



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Waste Management Committee

Meeting Summary

April 23, 2001
North Augusta Community Center
North Augusta, SC

The Waste Management Committee met on Monday, April 23, 2001, 7:00 p.m., at the North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, SC. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

Wade Waters*
Murray Riley
Perry Holcomb*
William Lawrence*
Karen Patterson*
Jerry Devitt*
Heather Simmons*
Vera Jordan*
Lola Richardson*
Beckie Dawson*

Stakeholders

Rick McLeod (CAB Tech. Advisor)
Bill McDonell
Don Moniak
Patricia McCracken
John Baublitz
Russ Messick
Brandon Haddock

Regulators

None

DOE/Contractors

Julie Petersen, DOE
Larry Ling, DOE
Ray Hannah, DOE
Gerri Flemming, DOE
Peter Hudson, BNFL
Elmer Wilhite, SRTC
Teresa Haas, WSRC
Don Gordon, WSRC
Rod Stewart, WSRC
Sony Goldston, WSRC
Helen Villasor, WSRC

* Denotes members of the Waste Management Committee.
Bill Willoughby was unable to attend.

Wade Waters opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., by inviting introductions and thanking everyone for coming.

Public Comments:

Don Moniak asked about the timeline of the burning paper pellets proposal and said that it was his opinion that this proposal had been under consideration for a period of five or six years, not the one year that was outlined in the "Burning Paper Pellets in A-Area Boilers" draft motion. Don Gordon responded that while the idea had been under consideration for several years, it was only in June 2000, that SRS formally requested that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) consider the proposal. Mr. Moniak clarified that he was raising the question more as an accuracy issue rather than a process issue. Mr. Moniak also asked if the State of South Carolina was provided with an opportunity to present its side of the issue. Mr. Gordon responded that Mr. Carl Richardson, SCDHEC, had been invited to participate; however, the invitation was declined.

Update on High Level Waste (HLW) Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) for Tank Closure and Salt Alternative Selection:

Larry Ling provided a brief update on the status of both DEISs. On the Tank Closure DEIS, Mr. Ling noted that several comments have been received and HLW is currently in the process of incorporating the comments for the final EIS. Mr. Ling said that HLW is working closely with DOE-HQ in order to receive a Record of Decision by summer of 2001.

For the Salt Alternative Selection DEIS, Mr. Ling said that the public comment period ends on May 14, 2001. Public meetings to discuss and receive oral comments are scheduled for May 1, 2001 at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC, and for May 3, 2001 at the Holiday Inn Coliseum in Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Ling said it might be possible that a Record of Decision (ROD) can be expected by June 29, 2001. In closing, Mr. Ling said that the ROD would support the July 1, 2001 date for the downselect process for the In-Tank Precipitation (ITP)

Review of HLW Tank closure Draft Environmental Impact Statement Draft Motion:

Beckie Dawson, Motion Manager for the Draft Motion, read the background and comment section of the draft motion followed by the recommendations to expedite the HLW Tank Closure activities, maintain the current DEIS schedule without any further delays, and avoid any activity that may incur new and unexpected delays with the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) closure schedule. Perry Holcomb noted that when draft motions are developed, a clear definition of schedule and timeframe needs to be included. Mr. Waters noted that this motion did include a timeframe; however, the real intent of the motion was to ensure that there was not another slip in the schedule as has been in the past. Mr. Waters emphasized the importance of adhering to the FAA schedule. There were also suggestions to make a few minor editorial changes before presenting the draft motion to the CAB on April 24, 2001.

Review of the Salt Processing alternatives Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement:

Wade Waters, Motion Manager for the Draft Motion read the background, comment and recommendation sections of the draft motion. There was discussion regarding a statement in the background section that said, "The SRS CAB does not support the reuse of tanks already scheduled for closure or the construction of new HLW tanks." Seven members of the Waste Management Committee voted to strike this sentence from the draft motion since it was agreed that the CAB should not be making such a broad statement. There were also suggestions to make a few minor editorial changes to the draft motion before presenting it to the CAB on April 24, 2001.

Burning Paper Pellets in A-Area Boilers:

Wade Waters substituted for Bill Willoughby, who was the Motion Manager for this draft motion. Referencing a recent change, Mr. Waters said that instead of reading the draft motion, Don Gordon would provide an update on the status of the proposal to SCDHEC to burn the paper pellets in the A-Area boilers. In the draft motion, the CAB was intending to recommend that SCDHEC allow SRS to use the source testing data from the burning of paper pellets when evaluating the case-by-case limitation determination; SCDHEC allow the A-Area boilers to be permitted under a modified permit based upon the case-by-case determination; and that SRS investigate and discuss the expected regulatory classification of the resulting waste stream with the SRS CAB by July 24, 2001.

Mr. Gordon said that on April 16, 2001, SCDHEC granted approval to temporarily burn paper pellets and coal in order to conduct stack testing for various pollutants. SRS expects that the results obtained from the testing will be used by SCDHEC to evaluate and make a case-by-case determination of which Standard No. 3 requirements will have to be met. Standard No. 3 contains

South Carolina Air Pollution Control Regulations for waste combustion and reduction activities. Mr. Gordon added at this point, that SRS's operating permit will not be changed and the site will conduct "temporary" operations under the letter that has been received from the regulators.

A recommendation was made to table the draft motion temporarily since the approval had been granted by SCDHEC to conduct the stack testing. However, it was suggested, and Mr. Gordon agreed, that he would come back to brief the CAB at another time on any resulting actions regarding the proposal to burn paper pellets in the A-Area boilers. Mr. Gordon said he would stay in contact with the Waste Management Committee and advise the members when the time is appropriate to provide the update. However, Mr. Waters noted that Mr. Gordon would still provide his formal presentation to the CAB at its meeting on April 24, 2001 as scheduled. Mr. Waters again emphasized that tabling the draft motion was a temporary action and that the issue of the resulting ash waste stream was still a CAB consideration.

Public Comment:

Trish McCracken asked if Mr. Rod Stewart could provide a brief synopsis of the paper pellet project. Mr. Stewart responded with a very brief narrative on the project from its inception nearly five years ago. Perry Holcomb also asked Mr. Stewart to explain the cost benefit versus recycling that had been presented to the Waste Management Committee at an earlier meeting. Mr. Stewart said that in reality, recycling actually costs the site money and reiterated that for every one dollar SRS recovers through recycling, the site spends five dollars. Therefore, with the use of the paper pellet process, which has been determined to be highly cost-effective, Mr. Stewart said that money would actually be returned to the site.

With there being no other comments, Wade Waters adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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