



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee

Meeting Summary

March 27, 2000
Houndslake Country Club
Aiken, SC

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Strategic and Long Term Issues (S<I) Committee met on Monday, March 27, 6:30 p.m. at the Houndslake Country Club, Aiken, S.C. The purpose of the meeting was to review the outstanding CAB Recommendations #107 and #115, receive a status update on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities, receive budget status on 2001 budget deferred activities and the 2002 Integrated Priority List (IPL), review proposed budget recommendations and receive public input. The following were in attendance:

CAB Members

P.K. Smith*
Bill Voegelé*
Bill Adams*
Ann Loadholt
Jimmy Mackey

Mel Galin**

Stakeholders

Mike French
Thomas Rolka, SCDHEC
Pat Miles
Russ Messick
Lynn Waishwell, CRESP
Jerry Devitt
Brandon Haddock

DOE/Contractors

Tom Treger, DOE
Drew Grainger, DOE
Allen Gunter, DOE
Larry Snyder, DOE
John Reynolds, DOE
Mary Flora, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC

* Denotes Committee member

**Denotes Committee Member not present

P. K. Smith chaired the meeting for Mr. Galin who was unable to attend. Ms. Smith welcomed those in attendance, reviewed the agenda and asked those attending to introduce themselves.

Recommendation Status

#115 SRS Strategic Plan:

Ms. Smith, the motion manager, noted that DOE responded to the CAB Recommendation on the Strategic Plan and suggested the recommendation be closed. After some discussion, Bill Voegelé made a motion to close the recommendation and Bill Adams seconded. The motion to close the recommendation passed unanimously.

Recommendation Status

#107 Fish Consumption Advisories:

Jimmy Mackey, the motion manager, gave a short background of activities leading to the recommendation. Mr. Mackey stated that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) said in order to meet the date for publication, there was not enough time for SCDHEC to allow a public review of the current Fish Fact sheet. The Fish Fact sheet is currently at the publishers. It was suggested that after review of the current Fish Fact sheet, if the Fish Fact sheet was not satisfactory, the next CAB motion should request that SCDHEC add time in their schedule to allow public input. It was decided that this motion should not be closed until a copy of the Fish Fact sheet was available for review.

Bill Vogeles made a motion to move the Fish Fact sheet subject to the Environmental Remediation Committee since he did not feel it was a strategic or long-term issue. Jimmy Mackey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEPA Status Update:

Drew Grainger, the NEPA Compliance Officer for DOE, gave his quarterly review of NEPA activities. There are currently six Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). They are listed below with the expected completion date:

- SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel Management
 - - Approval expected this week; Record of Decision (ROD) expected in May.
- SRS High-Level Waste Tank Closure
 - - Expect Draft EIS in May 2000
- SRS Salt Disposition Alternatives
 - - Draft EIS expected the summer 2000
- Surplus Plutonium Disposition
 - - ROD issued January 2000
- Waste Management Programmatic
 - - Low-Level (LL) and LL Mixed ROD issued February 2000
- Geologic Repository for Spent Nuclear Fuel
 - - Final EIS expected in 2001

There are five Environmental Assessments (EA). They are:

- Offsite Shipments of Certain Low-Level and Mixed Waste
 - - Pre-approval expected in June 2000
- Revised Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Natural Resources Management EA.
 - - Revised FONSI expected in April 2000
- Construction and Operation of the Low-Enriched Uranium Loading Station
 - - Pre-approval expected in April 2000
- Alternate Approach of Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Canister Storage
 - - Pre-approval expected in March 2000
- Revised FONSI, Centralization of the Central Sanitary Wastewater System
 - - Revised FONSI was issued in February 2000

Budget Status

2001 Budget Deferred Activities:

Jim Buice, DOE, introduced DOE program individuals Allen Gunter, Nuclear Materials Stabilization, Larry Snyder, Infrastructure, and John Reynolds, High-Level Waste. Mr. Buice said they were attending the meeting to answer any program questions that may arise from the budget discussions.

Mr. Buice stated that DOE-HQ allocates the total dollars for the year (Fiscal Year (FY) 2001) across the DOE complex. The site is then given a target dollar number. The site then builds their budget against that target. He stated that it didn't make sense for the site to greatly exceed that target because there wasn't enough funding available. However, they do define what is needed and set a primary goal that may be slightly above the target. That doesn't mean that the site can't go back to DOE-HQ or Congress and ask for additional dollars. Items that can't be funded are deferred. Those deferred items are considered limited risk. In the priority list, safety is considered first. Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) items and regulatory commitments are next. After the list of projects is set in priority order, then a cut line is drawn at the target dollar level. Those items below the cut line are deferred projects. The site does continue to go back to DOE-HQ and Congress to request additional funding.

