



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Hilton Oceanfront Hotel
Hilton Head Island, S.C.
January 13-14, 2003**

Members Present

David Adcock
Meryl Alalof
Nancy Ann Ciehanski
Becki Dawson
Gerald Devitt
Mel Galin
Ken Goad
Perry Holcomb
William Lawrence
JG Long
Jimmy Mackey
Lola Richardson
Murray Riley
Jean Sulc
Bill Voegel
Wade Waters
Carolyn Williams
Gloria-Williams Way
Bill Willoughby

Stakeholders

Bill Adams
Bob Meisenheimer
Tiajuana Cochnauer
Andy Smith
Harold Rahn
Jennifer Barrington
Don Kantor
Vik Mani
Gary Zimmerman
William & Joyce
Palphreyman
Mary Sullivan (Jasper County
Neighbors United)
Kim Newell, SCDHEC
Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC
Don Siron, SCDHEC

DOE/Contractor

Jeff Allison, DOE
Phil Breidenbach, WSRC
Gerri Flemming, DOE
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
George Mishra, DOE
John Dickenson, WSRC
Becky Craft, DOE
Bruce Schappel, WSRC
George Klipa, DOE
Don Horton, WSRC
Sachiko McAlhany, DOE
Lyddie Broussard, WSRC
Les Germany, DOE
Kelly Way, WSRC
Howard Pope, DOE
Dawn Haygood, WSRC
Harold Conner, WSRC
Howard Walls, WSRC
Sam Kelly, BNFL
Fran Williams, WSRC
Teresa Haas, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC

Ex-Officio Members

Charlie Anderson (DOE)
Alice Doswell (DOE)
Jim Brownlow (SCDHEC)
Keith Collinworth
(SCDHEC)
Jim Barksdale (EPA)

Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members Judy Barnett, Ann Dalton, Dorene Richardson, Heather Simmons and Marty Stringer were unable to attend. The meeting opened with Charlie Anderson serving as Designated Federal Official. Mike Schoener served as facilitator and the Board's Technical Advisor Rick McLeod was also present. The meeting was

open to the public and posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Outgoing Member Recognition

Department of Energy Savannah River Acting Site Manager Jeff Allison presented letters of appreciation to outgoing Board members David Adcock, Nancy Ann Ciehanski, Becki Dawson, Ken Goad and Jimmy Mackey. Wade Waters announced that J.G. Long had just submitted a letter expressing his desire to not run for re-election to the Board.

Mr. Allison provided remarks noting that Paul Golan, DOE-Headquarters, visited the site again on Dec. 9-11. He stated that incentives and contract management were geared toward improvement and noted that significant progress has been made. Mr. Allison emphasized that SRS is playing an integral role in accelerated cleanup across the complex. He stated he has initiated a DOE realignment to focus on accelerated cleanup. Functions will be combined where appropriate to provide additional focus on closure. Mr. Allison responded to several questions regarding DOE employees, noting that DOE-SR is below its headcount ceiling and therefore employee layoffs should not be an issue. Harold Conner, WSRC Operations Officer, also provided comments regarding the WSRC reorganization, which has been undertaken to emphasize closure and continuing operations.

Key Decisions Made by the Board

Recommendation 158

The Board adopted Recommendation 158 which asks DOE to revise the project implementation to meet the current projected need date for Glass Waste Storage Building #2 of October 2006 and present the revised schedule to the CAB on or before March 25, 2003. It also asked DOE to investigate streamlining the current acquisition strategy, specifically requiring the contractor to be responsible for the detailed project and construction management with DOE and the Corps of Engineers having an overview function.

Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the October CAB meeting were approved with one editorial change.

Agency Update

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC, noted the inauguration of the new Governor of South Carolina. Jim Barksdale, EPA, noted that Turpin Ballard, a new regional project manager had been assigned to SRS. Charlie Anderson, DOE, introduced Alice Doswell as the Acting Assistant Deputy Manager for Environment, Science and Technology. Ms. Doswell noted her background with Facility Deactivation & Decommissioning and stated she is looking forward to working with the CAB. Mr. Anderson reported that DOE is still operating under a continuing resolution and noted the current House and Senate marks.

