



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

July 2000 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

July 24-25, 2000
Augusta Sheraton Hotel
Augusta, GA

Members Present

Bill Adams	Lane Parker
Sallie Connah	Karen Patterson
Mel Galin	Maria Reichmanis
Ken Goad	Murray Riley
Brendolyn Jenkins	Jean Sulc
William Lawrence	Bill Vogeles
Jimmy Mackey	Wade Waters
Kathryn May	Beaurine Wilkins
	Bill Willoughby

Ex-Officio Representatives

Tom Heenan
Keith Collinsworth
Julie Corkran
Jim Brownlow

The following Board members were not present: Tom Costikyan, Beckie Dawson, Perry Holcomb, Georgia Leverett, Lola Richardson, P.K. Smith and Charleen Townsend. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Tom Heenan. Mike Schoener served as facilitator.

The meeting was open to the public and posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 2000 CAB Meeting were approved with no changes.

Key Decisions

The SRS CAB approved the formation of a Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) Focus Group to stay informed of the future status and operations of CIF and the review of alternative waste treatment processes, and to offer meaningful input in the identification of alternatives.

The Board recommended that DOE reverse its decision to suspend CIF operations. It also requested that DOE re-institute the necessary funds to continue operation of CIF until it can fully justify its decision, and until such time that an alternative treatment option is available, cost effective and can be implemented.

The Board recommended that DOE take all necessary steps to assure that a Tennessee Valley Authority agreement to take SRS blended down uranium is completed by the end of August.

A recommendation that DOE go to Congress and the President to request additional funding as recommended by DNFSB in its response to the DOE Implementation Plan for DNFSB Recommendation 94-1/2000-1 was adopted by the Board.

Agency Update

Julie Corkran of EPA introduced John Stockwell as a new ex-officio representative for the SRS CAB. Dr. Stockwell has been working on priority environmental justice issues at Oak Ridge and returning to work on SRS issues. Keith Collinsworth announced that Ann Clark has taken a new position within SCDHEC

as the Assistant to Director of the Orangeburg District Office and he was named the new ex-officio representative for the SRS CAB. Tom Heenan of DOE noted the Operations Update (see attachment) and highlighted the expanded Environmental Remediation Status Report. He extended an invitation for participation in an ER media day planned for August 23. Mr. Heenan also noted that the High Level Waste Tank Closure EIS is due shortly and mentioned the availability of the MUSC Living with Risk videotape, an important independent scientific look at cancer incidence in the surrounding area. Mr. Heenan announced that Charlie Hansen has been named Deputy Manager of SRS, Roy Schepens has taken over Nuclear Materials and Ralph Erickson of DOE-HQ will manage the High Level Waste Program.

Public Comments

Lane Parker presented a letter from Hayward Baker, an engineering contractor, to Westinghouse, dated July 18, 2000, regarding their refusal to bid a project at SRS, which Mr. Parker stated puts the project at risk of being let to low bidders incapable of implementing quality work.

Wade Waters commented that numerous technology companies have difficulty packaging and presenting their services competitively because they cannot handle the bid specification. Jimmy Mackey agreed.

Karen Patterson read a letter of thanks and farewell from Ann Clark of SCDHEC.

Facilitator Update

Mike Schoener announced the next combined committee meeting would be held August 22 in Aiken, S.C. from 12:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. He provided a recommendation status update noting that 28 recommendations are pending, 38 are open and 59 closed. The Board is awaiting 6 responses from EPA, one from DOE and one from SCDHEC. Mr. Schoener also presented changes of status within the recommendation database. Mr. Schoener discussed CAB procedures noting a newly combined document of Bylaws & Standing Rules (see attachment) and requested comments on the new sections by the end of August. He also discussed the CAB recommendation development and approval process to clarify Board operating procedures for decision-making.

Waste Management Committee Report

Shipment of Low Level Waste

Peter Hudson of BNFL provided a presentation regarding Shipment of Low Level Waste to the Nevada Test Site (see attachment). Mr. Hudson noted that the Waste Management Programmatic EIS Record of Decision was issued on February 25, 2000, allowing SRS to ship tritium-contaminated debris, Iodine-129-contaminated resin and media and Iodine-129-contaminated Effluent Treatment Facility carbon vessels, which are not economically or technically practical for disposal at SRS. These wastes compose only about ten percent of the low level waste at SRS. He discussed each of the waste streams, the Nevada Test Site and the shipment schedule, which provides for the first shipment in April 2001.

Mr. Hudson also provided a presentation regarding the Environmental Assessment for Shipment of Low Level Waste and Mixed Low Level Waste to Commercial Vendors or DOE Sites for Treatment and Disposal (see attachment). The Waste Management Programmatic EIS did not analyze specific site waste or include commercial vendors, therefore an EA is required prior to shipment. The EA is scheduled for completion by December 2000 and only addresses transportation to various vendors or other DOE sites.

