



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

**Long Term Stewardship Committee
Meeting Summaries**

**Aiken Federal Building, Aiken, SC
March 5, 2003**

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Long Term Stewardship (LTS) Committee met on March 5, 6:00 p.m., at the Aiken Federal Building, Aiken, SC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the National Environmental Research Park Resolution, LTS Committee path forward and hear public comment. Those in attendance were:

CAB Members

Carolyn Williams*
William Lawrence*
Meryl Alalof*
Bill Lawless
Wendell Lyon

*Members of the LTS
Committee

Stakeholders

Sam Booher
Rick McLeod
Ernie Chaput
Todd Crawford
Lee Poe
Liz Goodson
Philip Lord
Russ Messick
Jack Hayes
Teresa Lawless

DOE/Contractors

George Mishra, DOE
I. Lehr Brisbin, SREL
John Blake, SREL
Mike Serrato, STRC
Palmer Bowen, USDA
Jim Moore, WSRC

** Mel Galin, Jean Sulc and Ann Dalton, members of the LTS Committee, were unable to attend.

Carolyn Williams, Chair, welcomed those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves. She then welcomed Todd Crawford as the presenter.

National Environmental Research Park (NERP) Resolution

Todd Crawford reviewed the background of the site and the land-use initiatives. In 1972, Savannah River Site (SRS) was designated as the first NERP. In 1989, a workshop was held to help determine what to do with the SRS site when the production mission was finished. In 1990, a Land Use Steering Committee was formed by WSRC. In 1993 and 1994, the first CAB was formed and two recommendations were developed in 1995. Recommendation #2 displayed a map of SRS with the Industrial and Non-Industrial zone identified. Guidance for clean-up in

each area was identified. Recommendation #8 was a nine-part recommendation on the future uses of the SRS.

Currently there is an effort to more formally institutionalize the SRS as a NERP. An adhoc group was formed with the initial step being to develop a resolution that would be sent to the Secretary of Energy requesting reaffirmation of SRS as a NERP.

I. Lehr Brisbin, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), gave a report on the extensive efforts to use SRS as a protected outdoor laboratory where long-term projects could be conducted to address questions about human impacts on the environment. In 1972, the first NERP was designated to provide tracts of land where the effects of human impacts on the environment could be studied. There are now seven NERPs at DOE reservations throughout the United States.

Mr. Brisbin explained the basis of ecology. He explained the process of a natural system that can run on sunlight energy alone and a developed system that is unstable and cannot run on sunlight energy alone. The interaction between the two systems is what the NERP is all about. Without the two, a NERP couldn't exist.

Mr. Brisbin went on to talk about the various animals within his area of expertise. These included the gray fox, red fox, various species of ducks and Carolina Dogs. He pointed out that a member of a blue ribbon panel, outside peer review team, made a statement that there are important questions about the environment that our society needs answered that if they are not answered at SRS, then they will never be answered.

Mr. Brisbin stated that the National Geographic Television Network would be showing a program on Tuesday, March 11, 9:00 p.m. on the Carolina Dogs that he participated in. In addition, it may be re-played on Sunday, March 16, at 4:00 p.m. on the same network.

Mr. Crawford stated that it was important to keep the boundaries of the site intact for several reasons; (1) the production facilities are near the center of the site so that the rest of the site serves as a safety and security buffer, (2) based on today's world, we don't know what the future will bring, and (3) with the traditional production missions going down, it is important to develop other missions such as the Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility, a Nuclear Energy Park and the need for the production of hydrogen to name a few. The SRS remains a major place for the education of future ecologists. With that purpose in mind, it was requested that the LTS Committee support the resolution and pass it on to the full CAB for the CAB Chair to sign.

A motion to pass the resolution on to the full CAB was made by Meryl Alalof, seconded by Bill Lawless, and passed unanimously by the LTS Committee. Several suggestions were made to help improve the presentation for the full CAB. They included:

- Explaining what would happen to the NERP if new missions did not come to SRS
- Talk to the future of the site versus emphasis on the past
- Discuss the radioactive content of deer and why that figure is not going down

- If the information is available, talk to the issue of cost to keep the sites current boundaries if the site can pay its own way

Mr. Chaput stated that if individuals of the CAB wanted more information or had questions before the next CAB meeting they should contact him.

Path Forward

The following items were discussed during the LTS Committee path forward:

- David Geiser, DOE-Headquarters (HQ), felt it would be better to present information to the LTS Committee on long-term stewardship at DOE-HQ further in the future, say August or September, when more information is available.
- DOE-HQ is proposing an Office of Legacy Management. This Office would include all the sites that are closed and in the long-term stewardship mode. There are currently 30 sites where active environmental remediation has been completed. These sites include Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) sites, sites associated with the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), as well as sites remediated by DOE or its predecessor agencies. The number of sites is projected to grow to over 60 in the next five years.
- The draft End State Plan should be available by the end of April. This is a decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) program document. This document will identify the appropriate end states for all Environmental Management (EM) facilities. This will fall under the Environmental Restoration Committee but the plan will be available for the LTS Committee to review.
- The End State Vision policy and guidance has not been finalized by DOE-HQ at this time. If this is finalized, then according to the schedule in the guidance, a site End State Vision would be required by June 1, 2003. If that occurs, then the LTS Committee would review the draft document.
- The LTS Committee will continue to look at plans from closure sites. The latest information is from Fernald. "Telling the story of Fernald." A CD is available upon request.
- Rocky Flats Weekly Report will continue to be distributed.

Public Comment

Lee Poe requested that a copy of the comments from the public on the draft End State Vision policy and guidance be distributed to the LTS Committee members.

Bill Lawless complimented Todd Crawford and Lehr Brisbin on their presentation and the work that went into it.

Lee Poe requested that a presentation be made to the LTS Committee on the institutional controls used in the land-use control (LUC) Record of Decisions. What institutional controls are documented in the LUC. Sam Booher requested that the location of the actual LUCAP (Land Use Control Assurance Plan) be identified and asked if it was available for the public.

Sam Booher said he was confused about where the long-term stewardship fits into the Site planning documents. He asked that someone come to the LTS Committee to explain it.

With no other comments, Ms. Williams adjourned the meeting.

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