



# **November 1995 Meeting Minutes**

## **SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

**Barnwell, S.C.**

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### **Members Present**

Members present were Thomas Costikyan, Bill Donaldson, Alice Hollingsworth, Bill Lawless, Ann Loadholt, Kathryn May, Mildred McClain, JoAnn Nestor, Lane Parker, Kamalakar Raut, Andrew Rea, Kevin Reed, Bob Slay, P.K. Smith, Pat Tousignant, Beaurine Wilkins and Vernon Zinnerman. Ex-Officio Representatives were Tom Heenan, Charlie Anderson (alternate), Ann Ragan, Myra Reece and Camilla Warren.

Members absent were Anne Brown, Lenola Cooks, June Fogle, Thomas Greene, Thelonius Jones, Walter Jones and Larry McKinney. Currently, there is one Board vacancy. Jeff Crane of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was 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. New Board members Bill Donaldson of Tybee Island, Ga. and Kevin Reed of Martinez, Ga., were introduced to the group and observed meeting activities.

### **Key Decisions Made by Board**

The Board unanimously adopted a recommendation regarding transuranic waste retrieval and disposal, advising that all schedules be published in future Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) documents; that the new WIPP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) also address environmental impacts at SRS if WIPP does not become operational; and that Board concerns be addressed within the EIS.

The Board unanimously approved a recommendation that SRS and DOE-HQ meet their commitment to vitrify and remove all high level waste (HLW) by 2028 as a mandatory obligation to be fulfilled on time with the highest priority funding, and that regular independent scientific peer reviews of Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and changes in its operations be instituted.

By majority vote, the Board adopted a recommendation regarding the design of an additional glass waste storage building for HLW at SRS.

The Board unanimously adopted a recommendation regarding the ultimate disposition of HLW from SRS by 2028 including issues to be addressed by current Yucca Mountain EIS documents.

The Board voted to retain the services of Bill Sutcliffe of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory to provide technical assistance to the Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee.

The Board's leadership positions in 1996 will be held by a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

## **Recognition and Service Announcements**

Letters of appreciation and plaques were awarded to Board members by Mr. Ernie Chaput, Deputy Manager of the Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office. Dr. Mario Fiori, site manager expressed his appreciation via a video tape and was present at the Monday evening public meeting to thank all initial Board members for their dedication and hard work.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 25 and 26 Board meetings were approved with no changes.

## **Agency Updates**

Camilla Warren of EPA stated that due to budget impacts she was unable to attend the September Board meeting, but that she was following Board activities and could be reached by phone at any time. She also said that since July, the ex-officio Board members have been meeting more regularly and that face-to-face discussions were improving communications.

Tom Heenan of DOE stated that an appropriation has already been approved for DOE funding, however, the current projection for the FY1996 allocation to the Environmental Management program is \$450 - 500 million less than the President's request. He added that DOE is currently looking at how that \$500 million impact will be distributed across the complex and DOE-SR is looking at the challenges of potential impacts. Mr. Heenan indicated there is potential impact to the overall public participation program, and they are working with DOE-Headquarters to allow for the most vibrant public participation program possible.

Ann Ragan of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control discussed the National Priority Discharge Elimination System permit, which will be issued in early 1996 for all liquid effluents from SRS. She said the Board may choose to hear more at the January meeting. She also announced that the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee or the Keystone Committee will be issuing a document in early 1996 addressing prioritization and stakeholder involvement. EPA provided CAB members with copies of this report in draft form earlier in 1995.

## **Facilitator Report**

Walt Joseph asked if the Board wanted to conduct further team building activities as a continuation of the September 25 session. The Board determined it would be more appropriate to wait until after new members had joined the Board following the March 1996 elections.

### **Risk Management & Future Use Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chairperson Vernon Zinnerman asked for clarification from DOE as to why the Savannah River Site Future Use Project Report only addressed six parts of the SRS CAB's nine-part recommendation regarding future use. Ernie Chaput stated this was not intentional and that DOE believes the recommendation is consistent with internal views. Bob Slay stated that a comparison had shown that some of the Board's advice had been watered down and was addressed vaguely in the Project Report and hoped it would be addressed more completely in the final report. Mr. Chaput stated DOE would review the proposed final project report with the Risk Management & Future Subcommittee, the working group and full Board before it is issued.

