



## **SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

### **SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Ramada Limited, Beaufort, S.C. October 12, 2004**

#### **SRS CAB Members**

Meryl Alalof  
Donna Antonucci  
Leon Chavous  
Gerald Devitt  
Mary Drye  
Cassandra Henry  
Perry Holcomb  
Bill Lawless  
William Lawrence

Wendell Lyon  
Robert Meisenheimer  
Karen Patterson  
Barbara Paul  
Murray Riley  
Jean Sulc  
Bill Vogelee  
Gloria Williams Way  
Bill Willoughby

#### **Ex-Officio Members**

Bill Spader, DOE  
Shelley Sherritt, SCDHEC  
Dawn Taylor, EPA

DOE/Contractors  
Kevin Smith, DOE  
Charlie Hansen, DOE  
Becky Craft, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
David Hoel, DOE  
Bill Bates, WSRC  
David Burke, WSRC  
Jack Devine, WSRC  
Teresa Haas, WSRC  
Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
Joe Carter, WSRC  
Lyddie Broussard, WSRC  
Dawn Haygood, WSRC  
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Jim Moore, WSRC  
Palmer Bowen, USFS-SR

#### **Stakeholders**

George Minot  
Joe Whetstone  
Gary Zimmerman  
Peter Arrowsmith  
Alan Warren  
Michael Shea  
Hal Cahill  
Nancy Ann Ciechanski

#### **Regulators**

Kim Newell, SCDHEC

SRS CAB members Mel Galin, Danielle Mackie, Darryl Nettles, Dorene Richardson, and Carolyne Williams were unable to attend. The meeting opened with Bill Spader, DOE, serving as Designated Federal Official. Mike Schoener served as facilitator. The meeting was open to the public and posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

The meeting minutes of the July 26-27, 2004, were approved with no changes.

#### **Agency Update**

Bill Spader, DOE, stated there was no plutonium disposition update at this time. He commented that the packaging of 3013 was proceeding and is 70% complete. Mr. Spader discussed T Area closure nearing completion and commented on the collaboration between DOE, SCDHEC and EPA. He also noted the Memorandum of Agreement on Historic Preservation had been signed by all parties and the Cultural Resources Management Plan should be ready for review by the end of October.

Mr. Spader commented on the Risk Based End State document, the final of which is to be submitted to DOE-Headquarters by December 1. There was also brief discussion regarding picketing at the Glass Waste Storage Building and the fact that it has been peaceful and caused no holdups in construction progress. Board members also briefly discussed the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing issue.

Shelley Sherritt, SCDHEC noted she is the permanent Ex-Officio member for the Board. She also commented that she had attended the Risk Based End State workshop held the first week of October in Chicago. She said that SCDHEC generally supports the risk-based approach, however some of the variances generated discussion. Ms. Sherritt stated that SCDHEC views this document as alternatives and not as a decision document. Many of the variances would have to go through a regulatory process and are just possibilities right now. If and when all are initiated, then SCDHEC will proceed with a full evaluation. Ms. Sherritt also commented that SCDHEC is in the process of reviewing a general closure plan for HLW tanks.

Dawn Taylor, EPA, noted that she had met with her regional counterparts and this group had met with Acting EM Assistant Secretary Paul Golan, on transportation issues and groundwater concerns. She commented that EPA also supports the Risk Based End State approach, but does not see it as a substitute for the regulatory process. Ms. Taylor also announced that Ken Lapier is the New Branch Chief for EPA-Region IV.

### **Public Comments**

Harold Cahill, Beaufort, S.C. introduced himself as a prospective candidate for the Board.

George Minot, Hilton Head Island

Mr. Minot congratulated the Board on its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He stated that the stakeholders rely on public documents. He said it is fine and good to talk about the body count and the numbers, but from his perspective, the most important thing DOE needs to convey is what percentage of the task is being completed. Numbers are meaningful, but true numbers should be conveyed to the public. Mr. Minot stated that DOE needs to tell him how they are proceeding with completion of the task and not dilute it with numbers.

