



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee

Meeting Record

April 14, 1999
Savannah Rapids Pavilion
Augusta, GA

The Environmental Remediation and Waste Management (ER&WM) Subcommittee met on Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at 6:00 p.m., at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion in Augusta, GA. Attendance was as follows:

Citizens Advisory Board

Bill Lawless, Co-Chair
Kathryn May, Co-Chair
Wade Waters

Stakeholders

William R. McDonell
Brandon Haddock
Lee Poe
Todd Crawford
Sam Booher

Regulators

Craig Mariner, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractors

Gerri Flemming, DOE
Bill Noll, DOE
Robert Baker, DOE
Dick Harbert, BSRI
Peter Hudson, BNFL
Brent Daugherty, BSRI
Elmer Wilhite, WSRC
Leslie Wells, WSRC
Ed Stevens, WSRC
Gerry Stejskal, WSRC
Robert Hinds, WSRC
Ed McNamee, BSRI
Jay Rrumsey, WSRC
Helen Villasor, WSRC

Public Comments: Bill Lawless opened the meeting by asking for public comments. There were none.

Schedule Review: Helen Villasor provided an overview of the subcommittee's issues matrix and discussed the upcoming schedule for the next meeting which will be held on May 4, 1999 at the North Augusta Community Center. Topics will include SRS Decontamination and Decommissioning Activities, SRS Technology Management Plan, Solid Waste System Plan Low Level Waste Disposal, High Level Waste Emerging Technologies, TNX Operable Unit Feasibility Study Scoping, and an interim status report from the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Focus Group.

Solid Waste System Plan: Peter Hudson presented the Solid Waste System Plan, which is the Solid Waste Division's (SWD) planning document used to develop/update all SWD operation plans and budgets by defining the outyear scope of work. It analyzes options and identifies the preferred option for waste treatment, storage and disposal. The document also provides a comparative Lifecycle Cost Analysis that contributes to the selection of the preferred option. Mr. Hudson also explained the SWD planning process and how it integrates with the Paths to Closure (PtC) document. The example chosen to introduce the

document to the attendees included the options that were developed for Savannah River Site's (SRS) transuranic-2 (TRU-2) waste.

Issues: Explain the change from current baselines to new preferred options and examine each option to determine if it meets minimum safety and environmental impact standards. Provide factual information on why it is the right thing for SRS to do and encourage public participation so as to provide input on making choices for the changing options.

Action: Come back before the subcommittee on May 4, 1999 and discuss in detail the preferred options for low-level waste.

NRC Ruling on Incidental Waste: Bill Lawless explained that there has been no determination from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on incidental waste (waste incidental to reprocessing) to date; therefore, the topic would not be discussed at this meeting. However, Mr. Lawless noted that this issue would be revisited sometime in August 1999.

Progress at the F and H Groundwater Treatment Units: Ed McNamee discussed the Environmental Restoration Division's (ERD) point of view that SRS has made substantial progress in meeting the intent of the Resource and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for the Phase I cleanup of the F and H area groundwater plumes. In an overview of Phase I, Mr. McNamee noted the following accomplishments:

- built a pump-treat-inject system
- treating for 44 contaminants
- providing hydraulic control at the 10,000 pCi/L iso-contour line
- collecting data to provide the basis for a decision for the long-term cleanup of the plume (Phase II)

Mr. McNamee provided the path forward for H Area which includes initiating routine operations, starting Phase II data collection work and optimizing the system reliability and cost. The path forward for F Area includes complete testing and selecting an operating mode, initiating routine operations, starting collection of data for Phase II and optimizing system reliability and cost.

Issues: Determine length of time project has to run under Phase I before beginning and then time running under Phase II, clarify if additional recovery/injection wells will be added, identify recovery amounts of elements and determine when project will be completed.

Action: Use Phase I data to provide answers to current questions and then formulate a path forward. The length of time that Phase I will operate is dependent upon the data that is needed to develop the Phase II corrective action plan. In recent discussion with the regulators this would be on the order of one year of data collection and the time required putting the plan in place. Environmental Restoration (ER) is still in the midst of settling exactly what data will be evaluated and the time period.

As to how long the Phase II activities will last, it was estimated that it would take at least three to four years to "cleanup" a majority of the contaminants. This does not mean that Phase II will be complete, but it does place a lower limit on the operation time.

Provide available data to Dr. Joel Massman for use in his independent scientific peer review (ISPR). Coordinate with Jim Moore to ensure Dr. Massman has all of the relevant data necessary to begin his ISPR. Provide Joel Massman (via Jim Moore) with monthly F&H groundwater results, monthly South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control reports, chemical removal efficiencies (efficiency rates of all elements being removed from the groundwater in F & H areas). Provide Lee Poe with present information on decontamination of the 44 impurities in both F and H Systems. Place Lee Poe and Joel Massman on distribution of reports for this type of information.

Other Action Items: Provide Sam Booher with copy of RCRA Permit that includes the Mixed Waste Management Facility postclosure care requirements. Also provide Mr. Booher with contacts in order to join the Lee Poe – Karen Patterson Public Focus Group.

Final Public Comments: Mr. Sam Booher requested that the ER&WM Subcommittee track the availability of a RCRA Permit issued in January 1999 for the Carolina Bays to be used as mitigation – topic areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.