



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

September 2000 Meeting Minutes

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

September 25-26, 2000
Barnwell State Park
Blackville, SC

Members Present

Bill Adams	Maria Reichmanis
Sallie Connah	Lola Richardson
Tom Costikyan	Murray Riley
Beckie Dawson	P.K. Smith
Mel Galin	Jean Sulc
Ken Goad	Charleen Townsend
Perry Holcomb	Bill Voegel
Brendolyn Jenkins	Wade Waters
William Lawrence	Beaurine Wilkins
Kathryn May	William Willoughby
Karen Patterson	

Ex-Officio Representatives

Keith Collinsworth
Julie Corkran
Ken Feely (alternate)
Tom Heenan
Jim Brownlow (alternate)

The following Board members were unable to attend: Georgia Leverett, Jimmy Mackey, Lane Parker, and Carolyn Williams. Currently, there are no Board vacancies. 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.

Key Decisions Made by the Board

The Board recommended that the Blue Ribbon Panel of independent scientific experts established to explore technological alternatives to incineration utilize the *Integrated Process Analysis of Treatment Systems for Mixed Low Level Waste* report to avoid duplication of efforts. It also requested that DOE-HQ expand the mission of the Blue Ribbon Panel from exploring technological incineration alternatives to identifying the best available technology for treatment of transuranic, mixed transuranic, low-level, mixed low-level and other incinerable waste.

The CAB recommended that DOE-SR accept transuranic (TRU) waste shipments from Mound and that DOE seek approval to ship more TRU waste volume from SRS to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than it receives from Mound. The Board also requested that DOE provide additional funding to SRS to transfer the Mound waste to SRS as well as to fund all activities necessary to accelerate SRS TRU waste shipments to WIPP.

The Board provided public comments on an Environmental Assessment for Offsite Transportation of Low Level Radioactive and Mixed Low Level Waste. They requested additional clarification on the level of controls and oversight that will be implemented at the commercial facilities receiving waste shipments, specifically whether DOE plans on conducting annual audits of these facilities and requested more information regarding "exclusive use vehicles."

The SRS CAB agreed to an alternative meeting schedule to begin in 2001.

Approval of the Minutes

The Board approved the July draft meeting minutes with no changes.

Agency Updates

Keith Collinsworth announced that Chuck Gorman has been named the new FFA Project Manager with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and will be attending SRS CAB committee meetings. Julie Corkran of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced Ken Feely of EPA and Captain John Grady of the U.S. Army, who is spending a year with EPA in an industry training program. He is specifically interested in community involvement related to environmental cleanup. Ms. Corkran also noted that EPA is seeking volunteers for representatives from citizens, DOE and SCDHEC to participate in a federal facilities working group regarding environmental justice related outreach. This working group is being formed in response to community requests made during the May 2000 National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) meeting in Atlanta, GA. She asked that interested persons contact her to inquire about further information by Thursday, Sept. 28. Jim Brownlow noted the 1997-98 Environmental Data Report for the SCDHEC Environmental Surveillance and Oversight Program was provided to Board members. Tom Heenan called attention to the Operations Update (see attached) noting that DWPF was nearing 1000 canisters and invited the CAB to join in a site celebration event. He also noted cleanup progress underway and that 78% of ER funding for Fiscal Year 2001 will be dedicated to in-field work.

Facilitator Update

Mike Schoener presented the current recommendation status report noting 18 pending recommendations, 25 open and 85 closed. The Board is awaiting three responses from EPA, one from SCDHEC and one from DOE-HQ. The ER Committee changed the status of three recommendations, the S<I Committee changed two and the Waste Management Committee changed the status of 19 recommendations since the last Board meeting, the majority of which were closed. Mr. Schoener also discussed the Bylaws & Standing Rules document (see attachment) noting that one comment was received and incorporated and the document finalized.

Mike Schoener provided a summary of the Executive Committee meeting held on Monday. He discussed an alternate proposed meeting schedule (see attached) presented to the Executive Committee. Based on feedback from recent pilot committee meeting meetings, the proposal calls for quarterly full Board meetings in January, April, July and October followed by day-long combined committee meetings the next month and individual committee meetings held during off months at times and locations that will be determined by each committee. Mr. Schoener also noted that the Executive Committee did not feel a separate process retreat is required in 2001 and any issues that arise will be addressed during the February or other combined committee meeting.