Joe Whetstone, Sun City, S.C

Mr. Whetstone noted he drove across the new bridges on 170 to come to the meeting and that although new, the concrete is cracking. He stated he fears this will happen in the high level waste tanks at the time of closure and asked if there are cracks in Tank 17 and 20 now and how will you be able tell when it's surrounded by metal.

### **Chair Update**

Jean Sulc provided an update from the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs meeting held October 6-8, 2004 in Richland, WA. She stated the SRS CAB will host the next SSAB Chairs meeting in April 2005 and the fall 2005 meeting will be hosted by Idaho. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was that the SSAB Chairs are sending a letter to DOE recommending a

national forum be held to produce technically sound and comprehensive solutions to DOE's system-wide waste disposition challenges. The letter will be mailed by December 15.

Ms. Sulc noted SSAB discussion on organizational challenges, including funding, budgets, 8A contractor issues, membership appointments and transitions from EM to other landlords. Ms. Sulc stated that Sandra Waisley had provided a budget update and noted that under the HLW Proposal, Savannah River funding was reduced from \$188 million to \$114 million.

Ms. Sulc noted the following system-wide vulnerabilities to waste disposition identified by the SSABs:

- Losing capacity to treat waste for which disposition is not defined
- "Grid-lock" shipping
- Shadow Waste- DOE to private contractors without anyone knowing about it
- Potential for Yucca Mountain not to open
- Acceleration is outpacing solutions and answers-timing is critical
- Interim Storage Facilities- where? who will have?
- DOE's ability to safely perform the mechanics of shipping wastes
- If WIR is not resolved-then we'll need two Yucca Mountains
- Acceleration is creating safety problems
- WIPP won't be large enough (pre-1970 TRU waste)

The next potential SSAB Workshop has not yet been determined, but potential topics include RBES; Long Term Stewardship; Acceleration; and Public Participation. Ms. Sulc concluded by noting that a good part of the meeting was spent discussing Hanford's issues from legal challenges to horse trading.

### **Facilitator Update**

Mike Schoener presented the Recommendation Summary Report (see attached). Eight recommendations are pending, 31 open and 157 closed. There are no outstanding responses required by the agencies.

### **Administrative Committee**

Meryl Alalof, Committee Chair, presented the draft Bylaws Amendment Proposal (see attachment).

Most of the bylaws amendments were for clarification purposes or because the bylaws had become obsolete. There was discussion regarding modifications to the voting section of the bylaws. Bill Lawless moved the Board adopt the amendment proposal in its entirety and Bill Vogeles seconded. The motion failed with sixteen members in favor; one opposed and one abstention. It was determined that the motion failed due to opposition to one proposed amendment. The Board agreed to revisit the bylaws amendment proposal in November and vote on each proposed modification individually.

### **Waste Management Committee**

## Yucca Mountain

Joe Carter, WSRC, provided a brief presentation regarding Yucca Mountain (see attachment). Yucca Mountain has established the waste acceptance criteria in the Waste Acceptance System Requirements Document. Between 1994 and 1996, DWPF conducted non-radioactive testing, and issued the Waste Form Compliance Plan, and Waste Form Qualification Report, indicating DWPF canistered waste form is acceptable for disposal. The following summarizes DWPF total production:

- 6,740,000 lb of Radioactive Glass
- 1712 Canisters of Radioactive Glass
  - 5060 Canisters Expected Lifetime
  - 33% Mission Complete
- 1805 Equivalent Canisters
- 8.0 million curies of total radioactivity

Mr. Carter also discussed interim storage of the canisters. Glass Waste Storage Building I provides interim storage for another 25 months and GWSB II is scheduled for completion in February 2006. It will provide adequate storage for 4,554 canisters or production until about 2016.

