SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

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Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Focus Group

Meeting Summary

April 19, 2000
Aiken Federal Building
Aiken, SC

The Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Focus Group (ORWBG FG) met on Wednesday, April 19, 2000 at the Aiken Federal Building in Aiken, S.C. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Interim Action for the Southwest Plume in the ORWBG, the Phase 2 Draft Report by the ORWBG Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR), and the Southwest Plume Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The ISPR is being conducted by the Education, Research and Development Association (ERDA) of Georgia Universities to estimate human health consequences to individuals at several locations in contaminated streams related to the ORWBG. Attendees included:

CAB Members	Stakeholders	DOE/Contractors
Karen Patterson	Bill McDonell	Donna Martin, WSRC
Jim Mackey*	Lee Poe**	Greg Flach, WSRC-SRTC
	Gene Rollins	Ed McNamee, BSRI
	Jerry Devitt	Don Toddings, BSRI
		Elmer Wilhite, WSRC
		Philip Prater, DOE
*Administrative Lead of the ORWBG		Ratib Karam, ERDA
**Technical Lead of the ORWBG		Jim Heffner, WSRC

Jimmy Mackey, ORWBG Administrative Lead, opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda. Lee Poe, Technical Lead, then stated the Interim Action Southwest Plume (dose, dose reductions and cost) and the CAB Recommendation 106 would be revisited at a later meeting due to lack of time to address several technical issues and procedures questioned by the ORWBG focus.

There was some discussion of the subject to ensure there was an understanding between the focus group and SRS over how reconciliation on this issue could be reached. All seemed to recognize the risk is low and the question is how much time and analysis costs is necessary to reconcile the difference between the focus group and SRS calculations on dose committed values.

Next on the agenda, Dr. Ratib Karam, Executive Director, ERDA at Georgia Tech, gave a presentation on a Phase 2 draft report conducted by the ERDA ISPR to determine human health consequences to individuals at several locations in the ORWBG. Karam said the information in the report is based on a model of the transport of pollutants in groundwater devised by Dr. Randy Charbeneau, Associate Dean, University of Texas, a nationally recognized expert in that area.

In the early portion of the presentation, Karam described the formulas used to calculate the results of the draft report. Input was pulled from the 1999 Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study (CMS/FS) required for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Comprehensive Environmental Response Compliance and Liability Act (CERCLA) activities. Calculations for the inventory delivery rate were conducted for the period between 1952-1974.

In summary, the draft report of Phase 2 states 19 mrem as the maxium dose to the hypothetical individual who drinks 2.2 liters of water per day from Fourmile Branch for a full year. The EPA drinking water standard for the general public is 4 mrem per year, and although a different dose factor, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission standard is a whole body dose of 100 mrem. Karam emphasized that the numbers were hypothical; the public will not have access to Fourmile Branch as long as SRS maintains institutional control.

Poe then asked that the final ISPR report contain calculated health consequences. He also asked that the ISPR explain how it will handle public comments from the group.

For the final topic of the evening, McNamee discussed the Mixed Waste Management Facility Southwest Plume Area Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that as submitted to SCDHEC as part of the 2000 Renewal Application for a RCRA Part B Permit. Although SCDHEC has not formally reviewed the CAP, it has shown informal support of minimal remediation.

The objectives of the CAP are to:

- reduce tritium flux from the Southwest Plume into Fourmile Branch
- remediate at the Southwest Plume Area groundwater such that volatile organic compounds (VOC) are below the GWPS at the seepline
- minimize human exposure to contaminants of concern in the Southwest Plume area using institutional controls.

The various components to be used include:

- surface water collection and irrigation
- seepline collection (interceptor system and irrigation)
- additional metals characterization
- in-situ VOC hot spot remediation (e.g. air sparging, recirculation wells)
- institutional controls (access restrictions)
- monitored natural attenuation

Poe said he could not interpret that minimal activity was recommended in the CAP and he suggested that SRS document that SCDHEC was receptive.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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