Consolidated Incineration Facility

Wade Waters discussed the formation of a Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) Focus Group and requested SRS CAB approval of the CIF Focus Group Charter Form (see attached). The mission of the group is to stay informed of the future status and operations of CIF and the review of alternative waste treatment processes and to offer meaningful input in identification of alternatives. Mr. Waters also presented a list of Focus Group participants, which include Wade Waters as the Administrative Lead and Bill Lawless as the Technical Lead and Perry Holcomb as the Technical Lead for PUREX activities.

Jimmy Mackey noted he would be unable to participate. Following discussion regarding costs, participants, timing and independent review, Mel Galin moved the Board establish the CIF Focus Group and Lane Parker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wade Waters also presented a draft motion regarding the path forward for the Consolidated Incineration Facility (see attachment). Following discussion of background information leading to the recommendation, Mr. Waters presented the WM Committee motion that recommends DOE reverse its decision to suspend CIF operations. It requests that DOE re-institute the necessary funds to continue operation of CIF until it can fully justify its decision, and until such time that an alternative treatment option is available, cost effective and can be implemented. Board member discussed minor modifications to the recommendation. Following extensive discussion regarding various technical aspects and the lack of stakeholder participation in the decision to shut down CIF, Jimmy Mackey moved the Board adopt the recommendation and Bill Vogeles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Nuclear Materials Committee Report

John Anderson of DOE provided a presentation regarding the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 94-1/2000-1 Implementation Plan (see attachment). Mr. Anderson discussed SRS program changes such as cancellation of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility Project with interim storage of stabilized plutonium in 235-F and K Area. Added commitments for off-specification highly enriched uranium program between DOE and the Tennessee Valley Authority and revised scope of Rocky Flats residue stabilization were the other major program changes. Mr. Anderson discussed the Savannah River 94-1 Implementation Plan commitments. He demonstrated single and double containment packaging of plutonium. Double containment is necessary to meet the DOE 3013 standard for plutonium storage. Mr. Anderson also discussed the issues involved with the delay in finalizing the agreement with TVA to take SRS blended down uranium.

Chuck Keilers of the DNFSB provided a presentation on Nuclear Materials Stabilization Activities at SRS (see attachment). Mr. Keilers provided a brief background regarding DNFSB and its Recommendations 94-1 and 2000-1. Mr. Keilers stated that Recommendation 94-1 was about schedule and 2000-1 is about urgency. Mr. Keilers stressed the significant delays in the nuclear materials stabilization program at SRS noting the various solutions and the amount of years each had been delayed. Mr. Keilers discussed the DNFSB response to the DOE Implementation Plan Revision 3 (IP-3). The DNFSB found the plan lacking regarding certain material types at SRS noting plans for stabilizing highly enriched uranium solutions at SRS rely on an agreement with TVA that continues to be delayed with no valid contingency plan. DNFSB also stated that the stabilization and packaging project planned for Building 235-F to replace APSF does not achieve the objective of the DNFSB recommendation, which is expedited stabilization of plutonium. Regarding budgetary considerations, the DNFSB continues to be concerned that funding limitations have impacted stabilization activities and recommends that any delays occasioned by budget considerations should be reported to Congress as required by the Atomic Energy Act.

Bill Willoughby presented the NM Committee draft motion regarding DOE IP-3 for DNFSB Recommendations 94-1 and 2000-1 (see attachment). The draft recommends that DOE take all necessary steps to assure that a TVA agreement is completed by the end of August. Wade Waters moved to adopt the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion was adopted by a vote of 17 members in favor and one opposed.

Bill Willoughby presented a second recommendation from the NM Committee (see attachment) that DOE give the strongest consideration of DNFSB's statements on Departmental funding and advise the CAB of its specific response to DNFSB's recommendation on interim plutonium packaging, including the cost and timing of steps that would be taken. The Board amended the motion to recommend that DOE go to Congress and the President to request additional funding as recommended by DNFSB. Bill Vogeles moved the board accept the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion passed with 17 in favor and one opposed.

Environmental Remediation Committee Report

Jimmy Mackey stated he had attended an EPA public meeting regarding EPA establishing a total maximum daily load for mercury in the Savannah River and the-Savannah River Basin waters. EPA is gathering extensive data at the Savannah River Basin to determine a better site-specific TMDL. Mr. Mackey stated that the ER Committee had agreed to close Recommendation 106 and a final report from the ORWBG is forthcoming. He also noted the status change of other ER-sponsored recommendations.

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee

Mel Galin read a letter from Jim Werner of DOE-Headquarters who was unable to attend the meeting due to a business conflict. Mr. Galin noted the Stewardship Seminar being hosted by Rocky Flats in October and that the SRS CAB will develop a working group regarding stewardship following this seminar. Keith Collinsworth mentioned another seminar being hosted by DOE regarding stewardship on August 7.