Bob Meisenheimer presented the draft motion regarding Yucca Mountain (see attachment). The motion stated that the SRS CAB has been a proponent of Yucca Mountain and is very interested in seeing it open on schedule in 2010. In order to facilitate the effective, timely, and responsive shipment of waste from SRS to Yucca Mountain, the motion recommended that DOE-HQ work diligently with NRC and EPA to meet the 2010 opening date for Yucca Mountain and take all appropriate steps to accelerate the schedule wherever possible. It also recommended that DOE-HQ assure the SRS CAB by July 1, 2005, that the required shipping casks will be designed and tested by the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), and then licensed by NRC to support the projected start shipping date in FY10. It requested that by January 31, 2005, the SRS shipping facility be identified as a priority and sufficient funds made available to begin design in FY07 with construction to be completed by FY10. The motion requested that the interface between the SRS shipping facility and the Yucca Mountain Receiving facility be sized appropriately to meet the integrated shipping/receiving schedule for the Accelerated Clean-up Plan and requested annual updates. Bill Lawless moved the Board adopt the motion and Karen Patterson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of fifteen in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

## Hanford Treatability Studies

David Hoel, DOE, presented an update on the Hanford Treatability Studies (see attachment). SRNL has been conducting treatability studies with radioactive Hanford samples in support of Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant since 1996. Since 1997, treatability sample residues and unused samples have been returned to Hanford. On June 14, 2004, Washington State informed DOE that they fully support the treatability studies, however debris from the studies is not subject to the treatability sample exclusion. DOE disagreed with the Office of Ecology's

contention and believes that all the treatability samples and residues returned to Hanford from SRS are properly subject to the referenced RCRA and State of Washington exclusions. Washington State issued an Administrative Order to DOE at the Hanford Site seeking a fine of \$270,000 on September 21, 2004. Rich Edwards, SRNL, presented pictures showing examples of the residues that have been returned to Hanford. Due to current litigation, no questions were accepted except in writing.

Mary Drye presented the draft motion regarding SRS Return of Hanford Treatability Study Samples (see attachment). Board members discussed the need for the recommendation in light of more formal litigation; SCDHEC's determination regarding treatability studies; and political issues surrounding the issue. Several minor modifications were provided to the draft motion.

Mary Drye moved the Board adopt the motion and Bill Willoughby seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued regarding support of the motion. Bill Vogeles moved the motion be tabled and Gerald Devitt seconded. The motion to table passed with nine members in favor, six opposed and one abstention. The motion was tabled until November 16, 2004.

#### SRS Transuranic Waste Program

Bert Crapse, DOE, provided an overview of the Transuranic Waste Program (see attachment). To date, 13,900 drums (2900 m<sup>3</sup>) have been shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Mr. Crapse discussed the SRS TRU Waste Inventory, which includes 11,650 cubic meters of legacy inventory; 30,000 55-gallon TRU waste drums; 2000 large boxes and non-drummed TRU waste containers; and containers ranging in quantity from less than 0.5 curies to 1500 curies of Pu238 and Pu239. Mr. Crapse showed examples of large container TRU waste and showed photos depicting repackaging of large steel boxes into 14 WIPP acceptable containers. Plans are to remove all legacy TRU waste by 2008 with low activity drummed TRU waste shipped by 2006 and non-drummed waste shipped by 2008. To complete shipments by 2006, SRS needs to send 20 shipments per week. The challenge is in transportation canisters, which are also needed by other DOE sites. The startup of a modular repackaging facility for drum remediation is also needed to maintain the accelerated shipping rate. NRC approval of TRUPACT-III shipping containers for large containers is also needed.

Bill Willoughby presented a draft motion SRS TRU Waste Program Challenges (see attachment). Concerned about the availability of shipping containers for transuranic waste, the committee's motion recommended that DOE maintain the flow of TRUPACT II shipping containers to SRS to ensure an average of 20 shipments per month. It also recommended that DOE build new TRUPACT II shipping containers and designate at least one new container to SRS in order to meet the 2008 target date for removal of all legacy TRU waste at SRS. The motion asked DOE to work with NRC for an early approval date for TRUPACT-II (SARP – Revision 21) to ensure all SRS high activity drummed TRU waste is removed by 2008 and requested a presentation on the status by January 25, 2005. It also requested an update on the licensing effort, including the schedule and the procurement status for the TRUPACT-III shipping containers and an update on the nondestructive assay equipment deployment. To prevent any slowdown on shipments from the impact of drum repackaging, the motion recommended that DOE-SR expedite the installation of the Modular Repackaging Facility and

maintain the accelerated TRU waste shipments at 20 per month. It also suggested a backup plan regarding variances and disposition of Pu-238 contaminated TRU waste in the Risk Based End State document. Several minor modifications and clarifications were made to the draft motion. Bill Willoughby moved the Board adopt the motion and Bill Vogeles seconded. The motion passed unanimously with sixteen members in favor.