Vernon Zinnerman then discussed the subcommittee's Draft Vision document, stating the document needed more work and would not be presented to the Board at this time. He suggested the document be issued as a subcommittee reference document without full Board endorsement. This suggestion was met with some resistance and following much discussion, the Board determined the subcommittee should continue work on the Draft Vision document and bring it back before the Board at a later date for full Board approval.

Vernon Zinnerman then discussed the subcommittee's participation in the Fiscal Year 1998 Activities Prioritization (see attached slides). Mr. Zinnerman stated that this was a chance to get involved in budget activities on the front end and that involvement was requested in three ways: to develop criteria for prioritization; to define the relative importance of these criteria; and to review results of the priority list developed using the criteria. He stated that in one month, four meetings had been held. There was extensive advertising and flyers of invitation were provided, he said. Mr. Zinnerman compared the current involvement process to last year's process and discussed the results and recommendations provided (see handout). He encouraged members to join the subcommittee on December 6 at a public meeting in North Augusta, S.C. to evaluate the ranking of all SRS work packages for FY 1998. Discussion related to the opportunity for downstream communities, to become involved in the process and it was determined that in the future, more efforts would be made to ensure meetings will be divided equally among the local and down river communities.

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

Subcommittee Co-chair Bill Lawless introduced Dr. Ed Berkey, chairman of the independent scientific peer review committee that reviewed the SRS Transuranic (TRU) Waste Retrieval Project as advised in CAB Recommendation No. 4. Dr. Berkey asked Joe d'Amelio of Westinghouse Savannah River Company to give a brief background of transuranic waste storage at SRS and the TRU Waste Retrieval Project (see slide).

Mr. d'Amelio stated the retrieval project focused on five waste pads and discussed how waste had been stored in concrete culverts, 55-gallon drums or steel boxes, and covered with a clay liner and three feet of soil. (One of the five waste pads is only partially covered.) He said the retrieval project included approximately 9000 55-gallon drums stored from 1974-1986. Some of these drums have reached their design life and required retrieval. Discussion revolved around the status of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, risk to workers retrieving drums, recommended treatments for TRU waste, and retrieval by remote-controlled means.

Dr. Ed Berkey then provided a review of the SRS Tru Waste Retrieval Project conducted by the independent scientific peer review committee (see attached slides). Dr. Berkey discussed the members of the review committee, the question addressed by the committee, the review procedure and conclusions from the review. He further discussed rationale for the conclusions and provided the committee's recommendation that an alternate approach to the retrieval project be considered. The committee's overall conclusion was that the TRU Waste Retrieval Project should proceed with strong consideration to an alternate approach of retrieving drums from Pad 6, then Pad 2 rather than Pad 4, and that corrosion data be obtained from drums to improve information on predicted drum lifetimes. It was also recommended that DOE evaluate the need to overpack all retrieved drums and based on these results improve the strategy for further retrieval.

Bill Lawless then read the subcommittee's Transuranic Waste Motion in response to the independent scientific peer review (see attached). Discussion followed regarding the date by which to remove all TRU wastes from SRS in the third paragraph. It was determined that this date would be changed to 2033 and followed by the statement "prior to the closure of WIPP." A sentence stating that this is a date negotiated between the State and DOE will also be added. The reference to EPA was removed from the motion since authority lies with the State. Kathryn May moved the Board accept the motion as amended. Bill Lawless seconded. **The Board unanimously approved the amended Transuranic Waste Motion.**

Subcommittee Chair Bill Lawless then introduced Charlie Anderson of DOE who provided a presentation regarding the High Level Waste (HLW) System at SRS (see attached). Mr. Anderson gave a HLW system overview and discussed the schedule and status of all the facilities within the system. He also discussed funding issues and initiatives being undertaken to meet the funding challenge. Discussions followed regarding interim storage, the lack of a federal repository, issues regarding Yucca Mountain, the design life of storage canisters and a request for lessons learned from other countries regarding vitrification.

Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's HLW Motion 1 (see attached) and JoAnn Nestor moved the Board accept the motion. Lane Parker seconded. **The Board unanimously approved the recommendation that SRS and DOE-HQ meet their commitment to vitrify and remove all HLW by 2028 as a mandatory obligation to be fulfilled on time with the highest priority funding, and that regular independent scientific peer reviews of DWPF and changes in its operations be instituted.** The Board discussed the need to provide this recommendation to Congress as well as DOE and determined a copy would be sent to South Carolina and Georgia senators and governors.

A second presentation was provided by Charlie Anderson regarding additional glass waste storage buildings for HLW (see attached slides). Mr. Anderson presented the existing storage building description and design features and then presented future storage building plans. Bill Lawless then read HLW Motion 2 regarding the design of an additional glass waste storage building (see attached). Lane Parker moved the Board accept the motion and Kamalakar Raut seconded. Discussion revolved around moving to a more permanent form of storage and the use of fewer canisters to store HLW waste. **The Board voted to pass the building design recommendations with a vote of 13 in favor and two abstentions.**

**Bill Lawless then read HLW Motion 3 regarding concerns about the ultimate disposition of SRS vitrified high-level wastes (see attached). Andrew Rea moved the Board adopt the motion and Beaurine Wilkins seconded the motion. Following discussion regarding commercial versus government wastes at Yucca Mountain, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the motion.**

## **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan stated that his subcommittee was interested in obtaining a technical advisor to review and analyze disposition options in the Plutonium Disposition Programmatic EIS and to assist the subcommittee in development of plutonium disposition recommendations. He said the estimated effort would require about 130 hours including two trips and that the contract would not exceed six months or \$9,900. He said the subcommittee had reviewed the resumes of the following four candidates:

William Sutcliffe, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory  
Don Orth, retired, Dupont and Westinghouse  
Leonard Hamilton, retired, Brookhaven National Laboratory  
John Evans, Harvard School of Public Health

Mr. Costikyan stated the preferred candidate was Bill Sutcliffe and discussed various aspects of his resume noting that he is highly recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. Mr. Costikyan read a citation from "Management and Disposition of Excess Weapons Plutonium" regarding Mr. Sutcliffe. **Bill Lawless moved the Board engage the services of Mr. Sutcliffe to provide technical advise to the Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee. Alice Hollingsworth seconded. The Board voted to obtain the services of Bill Sutcliffe with a vote of 13 in favor and two abstentions.**

## **Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation**

Chuck Powers and Bernard Goldstein provided a presentation regarding the Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). Mr. Powers stated CRESP has been in operation since September 1995 under a cooperative agreement with DOE to study stakeholder participation and aid DOE in complex-wide risk-sensitive decision-making. He said that specifically their efforts had been focused on Savannah River and Hanford public participation efforts.

Bernard Goldstein discussed the various disciplines of the team of experts that form the consortium including toxicology, environmental health, occupational health, public education and risk communication, exposure measurement and assessment, and environmental policy. He stated this is an academic organization and not a consulting group. It was suggested that CRESPP could provide a valuable resource for the CAB. The cooperative agreement, by law requires CRESPP provide benefit to the public.

### **Nominations/Elections Subcommittee Report**

Lane Parker moved the Board postpone an election for chairperson of the newly created Outreach Subcommittee due to Board member Larry McKinney's absence from the Board meeting. Mr. McKinney was the only individual nominated for this position and was not present to answer questions regarding his role as chairperson. Vernon Zinnerman seconded and the election was tabled with 14 members in favor and one opposed.

**The Board voted by a majority vote of 12 in favor and three opposed to have a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in the leadership role for 1996. Nomination Subcommittee Chair announced an election will be held on January 23, 1996.**

### **Bylaws Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee chair JoAnn Nestor presented proposed Bylaws amendments (see attached) and asked for direction, stating formal consideration and approval would be requested at the January Board meeting. Discussion revolved around the membership election process, membership terms, the definition of economically disadvantaged persons, the clarification of minority issues representatives and creation of an administrative subcommittee to encompass the function of three current subcommittees.

The Board determined that annual elections should be held for Board membership including replacement members filling unexpired terms of office so that all individuals will have an opportunity to serve at least one full year. Board member terms remain at two-years. The Bylaws Subcommittee will revise its proposed amendments to incorporate Board comments and submit a proposal for formal consideration on January 23, 1996.