SRS 1999 Annual Report

Jim Heffner of Westinghouse Savannah River Company provided an Environmental Monitoring Program Overview (see attached). Dr. Heffner discussed monitoring activities on and off site and how the Annual Environmental Report quantifies impacts of site operations to the public and surrounding environment. He discussed contaminant pathways, program drivers, and compliance objectives, which continue to be zero violations and full compliance. The Annual Environmental Report documents the site environmental performance, compliance with standards and requirements, significant programs and efforts and potential radiation dose. Dr. Heffner discussed 1999 highlights noting that radiological emissions and radiation dose to the public remains low and SRS compliance with environmental regulations was nearly perfect.. In 1999, 12,000 samples were collected and 30,000 analyses performed on various environmental media.

Mr. Heffner discussed the various 1999 doses including individual and sportsmen doses and provided dose benchmarks for comparison, noting that the typical resident of the Central Savannah River Area receives approximately 300 millirem per year living in the CSRA. The total SRS maximum exposure was only .28 millirem in 1999. He also discussed water quality and Savannah River tritium concentrations, noting that DOE and WSRC are committed to protecting the water quality of the river and maintaining open communications with Beaufort-Jasper and Port Wentworth water authorities. Annual downriver drinking water dose is very low, .07 millirem in 1999, which is 60 times lower than EPA's 4 mrem standard.

Dr. Heffner also discussed the Enhanced Tritium Monitoring Program, a cooperative program with Georgia and South Carolina that shows SRS sampling results are identical with the state agencies. He also discussed fish monitoring, noting that three species of fish are sampled at nine river locations, one saltwater location and nine onsite locations. Discussion revolved around the need to better communicate with the public to improve their understanding of this data; the importance of fish monitoring; and how animal populations are monitored. Beaurine Wilkins stated that stakeholders were interested and concerned about fish consumption as evidenced by comments received during a meeting she had held in her home with CRESP, regarding this issue.

Waste Management Committee Report

Consolidated Incineration Facility Focus Group Update

Wade Waters introduced Bill Lawless, Technical Lead of the CIF Focus Group, to provide an update on the Consolidated Incineration Facility Focus Group. Dr. Lawless noted that the focus group is dissatisfied with DOE's response to Recommendation 126 and feels DOE should continue operating CIF until an alternative is found. At the first two meetings of the focus group the group heard about the system approach objectives of the SRS CIF Alternatives Study Group, shutdown and maintenance of CIF and the SCDHEC review on licensing, permitting, privatization and permit extension. Dr. Lawless noted that DOE's decision to suspend CIF operations is based on current cost effectiveness, lack of waste feed material, Site Treatment Plan commitments and the need to fund higher priority programs. He noted DOE's considerations provided in its response to Recommendation 126 and then discussed the CIF Alternatives Study being conducted by a select Blue Ribbon Panel. Discussion revolved around cost effectiveness of operations, SCDHEC permitting issues, and the probability of developing new technologies.

Perry Holcomb presented a draft motion requesting information on alternative technologies to incineration (see attached). The motion recommends that the Blue Ribbon Panel, established by DOE-Headquarters to evaluate and recommend alternatives to incineration, utilize the *Integrated Process Analysis of Treatment Systems for Mixed Low Level Waste* report to avoid duplication of efforts. It also requests that DOE-HQ expand the mission of the Blue Ribbon Panel from exploring technological alternatives to incineration to identifying the best available technology for treatment of transuranic, mixed transuranic, low-level, mixed low-level and other incinerable waste. Wade Waters moved the Board adopt the motion and Ken Goad seconded. The motion was adopted by a vote of 18 members in favor and two opposed. One member was out of the room during voting.

Mound Transuranic Waste

Dale Ormond, DOE, provided a briefing regarding Mound transuranic waste (see attached). The Mound Site is located in Miamisburg, Ohio and is scheduled for closure in 2004. Previous site missions at Mound included construction of radio-thermoelectric generators resulting in a current TRU waste inventory of 150 cubic meters in

35 boxes and 80 drums. Potentially, Mound could generate another 150 cubic meters through decontamination and decommissioning of facilities. Most of the waste cannot be shipped directly to WIPP without repackaging. Mr. Ormond discussed the proposed initiative, which is to transfer the Mound waste

to SRS for interim storage. This would allow for earlier closure of the Mound Site saving taxpayer dollars and allow SRS to significantly accelerate the TRU waste Ship to WIPP schedule. SRS would ship twice the volume of Mound waste to WIPP. Mr. Ormond discussed TRU storage at SRS and the benefits of this proposal to SRS, which includes not only the accelerated shipments of SRS TRU to WIPP, but also appropriate budget adjustments and support agreements with sites involved being established. Discussion revolved around cost savings, non-compliance of the SRS TRU Pads with current RCRA requirements for aisle space storage and how much waste would require shipment to comply with aisle space storage requirements, and Department of Transportation certification requirements.