Charlie Hansen, DOE, provided a presentation on SRS Canister Storage (see attachment) in response to a request made in CAB Recommendation 183. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act requires high level waste be placed in a deep geologic federal repository. The current EM Disposition plan has the federal repository ready to receive DWPF canisters in FY 2010. If there is a delay in the start of operations, additional storage will be needed. A third GWSB would be needed by 2015. Should the repository fail to open, the impacts are calculated at 1 Latent Cancer Fatality (LCF) at each DOE site every 200 years. This is an increase to natural incidence of LCF of 0.0004%.

Board members questioned contingencies if Yucca Mountain does not open and asked what will become of excess space if shipping is being conducted. Mr. Hansen responded that if SRS can get waste loading up then maybe two glass buildings will be all that is required. Institutional controls are what keep people from getting near the canisters and these should be in place well beyond 100 years, he said. DOE will have to provide institutional controls or establish sufficient barriers to keep individuals from the canisters and this would have to be suitable to the regulators.

### **Public Comment**

Peter Arrowsmith, Savannah, Ga. introduced himself as a candidate for Board membership.

Donna Antonucci, CAB Member, Savannah, Ga.

Ms. Antonucci voiced her objection to the manner in which the WM Committee motion was tabled and she requested that DOE move quickly to resolve the misunderstanding that has resulted in a violation and fine surrounding the treatability samples.

### **Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee**

Perry Holcomb, Committee Chair, presented a draft motion regarding Building 235-F Decontamination (see attachment). The motion asked DOE to present the options for removing plutonium-238 holdup in the Building 235-F process cells. It requested information regarding alternatives that may include fixing the plutonium contamination in place and asked DOE to document how the proposed actions will impact reaching the planned end state for Building 235-F. The motion requested this information by November 16, 2004.

Bill Spader asked the Board to consider hearing the presentation before determining whether to provide a recommendation. Karen Patterson agreed that the recommendation being presented seemed to be standard request for a committee. Bill Spader clarified that a request for a briefing is all that is required. Bob Meisenheimer stated the motion asked for more than a briefing and

asked DOE to present options. Murray Riley moved the Board adopt the motion and Mary Drye seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 12 in favor and four opposed.

### **WSRC Closure Business Unit Update**

Jack Devine, WSRC Chief Closure Officer, provided a presentation on the FY2004 successes and FY2005 challenges for the Closure Business Unit (see attachment). Mr. Devine noted that the mission of the unit is to stabilize and disposition SRS EM nuclear materials, to deactivate, demolish, and remove excess facilities; and to conduct final environmental remediation. Mr. Devine discussed several major project areas, including H Area completion, F Area closure, Liquid Waste Disposition, Waste Solidification, D&D, Soil and Groundwater Closure and Laboratories. He discussed significant progress in EM cleanup and then provided details on the major project areas. Decommissioning authorization was just received for F Canyon and deactivation is progressing with 59 percent complete and 11% ahead of schedule. FB Line deactivation is expected by March 2005. H Canyon is blending highly enriched uranium, which is being shipped to Tennessee. Processing of spent fuels from SRS reactors and foreign and domestic reactors is complete. Mr. Devine discussed liquid waste disposition presenting several depictions of the high level waste inventory and its constituents. He discussed space management and the critical shortage of tank space. There is an urgent need to move forward with salt disposition by October 1, 2005, or there will be insufficient tank space to support preparation of sludge feed for the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

Mr. Devine discussed waste solidification projects, noting that SRS has increased waste concentration in canisters by over 20 percent, which could lead to approximately 1000 fewer canisters. Melter three is on schedule for completion in September 2004. Melter one lasted six years and Melter two is on year two. Mr. Devine also discussed the site approach to decommissioning and demolition and soil and groundwater cleanup at SRS.