### **Membership Replacement Election and Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Beaurine Wilkins stated that the membership solicitation campaign will close on November 30, 1995. She stated that over 30 new applications had been received and that over 80 individuals had updated applications or asked for them to be maintained. She said the subcommittee had received 252 phone requests for applications and were expecting at least 50 more by Nov. 30. She said the subcommittee would meet December 7-8 in Charleston, S.C., to review all applications and select three qualified candidates for each of the 13 replacement positions.

Ms. Wilkins also announced that Lenola Cooks was resigning from the Board, although her resignation letter had not yet been received.

## **Annual Report/Work Plan**

Education Subcommittee Chair P.K. Smith presented a draft annual report and work plan for the Board (see attached). She stated a final draft would be provided for review prior to the January Board meeting, when the report would be finalized.

## **Public Comments**

The following public comments were received during the November 27 public comment session at the Winton Inn, Barnwell, S.C.:

### **Lee Poe, Aiken resident**

Lee Poe stated he has watched the activities of the CAB closely and is pleased with all the Board has accomplished. He then asked the Board to find a way to better communicate its activities to the general public. He said the Board has tackled a wide assortment of issues, but the general public is unaware of what the Board is doing. He suggested a newsletter be utilized to inform stakeholders of Board recommendations and outcomes, and suggested that different approaches would be needed to reach different populations.

### **Bob Newman, Fripp Island, S.C. resident**

Bob Newman stated the Board had settled on several future use objectives including government control of land; that security be maintained; the future not include residential scenarios; and wildlife protection. He stated that these objectives do tie together to a degree. He suggested that one focus be protection of site workers and the general public and that workers demand equal protection since they are members of the general public. He also stated that acres of vacant land could be put to industrial use and bring taxes to the community.

Mr. Newman stated that when risk is negligible, billions of dollars should not be spent to clean up land that is going to be protected by the federal government. He said there has been no evidence of adverse effects of radiation on animals and that other forms of wildlife have existed beautifully around radiation. He said he is concerned favorably about nuclear activities and that as a taxpayer, he cannot see spending billions on cleanup of federally monitored lands such as Savannah River Site and Oak Ridge. He stated the Board has a responsibility to put risk and radiation in perspective for the general public. He said there is a cutoff point associated with risk and beyond the cutoff point, money is wasted and undue concerns are created. He said the Board has an opportunity to lay to rest many concerns of the public.

The following public comments were received during the November 28 public comment session:

### **Dr. Stanley Ohleberg, Savannah, Ga. resident**

Dr. Ohleberg provided comments regarding the Board's Bylaws. He stated that in Section 2.2 f ,which states the Board serves as an interface, could be misconstrued to read the Board runs

interference for DOE. He also asked how the board represents a demographic composition of the surrounding communities of SRS with only 25 members.

Mr. Ohleberg stated that the Bylaws appear to discriminate against male caucasians regarding the requirements in Section 3.3. He also stated that Section 6.5 of the Bylaws is demeaning and should simply state that Board operations be carried out in accordance with *Robert's Rule of Order*. He said Board members should not be treated as children and encouraged the Board to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.

## **Handouts**

- SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, November 28, 1995
- SRS CAB Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee FY 1998 Activity Priorities slides, Vernon Zinnerman
- Letter from Vernon Zinnerman to SRS dated November 3, 1995 regarding stakeholder input to the FY1998 Activity Prioritization
- ER&WM Subcommittee Transuranic Waste Motion, Bill Lawless
- Review of SRS TRU Waste Retrieval Project dated November 28, 1995, Dr. Edgar Berkey, Chairman, Independent Scientific Peer Review Committee
- ER&WM Subcommittee High Level Waste Motion 1, Bill Lawless
- HLW System Status & Challenges dated November 28, 1995, Charlie Anderson, DOE
- ER&WM Subcommittee High Level Waste Motion 2, Bill Lawless
- Additional Glass Waste Storage Buildings dated November 28, 1995, Charlie Anderson, DOE
- ER&WM Subcommittee High Level Waste Motion 3, Bill Lawless
- Proposal for Bylaws Amendments, JoAnn Nestor
- Draft SRS CAB Annual Report, P.K. Smith
- CAB Recommendations Summary
- EIS Citizens Advisory Board Monthly Report
- 1996 SRS CAB Schedule
- SRS Public Involvement Calendar