



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Waste Management Committee

Meeting Summary

January 22, 2001
Hilton Oceanfront Resort
Hilton Head Island, SC

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m., at the Hilton Oceanfront Hotel on Hilton Head Island. The purpose of the meeting was to receive a High Level Waste update, to review draft motions on HLW Tank Annulus cleaning and CIF, and to hear public comment. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

Wade Waters*
Lola Richardson*
Perry Holcomb*
Beckie Dawson*
Beaurine Wilkins*
William Lawrence*
Karen Patterson*
Murray Riley*
Charleen Townsend*

Stakeholders

Lynn Waishwell, CRESP
Rick McLeod
Vera Jordan

Regulators

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC
Don Siron, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractors

Jeff Allison, DOE
Howard Gnann, DOE
Gerri Flemming, DOE
Julie Petersen, DOE
Kelly Dean, WSRC
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
Larry Ling, DOE

* WMC Members present.

Wade Waters, WMC Chair, welcomed those in attendance and asked for public comments. There were none.

Mr. Waters introduced Larry Ling, DOE High Level Waste (HLW) Tank Closure Program manager. Mr. Ling updated the group on the HLW program.

Tank Closure EIS - The draft EIS was released for public comments on November 24, 2000. DOE will consider all comments received by close of scoping period and those received after that date to the extent practicable. The Record of Decision is expected the summer of 2001. Mr. Waters told the committee that the Salt Processing Group has been asked to read the EIS on behalf of the WM committee and to provide formal comment. The FG plans to meet Thursday, January 25, 2001, at the Aiken Federal Building to discuss the EIS and coordinate their response.

Tank 19 activities goal for 2001 is to get waste out, meet closure standards and close Tank 19 in 2003. Mr. Ling showed a video of the "hydro-lance" used in Tank 19 to attack the sludge deposits. Currently, 15,500 gallons of sludge and zeolite remain in the tank. Mr. Ling clarified that this is about 10 inches of material on the tank's bottom.

HLW evaporators - of three evaporators at SRS, only 2F is currently operating to full capacity. 2H has shutdown due to buildup of solids in the pot. Cleaning is scheduled for February 2001 with normal operations to resume in summer 2001. Mr. Waters clarified for the group that the evaporators are needed to maintain space in the tanks. In the 3H evaporator, the receipt tank cooling coils have experienced leaks, and DOE is currently evaluating alternative operating strategies. 3H can be run sporadically when the tanks are cool enough to run.

Salt Waste Processing Project - Technology Research and Development is on schedule for a June 2001 selection. The preliminary draft Supplemental EIS is at HQ for review. Mr. Ling stated that a vendor forum was scheduled in Augusta, GA for interested vendors.

CIF - operations are currently suspended. SCDHEC has modified the CIF permit to regulate it in a suspended mode and SRS is pursuing treatment alternatives for waste streams originally targeted for CIF. Mr. Ling stated that the CAB CIF Focus Group has been following and tracking this issue.

Glass Waste Storage Building Alternative EA - The EA is currently on hold pending further evaluation of procurement strategy. Bids were received on January 12, 2001. The EA schedule and public comment period will be determined upon evaluation of bids. Mr. Wade clarified that the EA is looking at an alternative to the under ground storage of the canisters at the Glass Waste Storage Building. SRS is considering making casks out of depleted uranium trioxide to store the glass canisters above ground until they are sent to a federal repository. In this scenario, the vendors would be responsible for disposing of the uranium trioxide casks.

Waste Tank Annulus Cleaning Draft Motion:

Wade Waters, Motion Manager and WM chair, explained the background of the tanks, waste removal, the annuli, and tank closure to the committee. The goal is to clean out the wastes, fill the tanks with a substance, (such as grout) and close them. However, some of the tanks have leaked waste into the annulus as well. This means that waste has to be removed not only from the tanks, but also from the annulus. He went on to explain the difficulties of this task and the challenges involved. Also, he stated that there has been no funding set aside for annuli cleaning. He then presented the recommendation to the group.

Issues: DOE has a concern with #2 of the recommendation concerning a HLW tank annulus-cleaning plan by July 2001. Mr. Waters stated that the group would like to keep the date so that this issue would remain active and a response would be planned. Several committee members had a concern with WSRC spokespersons reporting to the Salt Focus Group instead of the WM Committee, (#2 and #3).

Actions: The CAB technical advisor is to make a few editorial corrections to the draft motion before it is presented to the CAB at the January 23, 2001 meeting.

Technology Investigation for PUREX Treatment and Incineration - CIF:

Perry Holcomb, Motion Manager for this draft motion and PUREX technical lead for the CIF focus group, began the review by giving a background. He pointed out that two of the recommendations were directed to DOE-SR and two to DOE-HQ. As part of an agreement between DOE-HQ and a citizen's group (*Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free*), DOE-HQ established a Blue-Ribbon panel of independent scientific experts to explore technological alternatives to incineration specifically directed to the Idaho site (INEEL). He pointed out that the Idaho waste contains substances (dioxins and furans) that the SRS waste doesn't contain. The BR Panel has issued a report that completely does away with the use of incineration. A HQ panel, headed by Helen Belencan, has also been formed to examine incineration demands and alternatives to incineration across the

Complex. Mr. Holcomb also told the group that the CAB has already submitted Recommendation 129, and that David Huizenga's response did not mention incineration as an alternative.

Mr. Holcomb noted that the CAB is concerned that the BR panel decision will eventually encompass all DOE sites, even though the report was written for INEEL. Another concern is the Huizenga response to Recommendation #129, which doesn't include incineration as a possible alternative.

He then read the recommendation to the group.

Actions: The CAB Technical Advisor is to make editorial corrections to the draft motion before it is presented to the CAB at its January 23, 2001 meeting.

Public Comment:

Mr. Waters asked for public comment. There being none, Mr. Waters noted that the decision to separate the WM&ER Subcommittee into two Committees was a wise decision, considering all the issues that the WM Committee is faced with. He went on to thank everyone for his or her support of him and the WM Committee. He also recognized outgoing CAB members, Charlene Townsend and Beaurine Wilkins for their fine contribution to the WM committee and the CAB.

Mr. Waters then adjourned the meeting.