



July 1995 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Barnwell, S.C.

Members Present

Members present were Ann Brown, Lenola Cooks, Thomas Costikyan, Alice Hollingsworth, Thelonius Jones, Walter Jones, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Mildred McClain, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, Kamalakar Raut, Andrew Rea, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Pat Tousignant, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio Representatives: Tom Heenan, Charlie Anderson (Alternate), Jeff Crane, Ann Ragan and Jim Brownlow (Alternate).

Members absent were Thomas Greene and Larry McKinney. Newly elected member June Fogle (appointment pending) was not in attendance. There are currently three Board vacancies due to recent resignations by Julie Arbogast, Brian Costner and Myles Grant. Camilla Warren 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 Tom Heenan.

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.

Judith Bradbury of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory presented site-specific advisory board goals (SSAB) and information regarding evaluation of this DOE initiative. Ms. Bradbury is contracted by DOE-Headquarters to work with the complex-wide SSAB Steering Committee to determine the effectiveness of this initiative. Ann Brown is the SRS CAB representative with this committee.

Key Decisions Made by Board

The Board voted to create an outreach subcommittee to encourage public participation and assist in providing accurate, timely and relevant information on Board activities to the general public.

The Board passed a unanimous recommendation to conduct a study of the biological effects of tritium on DNA in SRS workers.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 23 and June 20, 1995, Board meetings were approved with one minor change.

Agency Updates

Jeff Crane of EPA stated that the proposed plan for the M Area West waste unit at SRS is out for public comment. He stated the preferred alternative for remediation at this unit is no action. Mr. Crane also discussed a recent meeting referred to as the "Workout" which included DOE, EPA and SCDHEC. He said this meeting went a long way toward resolving the current dispute between the agencies regarding the Federal Facility Agreement.

Mr. Crane stated the Workout was designed to discuss problems faced in implementing the environmental remediation program at SRS and that one significant problem addressed pertained to outyear budgets. He said there was an apparent assurance to reallocate budgets so that environmental commitments could be achieved. He said three other significant discussions at the meeting included using new technologies for cleanup while they are being demonstrated; streamlining documentation for routine remediation under two environmental laws; and a general agreement to coordinate community relation efforts among the three agencies.

Ann Ragan of SCDHEC said the State's impression of the Workout was also very positive and they hoped it would help the agencies work together more effectively. She also reminded the Board of a previous presentation by Shelly Sherrit of SCDHEC regarding the Site Treatment Plan, which deals with how SRS will manage mixed waste. She stated the plan was out for public comment and announced a public meeting would be conducted by SCDHEC on August 30 at 7 p.m. at the Aiken Conference Center.

Jim Brownlow of SCDHEC discussed a new local SCDHEC program under a grant program with DOE. He said the first phase of the program, nuclear emergency planning, was implemented in 1993 and that the second phase is now being implemented. The second phase is to evaluate the site's monitoring program. He said SCDHEC will be conducting independent monitoring in addition to evaluating the site's program. He stated public input will be solicited (see attached handout).

Tom Heenan of DOE agreed that the Workout was very helpful. He also offered to provide more information or personal briefings on the Site Treatment Plan, mentioned earlier by Ann Ragan. Mr. Heenan announced that Secretary Hazel O'Leary was visiting Aiken, S.C. and invited the Board to two activities including a diversity forum and a community forum. He encouraged Board members to attend saying the Secretary not only holds general stakeholder participation in high regard, but that she also places a high value on the Department's site-specific advisory boards.

Mr. Heenan also presented a DOE press release and a letter from Assistant Secretary Tom Grumbly to Senator Pete Domenici which outlines the Department's position in the budget process (see attached). The letter discusses the impact of budget reductions following House Appropriation cuts and asks the Senate to reconsider budget reductions. Mr. Heenan referred to the substantial budget reductions to the public participation program from the House perspective.

He told the Board, he had spoken with Dr. Mario Fiori, site manager, and that they are proud of the activities and accomplishments of the CAB to date and they will continue to press vigorously for full support of the public participation program. He encouraged the Board to remain focused on productive activities so that the benefit of the program will become obvious.

Tom Heenan also updated the Board on two Board recommendations. He stated that a response to Recommendation No. 6 was forthcoming and apologized that Recommendation No. 4 had not yet been responded to. He said there were no substantive disagreements with this recommendation, merely administrative hold-ups.

Facilitator Update

Walt Joseph presented a public comment process and tracking database (see attached). He also presented a recommendations database (attached) and asked for input by the Board. He discussed a new Board member orientation that had recently been designed and includes briefing materials and a site tour.

Motion Submitted by Thelonius Jones

Thelonius Jones presented a motion to develop an outreach subcommittee to encourage public participation and assist in providing accurate, timely and relevant information on Board activities to the general public (see attached). Vernon Zinnerman seconded the motion.

