



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Sheraton Augusta Hotel Augusta, Ga.
March 24-25, 2003**

Members Present

Meryl Alalof
Donna Antonucci
Jennifer Barrington
Leon Chavous
Ann Dalton
Gerald Devitt
Mary Drye
Mel Galin
Perry Holcomb
William Lawrence
Wendell Lyon
Darryl Nettles
Dorene Richardson
Lola Richardson
Murray Riley
Jean Sulc
Wade Waters
Carolyn Williams
Gloria-Williams Way
Bill Willoughby

Ex-Officio Members

Alice Doswell (DOE)
Jim Brownlow (SCDHEC)
Chuck Gorman (SCDHEC)
Keith Collinsworth (SCDHEC)
Jay Bassett (EPA)

Stakeholders

Ernie Chaput
Tiajuaner Cochanauer
Don Kantor
Jen Cato
Richard Herold
Karen Patterson
Jim Somma
Kelly Hunter
Carey Butler
Liz Goodson

DOE/Contractor

Jeff Allison, DOE
Karen Adams, DOE
Gerri Flemming, DOE
Wade Whitiker, DOE
Tom Gutman, DOE
Terry Spears, DOE
Becky Craft, DOE
Kim Sidey, DOE
Paul Huber, WSRC
John Dickenson, WSRC
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
Cathy Lewis, WSRC
Keith Wood, WSRC
Chip Harris, WSRC
Joe Carter, WSRC
Fran Williams, WSRC
Teresa Haas, WSRC
Susan Cathy, WSRC
Mary Flora, WSRC
Bill Johnson, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC
Bill Condon, WSRC
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC
Dawn Haygood, WSRC
Lyddie Broussard, WSRC
Kelly Way, WSRC
Lehr Brisbon, SREL

DOE (Department of Energy)

SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of
Health and Environmental Control)

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)

Monday Afternoon Combined Committee Session 1-5 p.m.

Long Term Stewardship Committee Report

Carolyn Williams, Long Term Stewardship (LTS) Committee Chair, reviewed the background of a National Environmental Research Park resolution explaining that NERPs are locations where ecological studies can be conducted without fear of uncontrolled access to a study site. NERPs are also locations where studies can be conducted on the interaction of industrial facilities and the environment. She noted that the value of the Savannah River Site (SRS) as a NERP is demonstrated by more than 2,500 published scientific papers based on work done at SRS. Over 25 NERP technical reports describing and cataloging the site's plants, animals, ecological communities and habitats are available as are over 200 doctoral dissertations and master's theses.

Ms. Williams stated that with the reduction of nuclear materials production missions and the closing of some DOE sites, there may be pressure to dispose of DOE land. This has already occurred at some DOE sites. In DOE SRS documents, there is the planning assumption of maintaining the current site boundaries indefinitely but there are also documents talking about reducing the "footprint" of SRS. Currently this is defined as facilities but Ms. Williams questioned if it could mean land in the future.

Ms. Williams noted an adhoc public group is sponsoring the NERP resolution, which included SRS CAB members Wade Waters and William Lawrence and former CAB Member Nancy Ann Ciechanski. She noted that presentations would be provided to the full board on Tuesday. She stated the resolution will be presented for approval in its current form and no modifications would be allowed. The decision is whether or not to endorse the document.

During discussion, Bill Willoughby requested that Ben Rusche of the South Carolina Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council be copied on the resolution since during Mr. Willoughby's discussions with Mr. Rusche, Mr. Rusche expressed concern about the future of the site and potential shrinking boundaries. With no buffer zones around the waste disposal areas, there was concern if there were leaks at the waste disposal areas. Mr. Galin stated his concern that no reference was made to funding the NERP. He stated that the funding issue could be addressed once the resolution was approved.

Waste Management Committee Report

Bill Willoughby, Waste Management (WM) Committee Chair gave a brief background on the tailored treatment approach for Salt Processing at SRS. He presented and explained the "Low Curie Salt to Saltstone" draft motion (see attachment). Karen Patterson suggested that DHEC and DOE work together to come up with a plan that would allow the tank closure schedule to be maintained. Mr. Willoughby answered that after the WM Committee is educated on the issues, he plans to submit another motion covering a plan and the tank closure schedule.

