in the FRR EIS. Board member Brian Costner clarified that the analysis in the EIS assumed one earthquake in 5000 years and stated that both RBOF and the L Reactor Basin were not designed to meet current seismic regulations.

Rick Geddes stated the acceptable level of risk has declined since 1950 and that although the levels then were very safe the new standards are even safer.

Walter Futrell, local resident

Walter Futrell expressed concern that the Board may not be well-informed regarding corrosion in the L Reactor Disassembly Basin. He also stated that the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board did not employ a fire protection engineer. He said when he asked why, he was told one was not needed because contractors are relied upon to inform the Board of fire protection issues.

Board members reconvened to accommodate the following commentators who arrived after the Board had voted and adjourned:

Sam Manning, Spartanburg, S.C. resident

Sam Manning expressed gratitude to the Board for serving to protect the country. He stated he was glad someone is concerned about radioactive problems and referred to an Arthur Little study he had been a part of on the solidification of Transuranic Waste. He stated that radiation causes cancer and birth defects but that EISs only count includes deaths in cancer rates. He referred to the Greenwood Genetic Center and a letter he mailed to Senator Strom Thurmond endorsing the center (see enclosed). Mr. Manning stated that South Carolina faces a great burden and stated that a complete and full study should be completed and stated the Board should have asked the National Academy of Sciences to review the FRR EIS. Mr. Manning also submitted a statement titled "Our Endangered State" for the record (see attached).

Lee Poe, Aiken, S.C. resident

Lee Poe suggested the SRS CAB initiate a newsletter to communicate Board activities. He also stated in regard to the FRR EIS, that he is concerned about permanent disposal at SRS. He stated that the EIS refers to interim storage and said DOE should demonstrate disposal of spent fuel if it is not reprocessed.

Handouts

- Meeting Agenda dated June 20, 1995.
- SRS CAB Recommendation on Draft EIS on Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel, dated May 23, 1995.
- Amendments to the SRS CAB Proposed Recommendation on the Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Draft Environmental Impact Statement, dated June 20, 1995, submitted by Brian Costner.
- H-Canyon Dissolving Study slide, Tom Costikyan.
- FRR-SNF Disposition Evaluation Processing versus Storage slide, Tom Costikyan.
- News article dated June 20, 1995, Augusta Chronicle.
- Letter to Senator Strom Thurmond from Sam P. Manning dated October 5, 1994.
- "Our Endangered State," by Sam P. Manning.