Mr. Anderson also commented on the timeliness of information provided to the CAB. He noted that SRS will be on a very fast track and is willing to work with the CAB, however this may require some adjustment of board schedule. Mr. Anderson responded to questions regarding the

Defense Waste Processing Facility and melter replacement. Mel Galin asked Jim Barksdale of EPA to keep the CAB informed of changes to clean air or water regulations.

Public Comments

Mike Schoener provided a recommendation status report noting that 12 recommendations are pending, four are open and 141 are closed. He also noted that a process improvement retreat has been scheduled for April 28-29 in Charleston, S.C. Board members were encouraged to submit topics for discussion during the retreat. Mr. Schoener also provided a ranking sheet for issues to be considered by the SRS CAB in 2003. He asked Board members to rank the 22 issues identified in a workplan session by order of priority by the end of the day.

Nuclear Materials Committee Report

Ken Goad announced that Recommendation 108 is closed and discussed the status of open recommendations. Phil Breidenbach, WSRC F Canyon Complex Closure Manager provided an overview of the F Canyon Complex Deactivation Project (see attached). F Canyon suspension status continues to progress well, including hazard and costs reductions. The initial project plan for deactivation has been developed and submitted to DOE for approval. SRS is working to resolve issues with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to move forward with deactivation. Mr. Breidenbach discussed the F-Canyon Complex Project organization and facility life cycle, and expounded on the suspension status. The project began with 170,000 grams of plutonium in the facility, which is now down to 450 grams. The material is being dispositioned and the tanks flushed. Some tanks have been isolated when less than 5 grams are present.

The Americium/Curium project has been finalized and the cold run transfer was completed in December. Three thousand gallons were diluted to 30,000 gallons that are ready for transfer in January. Mr. Breidenbach discussed deactivation planning and schedule and the deactivation end point, which is cold, dark and dry. Hazards are removed on a system-by-system basis to allow the facility endpoint to be achieved. Deactivation subprojects include F-Canyon solvent disposition, depleted uranium nitrate solution disposition, cold chemical relocation, and the relocation of lab waste. Mr. Breidenbach summarized noting that SRS is ready to begin implementation of the deactivation plan once it is approved. He responded to Board member questions regarding potential contamination, natural radon levels and forced ventilation including alarms, disposition of depleted uranium and replacement technology for the canyons. Currently, there are no plans for replacement capability. There was also brief discussion regarding decommissioning and long term stewardship of F Canyon.

Long Term Stewardship Committee Report

Nancy Ann Ciehanski reported that there are continuing discussions regarding the status of SRS as a National Environmental Research Park (NERP) and the committee hopes to bring a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting. The committee would like to see the NERP institutionalized through congressional action to protect the future status of the site as a NERP.

Ms. Ciehanski also presented a letter from the committee regarding the Final Vision for Future Land Use at SRS, which was adopted by an earlier CAB in 1995. The current Long Term Stewardship Committee endorsed the former report and asked that DOE continue to use this

recommendation in decision-making. At Mel Galin's suggestion, Wade Waters noted he would forward the letter to DOE.

Sonny Goldston presented a Waste and Materials Definition Matrix that was requested during the SRS CAB Education Retreat (see attachment).

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee

Mel Galin provided a brief update of committee activities. He noted there is no new information regarding the budget. He noted two End State Plan policy and guidance documents available for public comment. Board members were encouraged to review the documents and provide comments to Jim Moore by the end of January.

Public Comments

Andy Smith, Envirocare invited CAB members to visit and tour its facility in Utah and offered to make a presentation to the CAB.

