



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Stewardship Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

November 6, 2001

National Science Center, Augusta, GA

Fort Discovery, Augusta, GA

Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, GA

The Strategic and Long Term Issues (S<I) Committee Stewardship Subcommittee held a videoconference meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. Videoconference locations were as follows:

- National Science Center (NSC), Fort Discovery, Augusta, GA
- Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, Ga.

The topics of discussion were Department of Energy (DOE)- Savannah River Operations Office (SR) path forward on long-term stewardship, DOE-Headquarters (HQ) long-term stewardship Strategic Plan, and path forward discussion. Those attending the meeting were:

NSC Fort Discovery:

Stakeholders

P.K. Smith, Chair

Lee Poe

Jack Hayes

DOE/Contractors

Jim Buice, DOE

Terry Vought, DOE

George Mishra, DOE

Jim Cook, WSRC

Elmer Wilhite, WSRC

John Gladden, WSRC

Sonny Goldston, WSRC

Jim Moore, WSRC

Coastal Georgia Center:

CAB Members

Jean Sulc, Vice-Chair

Mel Galin

Stakeholders

Jerry Lloyd

Melinda Holland, CRESP, participated via conference call.

Welcome and Introduction

P. K. Smith welcomed those in the various locations to the meeting. They were asked to introduce themselves. Ms. Smith reviewed the agenda.

DOE-SR Path Forward on Long Term Stewardship

Terry Vought, DOE, reviewed the presentation outline that included long-term stewardship (LTS) definition, policy development/implementation, site activities, site issues, and CAB support/opportunities. Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management, has defined LTS as "Long Term Stewardship includes all activities necessary to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment following the completion of cleanup, disposal, or long-term stabilization at a site or portion of a site." This means that LTS is post-Environmental Management (EM) activities. LTS will take place after nuclear materials have been stabilized, legacy waste has been disposed, and deactivation of all facilities currently in the EM program have been completed and all releases to the environment have been cleaned up or contained in accordance with agreed-upon cleanup standards.

For DOE, the Office of Long Term Stewardship (EM-51) drives LTS. An LTS Executive Steering Committee has been formed in which John Pescosolido, DOE-SR, is a member. An LTS Working Group meets annually but has weekly conference calls. Terry Vought, DOE-SR, is a member of the Working Group. The Savannah River Site (SRS) has initiated a joint committee on long-term stewardship including members of DOE and WSRC.

A unique Project Baseline Summary (PBS) has been created to track LTS activities/costs. Chapter 8 of the SRS Long Range Comprehensive Plan has incorporated the LTS activities.

Mr. Vought reviewed the site assumptions for LTS, which are the same as reported at the last status update. A life cycle cost by major EM activity was reviewed showing LTS really getting started in 2035. A generic facility disposition model was reviewed showing operations, disposition and long term stewardship. A chart indicating the conversion of areas and facilities to LTS was reviewed. This chart denoted 2038 as the time all EM facilities are converted to LTS.

Areas of LTS concern remain as follows:

- Relevancy of LTS to SRS given the long-term nature of on-going and new missions.
- May be 20 years or more before any significant LTS activities are needed at SRS.
- No Record of Decisions (ROD's) or agreements with regulators as to acceptable final disposition methodology for major nuclear facilities, e.g., cacooning, grouting, greenfield.
- Unknown technological advances and their impact on the cost of LTS, especially given the number of years before significant LTS requirements emerge.
- No consistent, complex-wide model for projecting LTS lifecycle costs.

Areas of opportunities for the CAB to participate are the National LTS documents, SRS Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan, develop and document expectations for SRS LTS, and monitor to provide feedback to LTS activities.

During discussions, the following items of concern were expressed:

- DOE-HQ is not taking active action to address LTS. Much has been sent to DOE-HQ but the sites have seen no results of their participation. There still is no guidance or documentation. Looks like DOE-HQ is starting over.
- The CAB's and the public should be asked to comment on draft documents, not what the documents should look like. The CAB's want a plan they don't care about the format.
- No funding is available to pursue LTS at SRS.
- Any long-term stewardship of the site should take into account the NERP status and the related 50-year history of ecological research on the 300 square miles of habitat at SRS.
- Do not agree with the definition of LTS. LTS should appear long before the post-closure of the sites.
- Do not see SRS or DOE-HQ doing any strategic planning for LTS. There is much talk about tactical activities, but not strategic planning. Want to see what the SRS goals are for the site.

What will the site look like when the site is closed? What is the final state of site facilities at closure?

- Do not agree that site should plan to meet all of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) requirements. Based on what the site looks like at closure, the site should work to change SCDHEC requirements if important.
- The Stewardship Subcommittee should look at the notes from the March 8 meeting to develop the path forward.

Responses and comments to some of the above are as follows:

- Jim Buice stated that the site does have a plan to get to LTS. The EM program is cleaning up the site. There are scopes, costs and schedules that reflect these clean-ups. Assumptions have been made. Legacy waste will be stored or disposed. Nuclear Materials and Spent Fuel will be stabilized. While SRS does not know specific end states or technologies for some of the facilities, basic assumptions have been made.

If the public or the CAB has comments on the LTS definition, DOE-HQ Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan, SRS Strategic Plan or the SRS Comprehensive Plan, they should be submitted for consideration.

The site will deactivate the facilities to the lowest surveillance and maintenance, lowest cost alternatives – cheap to keep. Monitoring will continue.

Action items from the meeting were as follows:

- Members of the Stewardship Subcommittee are to submit comments on the DOE-HQ Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan by Wednesday, November 28, to Jim Moore. Mr. Moore will consolidate the comments and distribute them to the Stewardship Subcommittee for review. Once reviewed, the comments will be sent to DOE-HQ signed by the CAB S<I Committee Chair. If possible, the review will be done by conference call.
- A joint meeting of the S<I Committee and Stewardship Subcommittee will be held in which DOE will give a presentation on the end state of the activities of the site as well as the draft Strategic Plan. At that meeting, CRESPI will give an update on their long-term stewardship activities. The joint meeting will be scheduled based on the draft revised SRS Strategic Plan schedule. The final SRS Strategic Plan is anticipated in April 2002. These subjects may be placed on a full CAB meeting agenda, depending on the results of this joint meeting.
- Terry Vought will forward the addresses of the Stewardship Subcommittee members to DOE-HQ to add their names to the DOE-HQ Stewardship Newsletter.
- Terry Vought will supply the field and headquarters membership for the long Term Stewardship Executive Committee.

With no other comments, the meeting was adjourned.

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