



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Salt Processing Focus Group**

#### **Meeting Summary**

January 11, 2000  
North Augusta Community Center  
North Augusta, SC

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The Salt Processing Focus Group met on Tuesday, January 11, 2000, at 3:00 p.m. at the North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, SC. Attendance was as follows:

Mike French	Lee Poe
Ernie Chaput	Julie Petersen
Bill McDonell	Kelly Way
Karen Patterson	Wade Waters
Jim Fay	John Reynolds
Ken Rueter	Rick McLeod
Jimmy Mackey	

Lee Poe opened the meeting by requesting introductions and reviewing the agenda. The Focus Group discussed the following areas:

**Dry Run for the ER&WM Subcommittee meeting:** Lee Poe did a dry run of the presentation for the ER&WM Subcommittee on "Salt Processing Status". The presentation consisted of the following: a background of the Salt Processing situation to date, the selection of the alternative, the Focus Group input, the NAS input, concerns of the Focus Group, and Focus Group activities.

#### **Phases 3 & 4 of the System Engineering Team**

**The WSRC Management Decisions:** Ken Rueter briefed the group on the salt waste processing program selection (phase III) and decision phase (phase IV). He gave a brief summary of Phases I & II and detailed Phases III & IV. WSRC recommended to DOE that Small tank TPB Precipitation is the most technically suited alternative for SRS High Level Waste Processing. Also, in support of a broader DOE complex perspective, WSRC recommended proceeding with an aggressive Science and Technology program on CST Non-Elutable Ion Exchange. Ken also outlined the risks associated with each alternative.

**Draft Motion 3:** Ernie Chaput presented Draft Motion 3, Selection of "High Level Waste Cesium Processing Alternative" to the group for edit and comment. The recommendation reads as follows:

1. DOE establish and commit to a cesium processing alternative schedule, which will assure that regulatory commitments to EPA, SCDHEC and NEPA are met.
2. DOE establish a technology management process that supports selection of an effective

alternate by September 2001.

3. DOE provide information to the CAB (via Salt Processing Focus Group) on the following topics:
  4.
    - o By 3/1/00, an overall schedule for implementing the cesium processing alternative technology. The schedule should highlight the technology selection date, the implementing facility operational date, the date for removing high level liquid waste from all old style tanks, and the date for removing high level liquid waste from all tanks.
    - o By 3/1/00, a schedule for preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
    - o By 3/1/00, an assessment of the incremental risks and benefits associated with an early technology decision based on one acceptable technology, and a late technology decision based on multiple acceptable technologies with delay in removal of high level waste from underground tanks.
    - o By 5/31/00, an Interim HLW management activities, including the need to build new HLW tanks or reuse old tanks.

**Salt Processing Schedule Through Start of Operations:** John Reynolds spoke briefly to the schedule. Test plans with Oak Ridge and SRTC are ongoing. Schedule for the Draft EIS will be developed with the path forward. It is probable that Headquarters will recommend examining Solvent Extraction in more depth, with additional R&D to resolve technical issues with Small Tank and CST Non-Elutable Ion Exchange. Direct Disposal as grout is not being considered now.

Tank space management options are being studied by DOE and WSRC with optimism that operations of the tank farms could continue beyond 2010 without reuse of old style tanks or construction of new tanks. The technology development program is being managed by WSRC. WSRC is tasked and funded under the current contract to develop CST Non-Elutable Ion Exchange and Small tank TPB Precipitation. Direct Disposal as grout is not considered in the contract. Westinghouse holds the process and facility knowledge and will be a part of developing and deploying the technology regardless of any future changes in contract responsibilities. In the current AOP, Westinghouse has the responsibility for managing the science and technology programs for CST Ion Exchange and Small tank Precipitation.

Conceptual design work is not included in the current contract. WSRC has done a very thorough and well-documented job on pre-conceptual design activities for CST Ion Exchange and Small tank Precipitation. Therefore, conceptual design could be completed in nine to twelve month for these technologies.

**Next Meeting/Path Forward:** It was determined that the Focus Group needs to have either two meetings in February or one very long meeting. At the next meeting the group will discuss Ion Exchange and Direct Disposal. The Group is to let Kelly Way know possible meeting dates.

Lee Poe adjourned the meeting at 6:00.

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