Board members discussed the need for such a subcommittee, its functions and participants and the time commitment involved. **Following discussion, the Board voted to create an outreach subcommittee with sixteen members in favor of the motion, two opposed and one abstention.** Activities will be coordinated through the Board facilitator.

Nominations/Elections Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair Ann Loadholt asked for nominations to replace the co-chair of the Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee and the chair of the Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee. She stated an election would be held at the Board's September Board meeting and all nominations would be required prior to the meeting.

Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Discussion

Walt Joseph presented a report for the Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee. He was delegated to make comments due to the recent resignation of the subcommittee chair. He stated two windows of opportunity had become available to discuss the subcommittee's work. Working group member Dave Christensen had been contacted by Congressman Charles Norwood, who expressed interest in the subcommittee's work. Todd Crawford, another working group member was contacted by Dr. Robert Alexander of the University of South Carolina-Aiken with a request to present the subcommittee's work and draft recommendations to Secretary Hazel O'Leary during a community forum two days following the Board meeting.

Since the Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee has not formally presented its proposed recommendations to the full Board, and this presentation is not expected until September 26, 1995, Walt Joseph stated that nothing would be reported to Secretary O'Leary without the full approval of the Board. He presented the following four options for Board consideration:

1. Stay on schedule and make no presentation to the Secretary
2. Refer the opportunity to DOE/Westinghouse to make presentation
3. Present six key points of the proposed recommendation
4. Present the full proposed recommendation

Walt Joseph stated that options 3 and 4 would require a two-thirds vote of the Board to change the agenda and elect to hear these presentations later in the meeting. This would allow for Board endorsement of a presentation to Secretary O'Leary.

Discussion revolved around the perceived impacts of presenting to the Secretary. Several Board members expressed that they felt pressured and uncomfortable with the situation. **JoAnn Nestor moved the Board choose option 1 and stay on schedule, with no CAB endorsed presentation to the Secretary on Thursday, September 28, 1995. Bill Lawless seconded the motion. The motion passed with ten members in favor, none opposed and six abstentions.**

Discussion of Meeting Etiquette and Board Member Conduct

Walt Joseph stated that following the May 23, 1995, Board meeting this agenda topic had been requested due to a number of antagonistic statements made during the May 23 meeting. He stated that this Board is diverse by design and many viewpoints are represented and that realizing this, each of the members should respect others views. He also read the Board Bylaws, Section 6.5, which addresses Board member conduct.

Mildred McClain encouraged Board members to look beyond the Bylaws and focus on how they deal with each other. She expressed disappointment over Brian Costner's resignation and Board members discussed Mr. Costner's and Julie Arbogast's contributions to the Board and the loss this Board would sustain by their resignations. While several Board members agreed with the interpretation that the Board is at a turning point, others thought the Board is heading in the right direction and should continue to focus on providing sound recommendations. Board members discussed accomplishments made in the past year and agreed to discuss Board improvements at the September Board meeting.

Membership Replacement Election and Subcommittee Report

Membership Replacement Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins stated that the applications of qualified candidates to fill the current Board vacancies would be mailed to the full Board and Agencies directly following the meeting. She also presented an interview to be used for screening candidates by phone (see attached) and asked for any comments from Board members.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan stated that a variety of upcoming environmental impact statements had been identified. He said two documents address the disposition of excess materials and one focuses on stewardship and management of weapons. He stated the subcommittee work would focus on the disposition of plutonium and a draft recommendation would be forthcoming in a few months.

Update on Recommendation No. 3

Walt Joseph and Bill Rajzack of WSRC gave an update of the activities associated with the independent scientific peer review of F/H Area groundwater remediation technologies. Joel Massmann, an engineering hydrogeologist from the University of Washington is the team leader who selected the other team members to conduct the review. Other team members include: John Bredehoeft, a geological engineer and hydrologist; Mark Benjamin, a chemical engineer; Renate Kimbrough, a human health and toxicology specialist, Gordon Culp, cost analyst; and Adam Babich, environmental law and regulatory affairs specialist. Mr. Joseph stated a kick-off meeting had been held in late June and that currently the team is collecting research materials. He said the team was on schedule and that a preliminary report is due August 5, 1995. The final report is due September 22 and a briefing to the CAB is scheduled for the September Board meeting. Discussion revolved around how the team was identified and funding. Weekly reports were offered to all interested Board members.

Environmental Remediation & Waste Management (ER & WM) Subcommittee Report

Federal Facility Agreement Implementation Plan

An update was given by Jeff Crane of EPA. He explained that the FFA Implementation Plan is designed to layout a series of coordination strategies to implement the Federal Facility Agreement, the three-party enforcement document that prescribes the cleanup of past releases at SRS. He said the FFA Implementation Plan is a more specific document that provides detailed strategies for effectively implementing the FFA. He hoped to work with the ER&WM subcommittee further to identify and highlight areas of consideration for full Board involvement.