Mel Galin questioned the meaning of maintaining the schedule. He mentioned that the Gold Star Metrics showed one tank closed in ten years. Mr. Willoughby responded that much preparatory work must be completed first and much of it involves salt processing. Terry Spears, DOE,

explained the use of other methods to dispose of low curie salt until the Salt Waste Processing Facility is operational.

Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC, expressed concern over a perceived disconnect in the background and the recommendation. He stated that DHEC would be more than willing to participate in educational meetings with the WM Committee, DOE, and EPA.

Murray Riley presented a second draft motion "Burning Paper Pellets in A-Area Boilers"(see attachment). Keith Collinsworth questioned the wording of the recommendation in which it was stated that "DHEC allow...", Mr. Willoughby clarified that it should read "DHEC and SRS work together.." and agreed to work on the wording that would be more compatible with DHEC's understanding.

Kim Sidey, DOE Project Manager of the Glass Waste Storage Building #2 (GWSB #2), gave a brief status of Recommendation 158 and an overview of the GWSB #2. He explained the need for a new canister storage building and how DOE plans to bring the Building #1 design up to the current code of record while deleting non-essential or redundant features. He explained the Acquisition strategy, the contract, procurement, and the use of the US Army Corps of Engineers as the construction manager.

Mr. Sidey noted how DOE has responded to Recommendation 158 and how it plans to address the additional areas. He stated that DOE would update the CAB on the funding needs and the implementation plan once the revised acquisition strategy is approved.

SRS Accelerated Cleanup Overview

Bill Johnson, Acting Chief Closure Officer for Westinghouse Savannah River Company provided an overview of the closure organization and accelerated cleanup at SRS (see attachment). He noted the reorganization principles were a "projectized" execution approach, minimal organization boundaries or dependencies, decentralized resources aligned with needs, centralized policy, easy deployment or redeployment of people and people development. He further discussed organization decentralization and shared several high-level organization charts for WSRC. Mr. Johnson discussed the new organization and changes in execution. He discussed accelerated cleanup at length. Accelerated cleanup reduces risk sooner through deactivation and decommissioning of facilities, remediation of waste sites, shipments of waste offsite, emptying of high level waste tanks and stabilization of liquid waste. He discussed plans for waste disposition and presented an expedited project baseline.

The new outlook on EM cleanup focuses on completion, a project approach, dedicated resources and cost reductions. Mr. Johnson emphasized that safety and environmental requirements are always prerequisites not just a priority. The challenge for WSRC is to accelerate results in several key programs including, D&D, Environmental Restoration, Solid Waste, High-Level Waste and Nuclear Materials.

Mr. Johnson gave detailed examples of accelerated efforts in each of these programs. Board members inquired about how the WSRC organization reflects the DOE organization, was there a dedicated regulatory function, who was heading the various projects, and whether subcontractors

were impacted by the stricter security requirements. Board members also questioned and noted the hiring of consultants and retired employees as a valuable knowledge base. Mr. Johnson mentioned contract negotiations between DOE and WSRC noting it emphasized an end state approach with targets to achieve these end states. The specifics of the contract will be presented to the CAB once it is signed.

Monday Public Comment Session 6:30 p.m.

William Hooker commented that he had worked at SRS for 24 years as a contractor who trapped beavers and had asked for information under the Freedom of Information Act only to receive the runaround. He noted that DOE had hauled off DOE Reading Room materials, but he had a document he wanted to submit to the CAB. Mr. Hooker stated that a work clearance permit did not identify metals and radionuclides and he and two other men had been exposed, which had been confirmed through hair samples. He told CAB members to watch management at SRS because it is a "good old boy" system. He stated a group from the University of Washington was coming to review SRS tributaries and "figure out what's going on here because there is too much cancer."

Tuesday Full Board Meeting

SRS CAB members Meryl Alalof, Bill Lawless and Bill Vogeles were unable to attend. The meeting opened with Alice Doswell 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.

