



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Waste Management Committee

Meeting Summary

February 1, 2000
North Augusta Community Center
North Augusta, SC

The Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Tuesday, February 1, 2000, at 6:00 p.m., at the North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, SC. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

Wade Waters*
Murray Riley
Karen Paterson*
Bill Lawless
Georgia Leverett**
Lola Richardson**
Rebeca Gaston-Witter**

Stakeholders

Sam Booher
Rick McLeod
Mike French
Brittania Melton
Todd Crawford
Perry Holcomb
William Lawrence

DOE/Contractors

Julie Petersen, DOE
Gerri Flemming, DOE
Zaddie Wilkins, DOE
Bill Noll, DOE
Larry Ling, DOE
Ray Hannah, DOE
Maxcine Miles, DOE
Sharla Barber, BNFL
Tony Maxted, BNFL
Jeff Newman, WSRC
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
Kelly Way, WSRC
Helen Villasor, WSRC

Regulators

Brent Allen, SCDHEC
James Burckhalter, SCDHEC

* Denotes Committee Member

** Denotes Absent Committee Member

Wade Waters opened the meeting by discussing the reorganization of the four CAB Issues-Based Committees that include Waste Management, Wade Waters, Chair; Environmental Remediation, Jimmy Mackey, Chair, Maria Reichmanis, Vice-Chair; Nuclear Materials, Tom Costikyan, Chair, Ken Goad, Vice-Chair; Strategic and Long-Term Issues, Mel Galin, Chair. Mr. Waters also congratulated Karen Patterson, who recently was elected the SRS CAB Chair and Brendolyn Jenkins, CAB Vice-Chair. Mr. Waters continued by recognizing Mr. Perry Holcomb, a new candidate under consideration for CAB membership. Mr. Waters expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from fellow CAB members, especially Bill Lawless, the Department of Energy (DOE), regulators, and members of the WSRC Public Involvement staff. Mr. Waters said he is looking forward to working hard and listening well as he assumes his new role as the Waste Management Committee chair. Mr. Waters then asked the attendees for introductions.

Schedule Review: Helen Villasor provided a brief overview of upcoming scheduled agenda items but indicated that the dates of the meetings may change pending a schedule review by Wade Waters.

Issues: Ms. Villasor noted that because of a timeline for responses to the CAB on earlier Solid Waste recommendations, one or two meetings would need to be held in March.

Actions: CAB members and the public will be notified by mail or e-mail of changed meeting dates.

Working Discussion on the DOE-HQ Response on Equity Issues: Bill Noll provided the attendees with copies of DOE-HQ's letter (David G. Huizenga) dated January 21, 2000 and a summary chart of Waste and Materials Roles that had been sent to Ms. Ann Loadholt, Chair of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. The letter was written in response to CAB Recommendations 103, "Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Orphan Waste" and 104, "Hazardous Waste Combustors Clean Air Act SRS Consolidated Incinerator Facility". Mr. Noll initiated dialog with the attendees by first reviewing paragraph two of the letter that referenced the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WMPEIS) and the Notice of Preferred Alternatives for the disposal of low-level waste (LLW) and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) published in the *Federal Register* on December 10, 1999. Mr. Noll noted that DOE's preference is to continue on-site disposal operations at six sites (Hanford, Nevada Test Site, Los Alamos, Idaho, Oak Ridge and Savannah River). DOE also plans to continue receipt of off-site generated LLW at Hanford and Nevada, and to initiate receipt of offsite generated MLLW at Hanford and Nevada. The final Record of Decision (ROD) is expected to follow in February 2000. When the ROD is issued, SRS would have access to off-site disposal of waste that cannot be disposed of at SRS because of on-site waste acceptance criteria restrictions. Referencing the letter's response to the CAB's request for a draft plan describing DOE's equity position for various wastes and materials, Mr. Noll referred to the June 1998 *Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure* document (DOE's long-range budget forecast) and the summary chart to help the public interpret the data in the Paths to Closure Appendix E. The summary chart depicts the roles of DOE's 12 largest sites and the role each one currently plays in the disposition of LLW, MLLW, transuranic waste, high level waste, spent nuclear fuel and nuclear materials. Mr. Noll also shared a DOE press release addressing the Statements of Principles signed by the governors of the states of South Carolina, Colorado, Tennessee, and Washington. The Statements of Principles outline issues common to all the states as well as issues specific to each state and delineates the manner in which DOE and the states can work cooperatively to clean up the lingering legacy of the Cold War.

In discussing DOE's response to Recommendation 104 concerning the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF), Mr. Noll said that minimizing costs and balancing equity are and should continue to be important tenets in DOE's decision making on the use of its incinerators. As indicated in DOE-HQ's letter, David Huizenga notes that his office will continue to work with DOE SRS and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to address equity issues concerning the use of CIF for the treatment of off-site waste.

Issues: CAB needs a status on the equity issues agreement for the states of Washington and Nevada. Is South Carolina satisfied at this point? After the RODs are issued, when will states approve receipt of waste? Will SRS be able to dispose of its orphan waste? Would a motion on the TRU Certification Facility need to be developed soon? Has the issue of shipping Pu-238 from SRS been dropped?