Market-Based Plan/Community Outreach Plan

Bill Lawless stated the intent of this plan is to address concerns of downriver water users and upstream stakeholders receiving air releases. He stated the subcommittee had run into legitimate obstacles with the original idea of market-based compensation for these communities, but he wanted the subcommittee to focus on community outreach. He asked Board members to provide ideas for a special program to reach these particular communities.

Definition of Independent Scientific Peer Review

Bill Lawless presented a collection of definitions (see attached) regarding independent scientific peer review (ISPR) in response to a motion previously submitted by Andrew Rea. Mr. Lawless

stated the definition presented by Mr. Rea was too specific and suggested the Board table defining ISPR until a more appropriate definition can be identified.

Andrew Rea stated the genesis of his motion to define ISPR was tied to the Board's first recommendation. He said he did not want DOE and WSRC to interpret ISPR as giving reviews to the Westinghouse Environmental Advisory Council. **He seconded the motion to table defining ISPR until the November Board meeting. The motion passed with 15 members in favor and one abstention.**

Health Effects of Tritium Study

Bill Lawless presented a motion regarding a study on the health effects of tritium (see attached). He introduced Bill Murray of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and said the subcommittee had met with members of this institute when preparing the motion. Bill Murray received a masters degree in Health Physics from the University of Rochester in 1968 and has since worked for the Food and Drug Administration and NIOSH. Since 1991, he has held the position of Assistant Chief of the Health-Related Energy Research Branch of NIOSH.

Mr. Murray presented an overview of NIOSH activities (see attached). He described the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services under which NIOSH operates and discussed other agencies that conduct energy-related activities. He also reviewed current research and discussed future studies.

Discussion revolved around criteria used for site selection of worker studies, demographics, cancer registries in the United States, death certificates as an indicator of cancer mortality and measurements for tritium.

Pat Tousignant moved the Board accept the ER & WM Subcommittee's motion to recommend that NIOSH conduct a study of the biological effects of tritium on DNA in SRS workers. Ann Brown seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation.

Feasibility Study Screening - Old F Area Seepage Basin

The Board received an update on the implementation of Recommendation No. 2 (see attached). Brian Hennessey of DOE reviewed the Board recommendation, which provides guidelines for industrial and residential use alternatives for decision making at waste units under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. Mr. Hennessey presented a pictorial flow diagram and described the recommendation (see attached). He explained that the location of a waste unit may determine the level of cleanup with one exception. When assessing the unit, if it falls within an industrial zone, but cleanup to residential standards would be achievable without much additional expenditure or if it is the smart thing to do, then the site may be remediated to residential standards, he said.

Coleman Miles of WSRC discussed how the recommendation is being implemented at the Old F Area Seepage Basin. (See attached slides.) He presented a historical background of the basin; discussed the remedial investigation and risk assessment; reviewed contaminants of concern and exposure pathways; and discussed alternatives for a more detailed analysis.

Discussion revolved around acceptable levels of risk, the cost estimates associated with alternatives, the future use of the land and suitability of industrial versus residential remediation. No action was required from the Board regarding this topic.

Administrative Items

The May 1996 Board meeting will be held May 14, due to a conflict with Memorial Day.

Following public comments made by Brian Costner (below), Bill Lawless presented written comments on "A review of the SRS CAB's recommendations 1-5" as presented by Brian Costner, May 16, 1995 and a letter to the editor, Augusta Chronicle dated July 20, 1995. (See attached).

Bob Slay announced he would no longer serve as Co-chair following the year end, but would remain a Board member.

Mildred McClain said that with no objections from the Board, she would draft a letter recommending that funding be restored to the Savannah River Region Health Information System.

Public Comments

The following public comments were received during the July 25 public comment session:

Jerri Artest Lloyd, City of Savannah - Water & Sewer Bureau, Savannah, Ga.

Ms. Lloyd provided comments regarding transportation of spent nuclear fuel through Savannah. She stated the city of Savannah is opposed to the transport of this fuel. The City has answered a mandate to cleanup the air and waterways, she said. She stated that although you may still smell the air upon entering the city, great strides have been made and once again expressed opposition to spent fuel being transported through Savannah by port or roadway.

Brian Costner, Energy Research Foundation, Columbia, S.C.

Brian Costner thanked those Board members expressing disappointment about his resignation and said he appreciated the expressions of thanks for his contribution to the CAB. He said he thought the Board did an excellent job of keeping to the agenda but was disappointed more questions were not raised. He said much information had been provided with certain assumptions and said he hoped when the CAB makes recommendations or decisions, that they look at the information provided with skepticism.