DOE Realignment

Jeff Allison, DOE-SR Manager, presented a new DOE organization chart (see attachment). The chart showed two Deputy Managers - Cleanup and Business- reporting directly to the site manager. Health and safety personnel were realigned within the divisions instead of being located in a separate department to provide for more accountability. Mr. Allison explained the new organization noting that 280 employees are in cleanup and 120 in business. He emphasized that this new organization was still awaiting approval by DOE-Headquarters. He hopes to finalize the organization in April.

Key Decisions Made by the Board

The SRS CAB approved the Site Specific Advisory Board Transuranic Waste Workshop recommendations.

The Board authorized SRS CAB Chair signature on the SRS NERP resolution developed by a consortium of interested groups and organizations.

The Board amended the bylaws to allow "two or more" candidates be provided for membership vacancies.

Recommendation 159- Low Curie Salt to Saltstone - The Board recommended that SRS focus on cleanup and risk reduction while maintaining, and if possible accelerating, the current high level waste tank closure schedule. It also requested that DOE, EPA and SCDHEC support a short

series of in-depth committee meetings focused entirely on the salt disposition topic to enable a better understanding of the topic and educate interested stakeholders.

Recommendation 160-Burning Paper Pellets in A Area Boilers - The Board recommended that SRS and DHEC work together to allow the use of the source testing data from the burning of paper pellets when evaluating the case-by-case limitation determination. Included in the recommendation is a request for DHEC to consider allowing the A Area boilers to be permitted under a modified permit based upon the case-by-case determination.

Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the January CAB meeting were approved with no changes.

Agency Update

Alice Doswell, DOE, noted closure of the solvent tanks in the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground, which will allow the burial ground to be capped. She also noted accomplishments in blending highly enriched uranium to be sent to the Tennessee Valley Authority, which is on hold pending the licensing of the receipt facility. Ms. Doswell stated that the melter replacement in the Defense Waste Processing Facility is ahead of schedule. She announced that due to security issues and the ensuing war, all waste shipments have been suspended.

Jay Bassett, EPA, announced that EPA had met with site personnel on accelerated cleanup and EPA was looking at resources to assist in site efforts to accelerate the cleanup program.

Chuck Gorman noted SCDHEC involvement in accelerated cleanup as well and stated that SCDHEC is working to get to know the new South Carolina Governor.

Facilitator Update

Mike Schoener provided a recommendation status report noting that 12 recommendations are pending, three are open and 143 are closed. Mr. Schoener presented the final 2003 Workplan (see attachment). He also noted that the process improvement retreat will be held April 28-29 in Charleston, S.C. and provided the final draft agenda to the Board.

Transuranic Waste Workshop

Wade Waters provided a briefing on the Transuranic Waste Workshop held January 31-February 2, 2003. He noted the tour of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the two-day workshop in which the Site Specific Advisory Boards developed recommendations regarding characterization, transportation, management, regulatory and outreach issues. He asked the Board for permission to sign the recommendations at the SSAB Chairs meeting. The Board took a few moments to review the recommendations and then voted to authorize his signature. Perry Holcomb moved the Board approve the recommendations and Carolyn Williams seconded. Nineteen were in favor and one member opposed.

Long Term Stewardship Committee Report

Carolyn Williams, Committee Chair, reported that the committee would present a resolution regarding the SRS National Environmental Research Park status following presentations. Ernie Chaput presented brief remarks regarding SRS employment projections, site infrastructure and

potential public-sector projects. He noted the Modern Pit Facility, early site permitting for the next nuclear power plant, demonstration of next generation nuclear power plants, hydrogen infrastructure, production demonstration, University Research and a training reactor. All are potential public-sector projects that could be accommodated at SRS, he said. Mr. Chaput also mentioned potential private-sector projects as well. He discussed why SRS is a prime location for these potential projects. He discussed how these projects are consistent with the NERP and discussed why the resolution was proposed, and who would be signing and supporting the resolution.

Lehr Brisbon of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory provided a presentation regarding the environmental impacts at SRS. He discussed the basic principles of ecology and how they directly relate to the principles of a NERP. He discussed natural systems and developed systems and defined NERP as a place to study these systems. He showed slides of PAR Pond, Cypress Swamp and the impacts of reactors on the swamp. He also showed slides of various animals and birds and discussed studies conducted over the years. For instance, the grey fox is abundant and average longevity of the grey fox on SRS is eight years versus three years in non-protected areas. Mr. Brisbon discussed the Carolina Dog as well. He concluded noting the importance of undisturbed land imbedded in developed systems and the unique opportunity it provides for research.

