SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee

Meeting Summary

February 22, 2000
North Augusta Community Center
North Augusta, SC

CAB Members	Stakeholders	DOE/Contractors
Mel Galin*	Paulette Fix	Bob Blundy, WSRC
Bill Vogele*	Perry Holcomb	Dick Reynolds, WSRC
Georgia Leverett	Mike French	Steve Baker, DOE
Karen Patterson	Lee Poe	Terry Bland, WSRC
Jimmy Mackey	Bill McDonald	Thomas Johnson, DOE
	Rick McLeod, CAB Tech. Adv.	Gerry Stejskal, WSRC
		George Mishra, DOE
		Sherry Robinson, DOE
	Regulators	Jim Buice, DOE
	Ken Feely, EPA	Paul Eisenstat, WSRC
	Julie Corkran, EPA	Paul Sauerborn, WSRC
	Ann Clark, SCDHEC	Paul Huber, BSRI

* Denotes CAB S&LTI Committee Members

Introduction: Mel Galin introduced himself as the chair of the Strategic and Long Term Issues Committee. He noted that the committee responsibilities included the Strategic and Comprehensive Plan, Path to Closure Plan, technology development, stewardship and future use. In addition, the committee will address risk management at the site level. Mr. Galin asked for everyone at the table and around the room to introduce themselves.

Schedule Review: Mr. Galin presented the schedule to the attendees and stated that a 4-6 month schedule was under development and would be presented at the next committee meeting.

Technology Development Review: Sherry Robinson, Technology Development Officer for DOE Savannah River Site, introduced Dick Reynolds, WSRC Site Technology Coordinator. Ms. Robinson reports directly to Tom Heenan, DOE Assistant Manager for Environmental Programs at SRS.

Mr. Reynolds began his presentation with a quote from U.S. Representative Tom Bliley, R-VA, Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, May 1999. *"…the Savannah River Site's use of new technologies is one of the few Diamonds-in-the-Rough. How can we get other (DOE) sites to follow your example?"* The highlights of technology deployment at SRS include more than 75 new deployments in the last two years, and 37 new technologies were deployed in 1999 alone. Another notable point was that 80% of the technology is developed by the Technology Program, and 20% through the Office of Science and Technology. Mr. Reynolds noted that the success of the Technology Program

coordination is disciplined site process. The long-term site objectives of the Environmental Management (EM) roadmap identifies tank closure and vitrification of high level waste by 2028, and all waste dispositioned by 2032, watershed cleanup by 2038, and stabilization and storage of nuclear materials (non-proliferation) by 2022. Some new technologies either in use or on the horizon for use at Savannah River Site are the new Swedish technology Flygt Mixer to benefit HLW, the TRU headspace gas sampler, vadose zone monitoring system, and the Instacote application system, which is designed for outdoor contamination areas to be rolled back to radiological buffer areas. In conclusion, Mr. Reynolds stated that technology is strong at SRS, and because of DOE budget pressures, smarter technology planning, prioritization, and development will be essential to stay ahead of the cleanup curve. Lee Poe asked about the plan for nuclear materials and spent nuclear fuel. Mr. Reynolds responded by offering to return to the Committee with an answer to that question and Mr. Galin endorsed the response.

Issue: What is the fate of nuclear materials and spent nuclear fuel at SRS?

Action: Mr. Reynolds will pass this request to the Nuclear Materials Committee for response at their next meeting.

Integrated Groundwater Strategy: Bob Blundy, Technical Advisor of the WSRC Environmental Restoration (ER) Division, expanded on the technology development review by addressing several ER related groundwater technologies that are either in use or soon to be deployed. Dynamic Underground Stripping is being deployed at the 321-M Solvent Storage Tank area. Mobilization to the SRS site is scheduled for mid February 2000, and steam injection is scheduled for June 2000 with the project to last no longer than 12 months. Integrated Solvent Remediation System combines the use of groundwater air sparging and soil vapor extraction of air sparge vapors. Phytoremediation is the use of trees and other vegetation to clean soils through natural growth of plant life. Lee Poe was interested in the effectiveness of the Phytoremediation program, i.e., how much contaminant can one pine tree take in during one-year period. Monitored Natural Attenuation is the use of remote instrumentation placed in wells, to determine the migration and concentration of contamination. Mr. Mackey invited Mr. Poe to an ER meeting on March 7 where the topic of Phytoremediation will be discussed in detail.

Issue: Need information on the amount of contamination that can be absorbed by pine trees using phytoremediation.

Action: Bob Blundy to respond to issue at the March 7 ER Committee meeting.

Budget Status - FY2001 Rollout and FY 2002 Strategy: Jim Buice, DOE Director of Planning and Budget for SRS, presented an FY2000 overview which indicated that all planned accomplishments would be met in the fiscal year. This includes full compliance with regulatory agreements, commitments to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board - including operations of both SRS Canyons and FB and HB lines, investments in Salt disposition technology for High Level Waste (HLW), meet all tritium recycle requirements and new tritium source milestones, continue support for receipt and storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel including support for alternative technology development, the maintaining of essential site infrastructure including construction of new regulatory monitoring and bioassay laboratory, and continues the support for new plutonium disposition missions. Mr. Buice also pointed out the fact that although the site will accomplish a significant amount of work, some areas will be suffering a shortfall in funding. Those areas are Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) Operations, Equipment/GPP Projects, C Lab Shielded Restoration, Off-Site Shipments of Low Level Waste (LLW), Alternative Technology Transfer and Storage Facility, Salt Disposition, Americium/Curium (Am/Cm) Project Acceleration, and miscellaneous other activities. Mr. Lawless asked if this meant that the shipment of soils from the SRL seepage basin would be delayed being shipped to Envirocare an offsite repository. Mr. Huber stated that there are still plans to begin shipment this year.

Mr. Buice directed the attention of the attendees to the FY2001 Budget Rollout. He noted that funding would be up in the areas of Environmental Restoration, High Level Waste, Nuclear Materials Disposition,

Defense Programs and Miscellaneous Programs. Mr. Buice directed attention to the EM deferred activities for 2001. The areas for the deferred activities are CIF Operations, Pu 3013 Stabilization Capability, SNF Treatment and Storage Facility, Am/Cm Project Acceleration, Infrastructure Restoration Project and the Salt Disposition Facility Construction. Mr. Galin asked Mr. Buice to return and present the balance of his material at the next scheduled committee meeting and be prepared to have responses to the questions raised during this meeting, and that due to time constraints needed to close the committee meeting. Mr. Galin asked the committee to explore areas that were presented tonight that could be developed into recommendations at the next CAB meeting scheduled for March 28th. Mr. Poe stated that from his public perspective that risks at the site keep getting delayed and a level budget is unacceptable.

Issue: Concern for high-risk areas on the site are not being addressed by the budget.

Action: Mr. Buice will address issue at next S&LTI Committee meeting.

Mr. Galin asked if there were any public or other comments. Ann Clark representing the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control stated the draft Fish Advisory is still not ready and that unfortunately there will be no time for additional public review and input before it is completed.

Mr. Galin thanked the attendees for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned.

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