



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Environmental Remediation Committee**

#### **Meeting Summary**

March 19, 2001  
North Augusta Community Center  
North Augusta, SC

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#### **CAB Members**

Maria Reichmanis\*  
Jimmy Mackey\*  
Sallie Connah\*  
Murray Riley\*  
Perry Holcomb\*  
Nancy Ann Ciehanski

#### **Stakeholders**

Lee Poe  
Rick McLeod  
Karl Overcash  
Phyllis Britt, Aiken Standard

#### **Regulators**

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC  
Don Siron, SCDHEC  
Charles Gorman, SCDHEC

#### **DOE/Contractors**

Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
J.S. Bhuterie, WSRC  
Ed mcNamee, BSRI  
de'Lisa Bratcher, DOE  
James Demass, DOE  
Robert Grimm, WSRC  
John Keyes, WSRC  
Don Toddings, BSRI  
Rita Stubblefield, DOE  
Tiajuana Cochnauer, USDA Forest Service-SR

**\*Members of the ER Committee**

#### **Introduction:**

Jimmy Mackey introduced himself and then asked that everyone do the same.

#### **Ford Building Seepage Basin Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan:**

Ed McNamee began his presentation by giving a basic history of the unit. He explained that basin was unlined and 80ft long by 45ft wide and 10ft deep and had a capacity of approximately 150,000 gallons. The basin was constructed in 1964 and operated until 1984 and had received wastewater generated during reconfiguration, repair and scrapping of reactor heat exchangers and other process equipment. Associated with the basin is a retention tank, a pumping station and process sewer line, which was removed in 1998 as a removal action, which resulted in 2.8 cubic yards of containerized soil, which is being handled within this SB/PP. Other sub-units mentioned were an underground 8in-diameter fire hydrant line cut during the construction of FBSB and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) outfall, which has been delisted. Mr. McNamee pointed out the remedial objectives as being the following:

#### **For the Seepage Basin soils**

- Protect future industrial worker from unacceptable exposure
- Protect current ecological receptors from unacceptable exposure

#### For the tank/process sewer line soils

- Protect future industrial workers from unacceptable exposure

Mr. McNamee offered 5 different approaches to remediating the site and then presented the approach that became the preferred alternative. He indicated that they would excavate the tank and process sewer line soils which will eliminate human health risks, backfill the seepage basin with excavated soil (tank/process sewer line soils), containerized soil, and clean soil will eliminate human health risks as well as ecological risks. Use of institutional controls will limit the accessibility, and annual inspection/maintenance and 5-year review will ensure the successful implementation of the remedy. In conclusion, Mr. McNamee stated that the public comment period for action is April 6 through May 20, 2001. Perry Holcomb stated that he knew the process at the Ford Building and that arsenic was not a process waste, but that more likely since the area was once farm land arsenic was used to kill insects that threatened the cotton crop. Mr. Holcomb also stated that clean up costs could be saved if Constituents of Concern (COC) were only those generated from the Site and not some other pre-existing constituent. Karl Overcash made a general statement that the press needs to print the facts and show all pertinent information when they put articles out on the street. He noted that the SRS has suffered in the public eye in the past due to articles not being clearly written.

#### Mixed Waste Management Facility (MWMF) Southwest Plume Interim Measures:

Ed McNamee began his presentation by stating that the material was not new and that some people around the table this evening have already seen the material offered at the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) focus group meeting. The problem we face at the site is that Tritium is in the groundwater, surface water of Fourmile Branch and at the Savannah River at concentrations significantly greater than regulatory standards. Mr. McNamee pointed out that the from a regulatory perspective groundwater and surface water of Fourmile Branch is considered potential drinking water and because of that drinking water standards apply, which demand remedial action be taken. The goal of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is to restore all water quality to its classified use.

The Site and the regulatory agencies had extensive discussions on the technical practicability and economic feasibility of migrating the tritium discharges to Fourmile Branch, and concluded that the permit requirements be executed in three phases as follows:

#### Phase1

- Reduce tritium flux to Fourmile Branch by 70% in the near term
- Monitor effects of interim measures and other actions effluent discharge streams and Fourmile Branch
- Install monitoring well network
- Remediate the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) hotspot

#### Phase 2

- Evaluate the performance of Phase1, and perform further actions to eventually achieve tritium activities at or below 20 picocuris/milileter
- Address the entire VOC plume

### **Phase 3**

- **Performance evaluation and modification to improve effectiveness**

Currently, Mr. McNamee pointed out that by the dam being installed that the tritium reaching Fourmile branch has been reduced by 50% and that by March 30, 2001 the irrigation will be fully operational. All efforts to date have demonstrated effectiveness beyond calculations. Mr. Mackey asked if a catastafic event such as earthquake of hurricane cause the dam to break and have the tritium run down Fourmile Branch to the Savannah River. Mr. McNamee stated that calculations were done to simulate that kind of event and the design of the dam would not allow that to happen.

Mr. McNamee elaborated on a modified phytoremediation conceptual model shown at a meeting held February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McNamee stated that this approach has not been tested outside a laboratory environment and that tests will be conducted in the field to determine the effectiveness on a small scale, before being deployed on a large-scale basis.

### **Public Comments:**

Lee Poe stated that the ORWBG focus group was within two months of their final report. He asked Mr. Mackey to consider not taking the presentation on the interim measure forward to the CAB until after the final report could be presented to the CAB. Mr. Mackey indicated that he would take his comments into consideration, thanked the attendees, and the meeting was adjourned.

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