Wade Waters presented a draft motion recommending that DOE accept TRU waste shipments from the Mound Site and that DOE receive approval to ship more TRU waste volume from SRS than received from Mound. The motion also requested that DOE provide non-SRS funding to not only transfer the Mound waste to SRS but to fund all activities necessary to accelerate SRS TRU waste shipments to WIPP. The motion request that DOE explain its long range plan and program for high activity Pu-238 waste treatment/processing and identify areas to accelerate. The SRS CAB also requested that DOE mandate waste inventory validations, certifications, and assurances from Mound. Bill Vogeles moved the Board adopt the recommendation and Ken Goad seconded. The motion was adopted by a vote of 19 members in favor, one opposed and one abstention by Perry Holcomb, who stated he was uncomfortable about the condition of all the Mound waste.

Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Offsite Transportation of Low Level Radioactive and Mixed Waste

Don Zecha, WSRC, provided a presentation regarding the EA for Offsite Transportation of Low Level Radioactive and Mixed Waste (see attached). The purpose of the EA is to assess the potential impact of proposed offsite transportation of these waste types from SRS to DOE and commercial treatment/disposal facilities. He discussed the history of LLW and MLLW disposal, including onsite and regional disposal and destinations planned for offsite disposal. Mr. Zecha discussed the various types of shipments and shipping methods. The EA concluded that the impact of offsite transportation of these wastes is less than one latent cancer fatality, less than one fatality due to traffic accidents, no disproportionate environmental justice impacts and no adverse environmental impacts. The EA public comment period ends October 17 and a Record of Decision is expected in December 2000.

William Lawrence presented the committee's draft motion regarding the EA for Transportation of SRS MLLW and Certain LLW for Treatment and Disposal at Commercial and Government Facilities (see attached). The draft motion requested additional clarification on the level of controls and oversight that will be implemented at the commercial facilities receiving waste shipments, specifically whether DOE plans on conducting annual audits of these facilities and more information regarding "exclusive use vehicles." It also recommended in part 2 that DOE coordinate and schedule a comprehensive briefing for the SRS CAB on emergency response actions that would be taken in the event of a transportation incident. Following minor modifications to the draft motion, Bill Vogeles moved the Board adopt the motion and Wade Waters seconded. Mel Galin moved the Board amend the motion to delete number 2, stating the Board did not have to ask for a briefing in a recommendation, just merely request the briefing. The amendment passed with a vote of 14 members in favor and five opposed. The motion, as amended, was adopted by a vote of 13 members in favor, five opposed and one abstention by Sallie Connah, noting she was not comfortable with the voting process.

Public Comments

Lynn Waishwell noted several studies regarding environmental monitoring, particularly fish consumption and male raccoons were available from the Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation.

Helen Belencan, DOE-HQ noted she had recently attended a conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a growing concern of the participants is how to conduct effective public

involvement. She stated that in his opening remarks, the IAEA Director General discussed how support is growing for a global forum regarding nuclear waste with participation from all concerned parties, including policy makers, civil society and the media, to build an international consensus on this important issue. Ms. Belencan asked the Board to give this some thought to what they would recommend to the Director General to consider in planning such a forum and requested comments to please be provided to her, since she will continue to be involved with the initiative.

Environmental Remediation Committee Report

Maria Reichmanis announced that the ER Committee had recently updated the status of several recommendations and would be again reviewing the fish advisory shortly. She noted that SCDHEC provided all CAB members with the 2000 Fish Advisory.

Perry Holcomb provided a presentation regarding compliance with an EPA initiative, the Resource Conservation Recovery Act/Government Performance Results Act (see attached). Congress enacted GPRA in 1993 to increase efficiency and accountability of governmental agencies. EPA has set the following four goals for RCRA:

- Permit 90% of all treatment, storage and disposals by 2005
- Permit 90% of all post closures by 2005
- By 2005, control human exposure at 95% of all facilities not having adequate controls
- By 2005, control groundwater releases at 95% of all facilities not having adequate controls

SRS is affected by two environmental indicators that have been established: human exposure and groundwater release. The SRS CAB will continue to monitor this initiative, however currently no actions are needed.