Environmental Remediation Committee Report

Les Germany, DOE, provided a presentation on the L Area Hot Shop (LAHS) Operable Unit Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan (see attachment). Mr. Germany provided a description of the LAHS Operable Unit, which consists of a concrete slab, an additional concrete slab used as a temporary storage area, a sandblast area, inactive drainlines and manholes. Mr. Germany discussed the history of the unit showing photographs of the building and area. He discussed past remedial activities at the unit and current remediation plans. Remediation objectives are to prevent human and ecological exposure to radionuclides present in the concrete slab and to prevent the spread of transferable radionuclide contamination present in the LAHS concrete slab and inactive drainlines. Mr. Germany presented costs associated with the various remedial alternatives and presented the preferred alternative of decontamination of slab, excavation of underground drainlines and under slab drainlines, and offsite disposal of waste followed by institutional controls. Mr. Germany presented the proposed schedule, which called for public comment by January 18, 2003, and a remedial action start date of August 5, 2004.

Jimmy Mackey made closing comments thanking all committee members and those who supported him over his six-year tenure.

Waste Management Committee Report

Status of the Solid Waste Program

Sam Kelly, British Nuclear Fuels Inc., provided a review of the Solid Waste Program (see attachment). Mr. Kelly described transuranic waste from storage to shipment and discussed the acceleration of the shipment schedule. As of December 2002, 50 shipments have been made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant which equals the total planned shipments through FY05. A regulatory commitment for TRU waste aisle spacing is complete and involved the movement of 19,000 drums. Mr. Kelly discussed integration with the National TRU Program and the future program of accelerated shipments from 12 per year to 12 per month.

Mr. Kelly noted a 65 percent reduction in the low-level waste stored inventory and discussed the graded approach to low level waste disposal from trench disposal to vaults and offsite disposal resulting in increased cost effectiveness. Over 500 cubic meters of hazardous and mixed waste has been characterized and shipped offsite for treatment and disposal. Mr. Kelly discussed the restart of the Saltstone Facility, which began in January 2001 and was completed in April 2002. Since restart, Saltstone has processed 837,270 gallons from High Level Waste Tank 50. The Effluent Treatment Facility continues to meet site demands for treatment and release of effluent water and by ensuring all environmental release standards are met. Mr. Kelly discussed other cost effective improvement initiatives, waste minimization and waste certification and SRS CAB involvement in the program. Mr. Kelly concluded that with stakeholder and regulatory support SRS is achieving more than target cost reductions, delivering more product and achieving integration with DOE complex-wide programs.

Potential Impacts of Decision in Idaho District Court on the SRS High Level Waste Program

Charlie Anderson, DOE, provided a presentation on the potential impacts of the Idaho District Court decision on the SRS High Level Waste Program (see attachment). Governing documents provide that waste resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel that is determined to be incidental to reprocessing is not high level waste. Per the DOE Order, waste determined to be incidental to reprocessing shall be managed as either transuranic waste or low level waste, as appropriate. The DOE Order identifies two processes for waste incidental to reprocessing (WIR) determinations- the citation process and the evaluation process. DOE applied the WIR determination process set forth by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when closing SRS High Level Waste Tanks 17 and 20 in 1997. This WIR determination process was not subsequently incorporated into DOE Order 435.1 issued in 1999. The Natural Resources Defense Council is challenging DOE's use of the WIR "evaluation" process addressed in DOE Order 435.1. The NRDC is not challenging the WIR "citation" process. The NRDC has expressed concern with disposal of high level waste residuals in inaccessible or difficult to retrieve areas.

Mr. Anderson discussed the sequence of events in the court case of NRDC versus DOE and discussed the next steps in the litigation process. There are no immediate impacts to the SRS High Level Waste Program, however, dependent on the duration of the judicial process, a number of high-level waste initiatives could be affected. SCDHEC could withhold approval of permit modifications and closure documents until the case is resolved. A decision on the merits may not occur for many months. The NRDC is not likely to seek an injunction until DOE is ready to take permanent and irreversible actions. The NRDC would like for the NRC to be formally involved in the DOE WIR process. Some delays to the low curie salt initiative and tank closure program are possible.