He stated he had looked at the material given to the Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee and was surprised by how self promotional the material appeared. Mr. Costner stated he was also disappointed to see the Board put off defining ISPR. He said this has been thrown out several times and independent reviews are being implemented in several ways. He said the Westinghouse Environmental Advisory Committee (WEAC) does not satisfy any definition of ISPR. He said this committee has consistently refused to hold open meetings and although there may be rational reasons for this, he thinks it raises questions about the Board's expectations regarding independent reviews.

Mr. Costner referred to the new CAB Recommendations database and questioned the use of the term "unconditionally accepted" for a response to the Board's first recommendation. He said this is not true, that the WEAC had responded that they did not want the role of signing off on final documents. He asked the Board if the response to recommendations met its expectations and if they were happy with the agency's response.

Mr. Costner complimented Brian Hennessey, saying he had done a fairly good job of accurately interpreting a Board recommendation. He said he thought the Board had done a poor job of interpreting and communicating this recommendation. Mr. Costner also encouraged Board members not to have meetings in the middle of the day and week in inconvenient locations if they are seeking public participation. He also suggested handouts be available for the public and that public comment opportunities be provided during discussions of substantive issues, if the Board truly wanted public comments. In conclusion, he requested that a copy of the most recent recommendation be provided to the ISPR team conducting the review at F and H Area.

Frances Close Hart, Energy Research Foundation, Columbia, S.C.

Ms. Hart said she had not intended to speak, but that comments made were distressful. She said she had watched Brian Costner continue as a Board member for much longer than Energy Research Foundation leaders had encouraged him to. She said his decision to resign from the Board was not one that was easily reached and that he had struggled for a long time.

The following public comments were received at the July 24 public meeting:

Bob Overman, Aiken, S.C. resident

Mr. Overman stated he was distressed by the turn nuclear energy and the bomb has taken in the past fifteen years. He commented that he had gone to the local SCDHEC office to view the Proposed Site Treatment Plan and signed a Freedom of Information Act Form to see the document. He commented the document is filled with trivial data and questioned if anyone is looking at the big picture. He asked who is setting priorities and stated that local DOE is budget driven, by what they can get through DOE-Headquarters. He said more pressure was needed in Congress and DOE to make funding available.

Mr. Overman asked how it would benefit the environment if spent nuclear fuel was processed at SRS. He said DOE had already decided to process aluminum-clad fuels and asked if the rest would be left in basins. He said he thought the objective was to clean up basins. He said it is

cheaper for Hanford to send spent nuclear fuel to SRS than build their own canyon process. Mr. Overman also asked additional questions for Board members to consider, such as "What should DOE do if the Waste Isolation Treatment Plant does not start-up?", "What will you do with transuranic waste?"

Warren Greene, Moulton, AL resident

Mr. Greene asked what actions, if any can be made in regards to past homeowners reclaiming their property. He asked for and was provided a contact for more information.

Dave Christensen, Augusta, Ga. resident

Mr. Christensen stated he was a member of the working group for the Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee and had spoke with Congressman Charles Norwood, who is interested in the Subcommittee's recommendation. Mr. Christensen said he can foresee this area becoming a boom town and that growth and future is the concept. He said that following the 21st century, money would be available to invest in cleanup work.

Mr. Christensen said that he had traveled to work with the subcommittee and did not want to see their efforts die just because Brian Costner, the subcommittee chairperson had resigned. He suggested that members of the subcommittee meet with Congressman Norwood to discuss their ideas.

Handouts

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, July 25, 1995
- Draft Motion, Outreach Subcommittee, Thelonius Jones
- Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Evaluation fact sheet and Goals for the SSAB Initiative, Judith Bradbury, Batelle
- DOE news release, dated July 10, 1995
- Letter to The Honorable Pete V. Domenici from Assistant Secretary Thomas Grumbly, dated July 10, 1995
- Letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Interested Parties, dated June 7, 1995
- Environmental Surveillance and Oversight Program fact sheet, SCDHEC
- Procedure for Responding to Public Comment
- CAB Recommendation Summary
- Draft Vision, Future Land Use - Savannah River Site
- SRS CAB Candidate Interview
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee Definition of Independence
- Presentation to the SRS CAB, William E. Murray, Health-Related Energy Research Branch, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee Motion on the Health Effects of Tritium

- Old F-Area Seepage Basin Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study Scoping Package, dated July 1995
- SRS CAB Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee, slides (2)
- Letter to the Editor, *Augusta Chronicle* from Bill Lawless, dated July 20, 1995
- Comments by W.F. Lawless, CAB, on "A review of the SRS CAB's recommendations 1-5", as prepared by Brian Costner, May 16, 1995
- Calendar of Public Involvement Events
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report