



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee

### **Meeting Summary**

**January 10, 1995**

**Aiken, S.C.**

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The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials Management (NMM) Subcommittee held its first meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC. Members who attended included NMM chair Tom Costikyan, Brian Costner, and Pat Tousignant. P.K. Smith of the CAB Education committee also attended. One public participant Richard Clapp, Hilton Head Island, SC, attended.

The NMM subcommittee received an overview of how the Department of Energy is managing nuclear materials, both across the complex and at the Savannah River Site. The subcommittee also toured F Canyon and the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuel in H Area.

### **Nuclear Materials Management Overview**

The meeting opened with a welcome by Len Sjostrom, Assistant Manager for Defense Programs, DOE-Savannah River (SR), followed by a presentation by Don Bridges, Director, Strategic Planning and Reconfiguration, DOE-SR. Bridges pointed out that due to the end of the Cold War, large quantities of nuclear materials currently exist in various stages of weapons processing. In addition, many facilities are in various stages of operability. DOE's major focus now is to stabilize the material and convert it to a form suitable for extended safe and secure storage before ultimate disposition. Bridges talked about the processing facilities at SRS and areas where irradiated material is currently located at SRS, then discussed vulnerabilities of materials not acceptable for long-term storage.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Basin Management and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) dealing with Spent Nuclear Fuel David Burke, Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC), outlined spent nuclear fuel basin management at SRS, listing the basins serving as spent nuclear fuel storage locations, characteristics of basins and vulnerabilities associated with basin management. Vulnerabilities include corroding materials, and facility seismic and ventilation issues. Burke pointed out that intermediate and long-term corrective action plans are in place.

Mark Dupont, WSRC, summarized the various EISs dealing with spent nuclear fuel, including the Foreign Research Reactor (FRR) EIS, Spent Nuclear Fuel and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory EIS, Interim Management of Nuclear Materials (IMNM) EIS and a proposed Site Specific EIS on spent nuclear fuel. Dupont provided information on the scope, objectives, alternatives and Record of Decisions for each EIS.

## **Nuclear Materials Management**

Rick Geddes, WSRC, gave an explanation of the SRS process for nuclear materials, from reactor fuel fabrication to chemical separation to disposal of waste generated during the chemical separation process. Next, Geddes listed nuclear materials, primary use, inventory and forms currently at SRS. Those materials include plutonium, uranium, thorium, and transuranic elements. The plutonium vulnerability assessment and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 94-1 were both discussed and SRS's corrective actions to those studies were stated. Geddes also explained that the Interim Management of Nuclear Materials EIS will address many materials identified in the vulnerability studies and that the completed F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions EIS addressed the plutonium solution vulnerabilities in the canyon.

Mike Sujka, WSRC, concluded this overview with information on an Implementation Plan, SRS's response to the DNFSB Recommendation 94-1 as well as SRS's role in the Integrated Program Plan, DOE-HQ's plan to achieve conversion of nuclear materials to safe storable form within two or three years and storage of plutonium and metal oxides in conformance within eight years.

A discussion of EISs dealing with management of nuclear materials was given by Barry Shedrow, WSRC. Shedrow provided a summary of each EIS and dates or proposed dates for the Notice of Intent, Draft, Final and Record of Decision. Studies dealing with nuclear materials management include: Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programmatic EIS (PEIS), Tritium Supply and Recycling PEIS, Storage and Disposal of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials PEIS, F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions EIS, SRS Waste Management EIS, Pantex Site-Wide EIS and the spent nuclear fuel EISs mentioned earlier.

## **Conclusion**

After the presentations, the subcommittee discussed a long-term agenda proposed by SRS personnel for the subcommittee's participation. The long-term agenda focused first on the FRR EIS (draft due out in mid-February) for January and February, and the IMNM EIS and the Integrated Program Plan in March. The subcommittee members present agreed to discuss the long-term recommendations and agree on the first topic for discussion by the following week in preparation for a January 23 subcommittee meeting planned in Hilton Head.

**Note: Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling the SRS CAB toll free number at 1-800-249-8155.**