### **Nuclear Materials Committee**

Gerald Devitt commented on the recent Nuclear Materials Committee tour and thanked the WSRC presenters for a great job.

Bill Bates, WSRC, provided an update on plutonium operations (see attachment). He showed a video regarding operations at the K Area Nuclear Materials Storage Area (KAMs). Mr. Bates noted that KAMs is basically a warehouse function. He discussed the flow of operations and handling operations and equipment. The authorization process includes the review of shipper data and technical safety requirements. Following the authorization process, the trucks are loaded at the shipping facility. Trucks are parked at K Area for a 30-minute cooldown. During the cooldown, seals are checked to ensure they match the ones put on at the shipping site to make sure it has not been tampered with during transport. The cargo transporters are removed from trucks with forklifts and radiological surveys are performed. The tines of the forklifts are blunted to ensure cargo transporters are not punctured. Following unloading operations, several checks are performed, including transfer, confirmation and verification checks. Confirmation checks confirm two parameters- the weight of the drum and qualitative check of gamma radiation for the presence of Pu239. Once the confirmation check is done, a verification check is conducted to compare the quantitative amount- the amount of the isotope the shipper says is being shipped versus what is shipped. All shipments are treated as offsite shipments, whether from onsite or

offsite. Mr. Bates also described how containers are stored, inventoried and monitored. Barcode scanners are used to track vault grid positions and Radio Frequency Devices are used for surveillance. Drums are also under camera surveillance. Quarterly surveillance will be conducted at 235-F Facility, where ten drums will be physically inspected. Board members discussed security measures, transportation, and clearance of international inspectors monitoring the program.

## **Public Comments**

Wade Waters, Pooler, Ga.

Mr. Waters stated it was a privilege to spend the day with the CAB and made two observations. He stated that not a whole lot has changed since he departed. The Board is still on task and doing a great service. He also stated that the one-day meeting held today should be reason enough for the additional half day added to full Board meetings. It is a laborious task to present recommendations and get them passed.

William Lawrence announced that the Strategic & Legacy Management Committee will meet October 26 at 5 p.m. at the North Augusta Community Center and a tour of SRNL will be held October 27. He noted his committee topics were deferred until November.

Jean Sulc relayed a comment from Tom Costikyan, former CAB member and resident of Dataw Island, S.C. His concern is that the CAB is not able to respond quickly to articles on HLW. He wants the CAB to be able to respond to the press in a more timely manner.

## **Handouts**

SRS CAB Agenda, October 12, 2004

SRS Gold Metrics

SRS CAB Recommendation Summary

Draft-Revision 2-Summary of Proposal to Amend the SRS CAB Bylaws

Yucca Mountain SRS Interfaces, Joe Carter, WSRC

Yucca Mountain Waste Acceptance Criteria

Hanford Treatability Studies, David Hoel, DOE

Hanford Treatability Study-Material Handling, Movement and Return

SRS Return of Hanford HLW Treatability Study Samples, Bob Meisenheimer, CAB

SRS Transuranic Waste Program, Bert Crapse, DOE



SRS TRU Waste Program Challenges, Bob Meisenheimer, CAB

SRS Canister Storage, Charles Hansen, DOE

Building 235-F Decontamination, Perry Holcomb, CAB

FY2004 Successes, FY2005 Challenges, Jack Devine, WSRC

Plutonium Operations, Bill Bates, WSRC

News from the Savannah River Site, dated September 27, 2004

Remarks by Jeffery Allison, dated July 19, 2004

Letter to Jean Sulc from Jeffery Allison, dated September 17, 2004

Letter to Jean Sulc from Jeffery Allison, dated September 24, 2004

NEPA EIS Report

SRS CAB Calendar