Actions: Provide copies of the Statements of Principles from all states to the WMC. Invite Chuck Borup to speak to WMC on the path forward with DOE's plan to discuss equity issues with South Carolina. In response to requests made by the CAB to address a path forward on equity issues, particularly negotiations since most of the discussion is taking place in the Secretary's office, invite Dave Huizenga and Lewis Shaw to speak to the WMC and the full Board at the March CAB meeting in Aiken, SC. (Note: Mr. Huizenga was named as a principal speaker because he provided the DOE-HQ response to Recommendation 103 and 104. Mr. Shaw was named as a principal speaker because he had provided the regulators response to Recommendation 104.)

Pending Record of Decision for the Treatment and Disposal of Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste: Bill Noll provided a historical background on the WMPEIS and noted that DOE is currently awaiting the release of the LLW and MLLW RODs that may be out within a month. Mr. Noll emphasized

that the WMPEIS disposal preferred alternative did not identify specific sites, only a preference for "regional disposal at two or three sites from the following six: Hanford, Nevada Test Site (NTS), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Oak Ridge (OR) and SRS. DOE committed to issuing a *Federal Register* notice on December 10, 1999, identifying the specific sites it prefers before issuing the RODs. In the notice, Hanford and NTS were identified as regional disposal sites for LLW and MLLW. SRS will dispose of its own LLW and the Naval Reactor waste it receives from the East Coast. However, the notice was not a formal reopening of the public comment period. The ROD for LLW/MLLW treatment and disposal will be the final ROD issued from the WMPEIS and will identify DOE's regional treatment and disposal sites for LLW/MLLW. Mr. Noll emphasized that the ROD will neither make CERCLA cleanup decisions, nor decide mode or routes for transportation. However, it will consider potential volumes of CERCLA waste that may be disposed in the waste management disposal facilities.

Issues: Specify if future CERCLA soils will be considered for trench disposal. Has it been determined that the states of Washington and Nevada are willing to receive the LLW/MLLW? Involved states should be involved into discussions on equity issues. Would South Carolina become more considerate about receiving MLLW for treatment if it knew SRS waste would be sent offsite?

Actions: Modify CIF RCRA permit to burn waste from offsite. Assure the public that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decision on incidental waste will not have the potential to stop all waste operations at SRS.

Tank 19 Closure Update: Ray Hannah, Jeff Newman and Larry Ling presented an update on the Fiscal Year 2000 plans for closing Tank 19. Mr. Hannah said the waste needs to be removed so that the tank is ready for closure in 2003. The High Level Waste (HLW) Division is working to move the schedule up, and have the plans approved by both SCDHEC and then DOE-HQ. The waste will be removed to ensure the residual waste meets closure performance requirements and the incidental waste criteria. Mr. Hannah noted that the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) with SCDHEC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires a Waste Removal Plan and Schedule for the "older" style tanks. Tank 19 is a single wall Type IV tank, and is located in the "four-pack" with Tanks 17, 18, & 20 in F Area. Heel removal activities include the completion of design modifications, the assembly and installation of hardware, receiving management approval to operate and a heel removal campaign consisting of a 6-week duration. Key activities to support Tank 19 closure include:

- Issue ROD for the Tank Closure EIS
- Revised General Closure Plan to include DOE Order 435.1 requirements and receive DOEHQ approval
- Prepare Tank Closure Module and receive regulator approval
- Prepare incidental waste determination and receive SR Manager approval
- Award contract for grout manufacturer

Issues: Determine if the Tank Closure EIS will be affected and whether it will be issued mid to late March. National Resource Defense Council has filed a suit in the Ninth Circuit Court citing that DOE Order 435.1 is arbitrary and contrary to law. The case has not yet been appealed by DOE. Determine that funding will be available for Tank 19 closure.

Actions: Link NRC web site to CAB home page. Possible consideration of removing DOE Order 435.1 requirements and revert back to DOE Order 5820.2A. Permit CAB to look at the draft Tank Closure Module in order to prepare a draft motion. Invite Larry Ling to a March Committee meeting and also go before the full Board in the event the NRC decision on incidental waste is received prior to the March 28 meeting. Provide the Salt Processing Focus Group with a schedule for all tank closures. Provide an opportunity for a tour of the tank farm the day before the full Board meeting (March 27). HLW to provide a presentation to the WMC on tank space, reuse of old tanks, and research technology later in the year. Provide additional information on operation of the new evaporator.

Public Comments: During the public comment period, Mike French expressed his appreciation to Bill Lawless for his leadership, contributions and achievements during Dr. Lawless' tenure as a CAB member and Co-Chair of the former Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee. In response, Dr. Lawless thanked members of the ER&WM Subcommittee, site technical personnel, members of the CAB, technical advisors such as Todd Crawford, WSRC Public Involvement staff, and the regulators for their support during the seven years Dr. Lawless has served on the CAB. Dr. Lawless also applauded the state for having regulators in attendance at this meeting. Wade Waters reiterated his personal congratulations to Karen Patterson on her recent election as Chair of the CAB. Mr. Waters also said he was looking forward to working with everyone as Chair of the Waste Management Committee and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Gerri Flemming, DOE Public Accountability Office for her continuing support of the CAB and its activities.

Wade Waters adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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