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee Report

Mel Galin opened with an introduction of Lee Poe, who led a small team that evaluated SRS risk processes over the last two years. Mr. Poe provided a final report regarding the Risk Management Processes Used at SRS and the results of Team A of the Risk Working Group (see attached). Mr. Poe noted why the group was formed and the participants of Team A. He discussed the evaluation process utilized by Team A and the various SRS risk processes used. Team A reviewed 13 risk-related processes compared to Team A's definition of risk and made no recommendations for SRS to change its process. Team A noted that the CAB needs to understand differences exist in the terminology related to risk and should verify definitions and use of the terms as part of presentations to ensure appropriate understanding.

Mel Galin noted that long-term stewardship is an ongoing issue of great interest around the complex. He noted that the SRS CAB will be challenged to keep stakeholders involved and to retain expertise in this area. He also stated that funding is also an important issue. He noted SRS CAB members will attend the Rocky Flats sponsored Stewardship Seminar. In addition, Mike Schoener is attending to help facilitate the seminar. Mr. Galin also noted SRS budget activities and mentioned that CIF funding had been re-routed to fund a higher priority activity (plutonium stabilization) also of great interest to the CAB. Mr. Galin also informed the Board that a two-hour presentation regarding SRS planning processes is to be provided in November.

Nuclear Materials Committee Report

George Klipa, DOE, provided a presentation regarding the Integrated Nuclear Materials Management: A Strategic Approach to Addressing an Enduring DOE Mission (see attached). Mr. Klipa explained that nuclear materials stewardship is the responsible management of nuclear materials across their entire life

cycle; including production, use, recycle and recovery, storage, transportation and disposition. DOE recognizes its enduring obligation to protect national security while managing nuclear materials efficiently, he said. Mr. Klipa stated that DOE must maintain a coherent corporate strategy that is integrated across programs and within the DOE complex. Several factors motivated this strategic approach including integration of numerous programs which manage nuclear materials maintained at 36 sites; the ability to modernize aged facilities requires deinventory and closure, errors in reporting, and potential for premature shutdown of facilities required for disposition.

Mr. Klipa described the organization structure for implementing the nuclear materials stewardship initiative and discussed the role of the Policy Office. The new INMMP presents the first consolidated account to Congress and the public of DOE's unclassified inventory of nuclear materials and a description of how and where they are managed. He discussed the objectives of the plan, which is to promote enduring DOE nuclear materials stewardship and coordination function and improve efficiency through program integration and consolidation. He discussed the progress made and next steps, which include institutionalization, complete strategic analysis of enduring long term missions, integrated corporate facility planning, established baselines and the disposition of orphan materials.

Administrative Committee Report

Lola Richardson read the meeting notification from Beaurine Wilkins regarding the membership candidate selection to be held on October 21 in Beaufort, S.C. The deadline for applications is Oct. 4 but applications will be accepted up until the October 21 meeting. She also announced that the fall edition of the "Board Beat" is available and any comments should be provided by Sept. 29. Ms. Wilkins noted that the CAB had provided letters offering speakers and the Board's video to all organizations in the CAB Point of Contact database, which has resulted in several inquiries. Ms. Wilkins noted the winners of the September essay contest with Guinyard-Butler Middle School, Nick Bodiford and Jennifer Ramsey. Lola Richardson provided an update regarding the Board's Budget (see attached), noting the Board will complete the fiscal year on target as expected.

Handouts

SRS CAB Agenda, September 26, 2000
Operations Update, September 2000
Alternate Meeting Schedule Proposal
SRS CAB Recommendation Summary
SRS CAB Mission & Principles Bylaws & Standing Rules, July, 2000
WSRC's Environmental Monitoring Program Overview, Jim Heffner, WSRC
Consolidated Incineration Facility Focus Group Update, Bill Lawless
Request for Data/Information on Alternative Technologies to Incineration, Perry Holcomb, CAB
Mound Transuranic Waste, Dale Ormond, DOE
Mound TRU Waste Shipments to SRS, Wade Waters, CAB
EA for the Offsite Transportation of Low Level Radioactive and Mixed Waste, Don Zecha, WSRC
Environmental Assessment for the Transportation of SRS MLLW and Certain LLW for Treatment and Disposal at Commercial and Government Facilities, William Lawrence, CAB
RCRA/GPRA Update for the SRS CAB, Perry Holcomb, CAB
Risk Management Processes Used at SRS, Lee Poe
Integrated Nuclear Materials Management, George Klipa, DOE
DOE News Release, dated September 21, 2000
SRS CAB Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Summary
SRS CAB EIS Report *Approved November 14, 2000*

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