Ernie Chaput summarized the resolution for Board member consideration. The resolution will be provided to the Secretary of Energy. Discussion revolved around the need for congressional action regarding the NERP to ensure perpetuity. There were also several questions regarding various studies of animals and any plans to memorialize Eugene Odom. Carolyn Williams moved the Board approve SRS CAB endorsement of the resolution and Lola Richardson seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee

Mel Galin provided a brief committee update. Alice Doswell provided an update on accelerated cleanup (see attachment) and a meeting held to obtain stakeholder comments in February. She noted that 73 comments were received most of which aligned with the SRS Accelerated Cleanup vision. She noted that the negotiation of the new cleanup contract is nearly final and discussed how comments were incorporated in contract negotiations. Ms. Doswell noted that safety is a pre-requisite and regulatory compliance will be maintained. She noted the cleanup vision for high level waste, solid waste, nuclear materials, environmental restoration and facility disposition. Ms. Doswell stated that the majority of the CAB comments have been incorporated into the acceleration plans, which are still being finalized. She committed to provide progress updates.

Public Comments

Jen Cato commented on latent cancer vitality rates that appeared in a recent report, noting that if you multiplied the number by the millions that live near SRS, you would have 47,000 cancers in the CSRA. She thanked the Board for their oversight of SRS.

Waste Management Committee Report

Low Curie Salt to Saltstone - Bill Willoughby provided a draft motion regarding Low Curie

Salt to Saltstone (see attachment). The primary concern of the SRS CAB is to accelerate high level waste tank closures and to have a salt processing facility operational by 2010. Any delay in the Federal Facility Agreement schedule is considered unacceptable. He summarized the committee's concerns about potential procedural roadblocks and presented the draft recommendation that regardless of WIR litigation in Idaho, SRS focus on cleanup and risk reduction while maintaining, and if possible accelerating, the current closure schedule. It also requested that DOE, EPA and SCDHEC support a short series of in-depth meetings focused entirely on the salt disposition topic to enable a better understanding of the topic and educate interested stakeholders. Discussion revolved around the schedule for tank closure, agency interactions, and potential issues regarding the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing litigation. After minor modifications, Perry Holcomb moved the Board adopt the motion and Leon Chavous seconded. The motion passed by a vote of seventeen members in favor.

Burning Paper Pellets in A Area Boilers - Sonny Golston, WSRC, provided a briefing on Alternative Fuel Program Status (see attachment). SRS is implementing a system to co-fire with coal in the coal-fired boilers. SRS expects to replace approximately 30 percent of coal with reclaimed paper. Mechanical problems, which limited boiler steam capacity compromised previous tests, however a mixed fuel test plan has been approved by SCDHEC and sufficient paper pellets have been manufactured and stored for testing. The SRS CAB still supports the effort for a case by case limitation determination to burn paper pellets in the A Area boiler. The burning of paper pellets along with coal makes economic and environmental sense to the SRS CAB. Murray Riley presented a draft motion recommending that SRS and DHEC work together to allow the use of the source testing data from the burning of paper pellets when evaluating the case-by-case limitation determination. It asks DHEC to consider allowing the A Area boilers to be permitted under a modified permit based upon the case-by-case determination. Bill Willoughby moved the motion be adopted and Murray Riley seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a vote 17 members in favor. Larry Ling provided background history on the litigation surrounding the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing lawsuit filed by the NRDC in 2002. A motion to dismiss by DOE was denied in May 2002. Oral arguments will be held on May 9, 2003 in Idaho following comments on motions by all parties.

Administrative Committee Report

Bylaws Amendment Proposal - Lola Richardson presented a proposal to amend the bylaws in Section 3.5, b to allow the Administrative Committee to select "two or more" versus three qualified candidates per Board vacancy. She noted public comments from Lee Poe and Bill Willoughby noted public comments from Sam Booher, both of who were in opposition to the proposed amendment. Bill Willoughby proposed that "As a temporary measure" be added to the proposal to amend. Perry Holcomb and others noted that bylaws should not have a "temporary measure," but rather be clear and substantive. There was discussion regarding the fundamental issues and the structure of the CAB membership process. Board members discussed timing and the immediate need for membership replacement.