Glass Waste Storage Building #2

Charlie Anderson provided an overview of the Glass Waste Storage Building #2 (see attachment). Canister storage capabilities are necessary to meet Site Treatment Plan and Federal Facilities Agreement commitments. The SRS Performance Management Plan calls for the high level waste system to be closed and DWPF processing to be complete by 2020. The scope for GWSB #2 is to replicate GWSB #1 up to the current code of record while deleting non-essential or redundant features and incorporating lessons learned. The same Shielded Canister Transport

will be used. Mr. Anderson discussed the alternatives considered for further glass waste storage. He addressed the acquisition strategy and project schedule overview with startup in March 2007. The GWSB #2 is needed in October 2006 based on current assumptions. Mr. Anderson summarized noting that storage is needed to keep DWPF operating with an expected need date of FY06. The project is set-aside for small business. The GWSB #2 was previously addressed by the CAB in Recommendation No. 13.

Bill Willoughby presented the committee's draft motion for GWSB #2 (see attachment). The motion asked DOE to revise the project implementation to meet the current projected need date for GWSB #2 of October 2006 and present the revised schedule to the CAB on or before March 25, 2003. It also asked DOE to investigate streamlining the current acquisition strategy, specifically requiring the contractor to be responsible for the detailed project and construction management with DOE and the Corps of Engineers having an overview function. Bill Voegel moved the Board adopt the motion and Murray Riley seconded. The motion passed by a favorable vote of 18 in favor and none opposed.

Bill Willoughby announced that the Americium Curium Project is on track and discussed Board involvement in the project. He also announced a tour on January 24 of the HLW tank farms.

Administrative Committee Report

Administrative Committee Chair Lola Richardson conducted annual membership elections. The following individuals were elected to two-year terms in 2003-2004:

Donna Antonucci, Savannah, Ga. Meryl Alalof, Augusta, Ga.

Jennifer Barrington, Beaufort, S.C. Leon Chavous, Orangeburg, S.C.

Gerald Devitt, Aiken, S.C. Mary Drye, Augusta, Ga.

Mel Galin, Savannah, Ga. Bill Lawless, Augusta, Ga.

Wendell Lyon, Waynesboro, Ga. Darryl Nettles, Augusta, Ga.

Harold Rahn, Springfield, Ga. Murray Riley, Aiken, S.C.

Heather Simmons, Allendale, S.C. Bill Voegel, Savannah, Ga.

Ms. Richardson also conducted committee chair elections. The following members were elected Committee Chairs for 2003:

Administrative Committee Lola Richardson

Environmental Restoration Committee Perry Holcomb

Nuclear Materials Committee Gerald Devitt

Strategic Initiatives Committee Mel Galin

Long Term Stewardship Committee Carolyne Williams

Waste Management Committee Bill Willoughby

Other Administrative Items

Wade Waters announced that he would be providing a letter to Linton Brooks of the National Nuclear Security Administration regarding concern for public involvement in NNSA activities.

Handouts

- SRS CAB Agenda, January 13-14, 2003
- Operations Update, January 2003
- Status Update Projects of Interest to SRS CAB
- SRS CAB Recommendation Summary
- F Canyon Complex Deactivation Project
- Letter to Wade Waters, dated January 14, 2003, from Long Term Stewardship Committee
- L Area Hot Shop Operable Unit Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan, Les Germany, DOE
- Glass Waste Storage Building #2, Charlie Anderson, DOE
- Review of Solid Waste Division Management at SRS, Sam Kelly, BNFL
- Potential Impacts of Decision in Idaho District Court on SRS High Level Waste Program, Charlie Anderson, DOE
- Glass Waste Storage Building #2, Bill Willoughby, SRS CAB
- SRS CAB NEPA Report