Mr. Galin introduced Drew Grainger of DOE who provided a presentation regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process (see attachment). Mr. Grainger stated that NEPA established a procedural national environmental policy. Federal actions are subject to NEPA review. There are three basic kinds of NEPA reviews- Categorical Exclusions, Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements. Categorical Exclusions are actions that the department has determined to be "individually and cumulatively insignificant." Environmental Assessments are conducted to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary and to assist Agency planning and decision-making. An action may or may not have significant environmental impact, but requires further study. At SRS, WSRC has primary responsibility although the document is a DOE document approved by the site manager. Environmental Impact Statements are prepared to assess the impact of a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The action may be programmatic or project-specific. The Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health approves preparation of an EIS, which is conducted by a specialty contractor. Site contractors have a conflict of interest.

Mr. Grainger discussed public involvement in EAs and EISs, how NEPA is administered at SRS, DOE NEPA Contractors and Records of Decision. The Record of Decision describes the alternatives and the environmental impacts of the alternatives and states which alternative the Department has chosen to implement.

SRS Planning and Budgeting Processes

Clay Jones of WSRC provided a presentation regarding SRS Planning and Budgeting Processes (see attachment). Mr. Jones stated that SRS has an effective, integrated management control process that was influenced by CAB involvement. He discussed how over time the environment of any business changes for a variety of reasons and successful businesses anticipate change and make appropriate transition. Mr. Jones discussed the multiple customers and stakeholders of the SRS business environment, how it is highly regulated, limited to annual cash flow and must plan for several years and budget cycles into the future.

Mr. Jones provided an explanation of the federal budget process, the external stakeholders who influence the process and the congressional process. He also discussed the SRS funding by budget and reporting code and the management control system process. Mr. Jones noted decision-making dynamics, such as the impacts of reduced budgets and escalating scope of work. Mr. Jones also discussed the SRS EM Budget Prioritization Model emphasizing the CAB's Evaluation Criteria utilized in prioritization. SRS EM work is broken down into eight work packages. Mr. Jones discussed how work packages are evaluated. He also discussed the EM Integrated Priority List, the limitations of the budget prioritization model and current improvement initiatives. Mr. Jones concluded noting that while an effective management control process is in use at SRS, there are opportunities for improvement and CAB involvement is welcomed.

Julie Corkran commented that EPA is sometimes frustrated with DOE, noting that they were not consulted when DOE offered a \$10 million savings in the ER program that could be redirected to other programs. EPA had sent a letter to DOE requesting additional information on the DOE action and had received a response that was partially responsive.

SRS CAB Statement of Principles

Brendolyn Jenkins presented a draft SRS CAB Statement-of Principles that was provided to the full Board in May. The Board approved the document by a show of hands.

Administrative Committee Report

Ms. Wilkins announced dates for the 2001 membership replacement process noting that the candidate selection meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2000.

Lane Parker noted recent outreach initiatives. Five speaker bureau presentations were provided to various organizations in May and June. Mr. Parker offered the opportunity for speaker certification for any interested CAB Members. He also noted that the next edition of the "Board Beat" would be prepared in August and provided to the CAB for approval in September with an October print date. Mr. Parker also noted that CAB videos were still available for distribution and that the CAB Display and Website are being updated.

Administrative Items

Karen Patterson announced that she and Brendolyn Jenkins would be attending the SSAB Chairs meeting in Amarillo, Texas in early August. She also reminded Board members to RSVP their invitation to Secretary Richardson's visit on July 27. Ms. Patterson announced that a new phone card was being provided to the CAB and the old card would be cancelled.

Handouts

SRS CAB Agenda, July 25, 2000

Operations Update, July 2000

SR CAB Recommendation Summary Report

Ship Low Level Wastes to Nevada Test Site, Peter Hudson, BNFL

Environmental Assessment for Shipment of SRS LLW to Commercial Vendors, Peter Hudson, BNFL

SRS CAB Focus Group Charter Form, Consolidated Incineration Facility, Wade Waters, CAB

Path Forward for Consolidated Incineration Facility, Wade Waters, CAB

DNFSB Recommendation 94-1/2000-1 Implementation Plan Rev. 3, John Anderson, DOE

DNFSB Nuclear Materials Stabilization Activities at SRS, Chuck Keilers, DNFSB

CAB NM Committee DOE Rev.3 Implementation Plan for DNFSB Recommendation 94-1/2000-1, Bill Willoughby, CAB

CAB NM Committee DNFSB Response to Implementation Plan Rev. 3, Bill Willoughby, CAB

The National Environmental Policy Act Process, Drew Grainger, DOE

SRS Planning and Budgeting Processes, Clay Jones, WSRC

Mission Statement, Brendolyn Jenkins, CAB

Letter from DNFSB to Karen Patterson, CAB, dated July 17, 2000

Letter from DOE to Karen Patterson, CAB, dated July 6, 2000 CAB Calendar

NEPA EIS/EA Report

SRS CAB Bylaws & Standing Rules

Approved September 26, 2000

For copies of meeting handouts call 1-800-249-8155.