Gerald Devitt moved the Board adopt the proposal to amend the bylaws and Perry Holcomb seconded. Bill Willoughby moved the Board amend the proposal to make it a temporary measure. Mel Galin seconded the amendment, which failed with eighteen members opposed and

two in favor to amend. The motion to adopt the original amendment as stated passed with 19 members in favor and one abstention by Bill Willoughby.

The Board elected Deanne Smoak of Savannah, Georgia to the Board to fill the unexpired term for Heather Simmons, Allendale, S.C. The Board also voted to recommend that DOE remove Judy Barnett of Jackson, S.C. as a Board member based on lack of attendance.

Environmental Restoration Committee Report

Committee Chair Perry Holcomb announced that the ER Committee had met once this year to learn more about decontamination and decommissioning, which will be brought to the full board at a later date. He stated the committee will meet again in May. He introduced Cathy Lewis, WSRC, to provide a briefing on P Reactor Seepage Basins (see attachment). She provided background information about the basins contaminated primarily with cesium and strontium. The core team of DOE, SCDHEC and EPA agreed to grouting two of the three basins and covering all basins with a low permeability cover following excavation of abandoned process lines. The remedial action start date is set for April 2004. This action is being completed by a Plug-in-Record of Decision. Ms. Lewis discussed groundwater contamination at P Reactor noting the plumes are discharging into Steel Creek. SRS is in the process of characterizing this contamination to determine the extent of contamination under an expedited site characterization and taking a holistic approach to remediation.

Nuclear Materials Committee Report

William Harris provided a briefing on the SRS Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization Project Status (see attachment). DOE Standard 3013 provides criteria for stabilization of plutonium-bearing materials to safe and stable forms that can be packaged and placed in storage with minimal surveillance for up to fifty years. SRS has 3300 cans of plutonium materials to be stabilized and packaged to meet the DOE Standard. Approximately, 2300 cans require thermal stabilization and packaging and 1000 cans require only packaging. The goal of the project is to utilize existing infrastructure and equipment to accelerate schedule and minimize costs. This is a two-phased project with outer can packaging by April 2003 and oxide stabilization by October 2003. Mr. Harris discussed cost performance, the stabilization cycle, outer can welding, digital radiography and storage. The SRS Packaging and Stabilization project is ahead of schedule and under budget. The startup of the packaging phase is imminent and the facility has staffing in place to complete the mission as scheduled. Initiatives are underway to accelerate completion of the project by mid-2005.

Public Comments

Jen Cato asked for clarification on two presentations provided during the afternoon session.

Don Kantor thanked the Board and noted he continues to be impressed with the SRS CAB and hopes to become a member soon.

Handouts

- March 24-25, 2003 Agenda
- Operations Update, March 2003

- Status Update as of March 25, 2003 Projects of Interest to SRS CAB
- SRS CAB Recommendation Summary
- SRS CAB 2003 Annual Work Plan
- Transuranic Waste Workshop Recommendations
- Long Term Institutional Control of SRS Resolution Background
- Resolution to the Secretary of Energy Long Term Institutional Control of SRS
- Accelerated Cleanup CAB Comment Status, Alice Doswell, DOE
- Public Comments from Lee Poe, dated 3/17/03
- Summary of Proposal to Amend the SRS CAB Bylaws, Lola Richardson, CAB
- Low Curie Salt to Saltstone, Bill Willoughby, CAB
- Burning Paper Pellets in A-Area Boilers, Murray Riley, CAB
- Alternative Fuel Program Status, Sonny Goldston, WSRC
- P Reactor Seepage Basins and P Reactor Groundwater, Cathy Lewis, BSRI
- SRS Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization Project Status, William Harris, WSRC
- Glass Waste Storage Building #2, Kim Sidey, DOE
- SRS Accelerated Cleanup Overview, Bill Johnson, WSRC