Mr. Buice stated that the budget numbers for FY 2001 were previously reviewed with the public at the budget rollout meeting on February 7 and again on February 22 so he was going to proceed directly to the deferred activities. There are six deferred items on the FY2001 budget, they are Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) \$6.0 million, Pu 3013 Stabilization Capability \$30.8 million, Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Treatment and Storage Facility \$12.0 million, Americium/Curium (Am/Cm) Project Acceleration \$12.0 million, Infrastructure Restoration Project \$5.3 million and Salt Disposition Facility Construction \$38.0 million.

Mr. Buice stated that CIF was initially in the budget for \$18 million and was being reduced by \$6 million. The CIF was originally built to handle the benzene from the In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) Facility. With ITP no longer an option, this eliminated the main need for CIF. The program determined that there is a more cost-effective way to handle the waste that CIF is currently treating. CIF will be put in standby.

The project for the Pu 3013 Stabilization Capability was originally the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility (APSF). The APSF was stopped in 1998 to look at other ways to handle disposition considering the budget crunch and in light of the new missions. There was an effort to integrate all the plutonium missions. The alternate will be decided in April 2000. Whichever alternate is selected, \$30.8 million will be required the first year. In addition the Pu 3013 project is fifth on the DNFSB list of items most critical to the site and potentially behind schedule.

In the FY 2001 budget, the Am/Cm is budgeted, but not at the accelerated rate. The \$12.0 million would be used to accelerate Am/Cm and was deferred. \$16.0 million is budgeted for Am/Cm in FY 2001.

For Infrastructure, in the past six years, the total infrastructure budget has been reduced from between \$60-\$80 million a year down to a recent level between \$10-\$15 million per year. The total 10-year infrastructure restoration project request is between \$370-\$380 million at a rate of \$37-\$38 million a year. Two infrastructure projects make up the deferred program funding. One project is the upgrade of the 50-year-old electrical distribution system. The other is the upgrade and replacement of the Savannah River Technical Center (SRTC) main facility ventilation system.

Salt Disposition Facility Construction was deferred by \$38.0 million. John Reynolds stated that the need for design and construction in FY 2001 can be delayed without impact since the decision on the alternative and technical development would delay the need for funding. The technology selection program is adequately funded.

P. K. Smith stated that the critical projects on the deferred list were Pu 3013 and the Infrastructure Restoration Project.

Budget Status

2002 Integrated Priority List:

Mr. Buice presented the first draft of the Integrated Priority List for FY 2002. There are 41 activities on the list. Mr. Buice said they felt the cut line would be from the 28th to the 31st activity. This would leave anywhere from 11 to 14 activities unfunded. There was some discussion on some of the items but it was

decided that Mr. Buice should come back to the Committee on April 25 to review the specifics of the IPL. Mr. Buice stated that by that time they would have more information.

Mr. Buice stated that the Committee should remember that there is only limited funding. Therefore, if someone had a suggestion on moving an item from the unfunded category to the funded category, then they needed to also state which activity in the funded category would go unfunded. There are no extra dollars so it becomes a trade off.

CAB Budget Recommendations:

Ms. Smith stated that based on the budget presentation by Mr. Buice, the third motion on Salt Disposition Facility Construction could be canceled. Mr. Vogeles made a motion to cancel the recommendation and Mr. Adams seconded it. The Committee vote was unanimous to cancel the recommendation.

Motion #1 FY 2001 Budget Deferment of Infrastructure Activities was reviewed. It was decided that funding was needed to get some of the old equipment replaced due to high cost of upkeep. Mr. Vogeles made a motion to pass the recommendation, Mr. Adams seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Motion #2 FY 2001 Budget Deferment of Pu 3013 Stabilization Capability was reviewed. It was determined that this was a critical project and the Committee wanted to support the DNFSB concern. Mr. Vogeles made a motion to pass the recommendation, Mr. Adams seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Public Comment:

Ms. Smith asked if there was any public comment. Mike French stated that the DNFSB wrote a letter to DOE critical of the facilities. The DNFSB placed the list in priority order with the top three items being at SRS:

- Stabilize the uranium solution in tanks outside the H-Canyon.
- Remediate the highly radioactive solutions of americium and curium in the F-Canyon.
- Remediate the solution of neptunium now stored in H-Canyon.

Mr. French felt that the CAB should pursue a recommendation, requesting DOE to fund these items and get them back on schedule.

After discussion, it was determined that the uranium solution was in the budget. The \$38 million from the Salt Disposition Facility was moved to that project. Am/Cm is in the budget, but just not at the accelerated level. The budget is currently being reviewed and the neptunium concern will be addressed. Mr. French asked if these actions would satisfy the DNFSB. Allen Gunter stated that they were working towards that end. Mr. Buice stated that during the budget review on April 25, the public would see that the DNFSB projects would all be funded.

Ms. Smith asked everyone to review the calendar of meetings, the S<I draft monthly schedule and a handout of web pages of interest to the public. With no other public comments, Ms. Smith adjourned the meeting.

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