



## SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

### SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes September 26-27, 2005 Columbia, S.C.

#### Monday, September 26, 2005, Attendance

##### SRS CAB Members

Meryl Alalof  
Donna Antonucci  
Manuel Bettencourt  
Tracey Carroll  
Leon Chavous  
Gerald Devitt  
Arthur Domby  
Perry Holcomb  
Bill Lawless

Wendell Lyon  
Jimmy Mackey  
Joseph Ortaldo  
Karen Patterson  
Barbara Paul  
Jean Sulc  
Carolyn Williams  
Gloria Williams-Way  
Bill Willoughby

##### Stakeholders

Sarah Watson  
Lou Zeller  
Chris Timmers  
K. Robbins  
John Sylvest

##### Regulators

Eddie Wright, EPA  
Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC

##### Ex-Officio Members

Bill Spader, DOE  
Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC  
Dawn Taylor, EPA  
Robert Pope, EPA

##### DOE/Contractors

Kevin Smith, DOE  
Nick Delaplane, DOE  
Helen Belencan, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
Becky Craft, DOE  
Randall Ponik, DOE  
Gail Whitney, DOE  
Teresa Haas, WSRC  
Mary Flora, WSRC  
Dawn Haygood, WSRC  
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Jim Moore, WSRC  
Joe Carter, WSRC  
Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
Ken Crase, WSRC  
Craig McMullin, WSRC  
Pete Fledderman, WSRC

#### Waste Management Committee

Joe Ortaldo, Vice Chair, reviewed the agenda and turned the meeting over to Manuel Bettencourt, Vice Chair, motion manager of the TRU Waste from Columbus, Ohio.

#### Transuranic Waste – Columbus, Ohio

Manuel Bettencourt reviewed the draft recommendation (see attachment). In summary, the SRS CAB continues to support the consolidation of DOE waste streams where it makes sense, both from an economic and safety perspective; however, equity considerations must be included in any decision. Before the SRS CAB could support the receipt of the TRU waste from Battelle Columbus, the motion requested that DOE-HQ provide SRS with several commitments:

- Ensure the necessary resources to accelerate the deployment and certification of the characterization system for large containers/boxes by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006;
- Ensure no further schedule slippage associated with SRS TRU Pad #1 excavation and present a strategy to resolve outstanding issues by March 1, 2006;
- Ensure that a transportation packaging method to handle SRS high-activity TRU waste drums is available by FY 2007;
- Ensure the availability of this shipping container for non-drummed waste by the end of FY 2007; and remove from SRS all of the non-drummed TRU wastes by the end of FY 2009, or no later than the end of FY2010.

It also asked DOE-HQ and DOE-Carlsbad (WIPP) to provide the following commitments to SRS stakeholders before the BC-TRU waste shipments are received at SRS:

- Once the WIPP permit modification is received for Remote Handled (RH)-TRU waste authorization, a program for RH-TRU waste will be in place at WIPP and at SRS to ensure that RH-TRU waste is removed from SRS within three years of the WIPP permit modification for RH-TRU waste.
- If this date cannot be met, then all RH-TRU waste at SRS should be relocated to another DOE site by FY09 but in any case, no later than FY10.

Lastly, the motion requested annual updates regarding progress on the above commitments every October.

#### NAS Interim Report

Joe Ortaldo, the motion manager, read the recommendation (see attachment). SRS CAB Waste Management Committee Members have reviewed an interim report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) entitled "Tank Wastes Planned for On-Site Disposal at Three Department of Energy Sites – The Savannah River Site – Interim Report, National Academy of Sciences, August 5, 2005." The committee agrees with several of the interim NAS report's recommendations and provided the following draft advice:

- DOE-SR should accept the concept of decoupling tank waste removal and tank closure actions by using the waste determination basis and the performance objective to determine when a tank is clean and ready for closure. Subsequent negotiations and enforceable closure schedules between SRS and SCDHEC should be used to close the tanks.
- DOE-SR should continue to implement the Deliquification, Dissolution, and Adjustment (DDA) process and to minimize any use of noncompliant tanks for waste storage.
- DOE-SR should demonstrate through robust performance assessments of the waste disposal system (including assessments of radionuclide and chemical quantities and concentrations, conditioning, interactions and bioavailability) that SRS' plans to dispose of waste and to close tanks at SRS are protective of health, workers, and the environment.
- DOE-SR should not wait on new waste removal technologies to be developed before waste tanks are closed but should continue to fund research and development on in-tank and downstream processing consequences, of tank cleaning and removal options, and studies of waste system performance and incorporate any new technologies when they become available.
- By November 15, 2005, DOE-SR provide the current expected timeline for the Waste Determination documents (Salt Determination and Tank Closure) and describe the contingencies for the potential schedule slippage and the expected impacts to the salt waste processing program and tank closure dates.

Discussion revolved around the first recommendation that proposed decoupling the waste removal from the tank closure. SCDHEC expressed concern that by supporting decoupling that the CAB was supporting waiting five or ten years between waste removal and tank closure. It was recommended that the NAS term decoupling not be used so there was no confusion on what the CAB was recommending. Modifications were proposed for consideration during the full board meeting.

#### Notice of Intent, Greater than Class C (GTCC)

Karen Patterson, motion manager, read a draft letter addressed to Mr. James Joyce, DOE-HQ (see attachment). The letter formally submitted questions and comments for the Advance Notice of Intent for Greater than Class C Waste EIS to James Joyce, Document Manager in the Office of Logistics and Waste Disposition Enhancements. These questions and comments were previously provided to Mr. Joyce during a CAB Waste Management Committee Meeting on September 13. Mr. Joyce participated in the meeting via conference call when he could not attend as planned.

#### Yucca Mountain – EPA Standard Revision

Joe Ortaldo reviewed the background of the EPA standard that originally was developed for 10,000 years. Based on court action, EPA was required to extend the standard to 1,000,000 years. EPA has a public comment period open until October 21. The WM Committee has invited EPA to the Aiken/Augusta area to discuss the standard. Once the committee hears from EPA, the WM Committee intends to develop a recommendation. Due to the time period of the EPA presentation and the closure of the public comment period, there will be no time for the CAB to approve a draft recommendation. Rob Pope, EPA, commented that he had just received a call from EPA-HQ extending the

public comment period for 30 days, therefore, the WM Committee could develop and present a draft motion during the November full board meeting.

### **Facility Disposition & Site Remediation Committee**

#### **SRS Environmental Monitoring Program**

Pete Fledderman, WSRC, provided a history of the SRS Environmental Monitoring Program including effluent monitoring, environmental surveillance and program results. Mr. Fledderman noted that SRS has a long history of comprehensive environmental monitoring, gaining knowledge of release types and quantities resulting in a clear understanding of dose impacts to the public. The purpose of Environmental Monitoring is to characterize and quantify contaminants; demonstrate compliance with applicable standards; calculate radiation exposures to the public and assess the effects, if any, on the local environment.

Mr. Fledderman pointed out that baseline studies were conducted in 1951-1952 by DuPont and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Also, in 1951 work was conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and in 1953 the Savannah River Site formally started its own Environmental Monitoring Program.

Mr. Fledderman explained the difference between Effluent Monitoring and Environmental Surveillance. Effluent Monitoring is defined as the collection of samples or data from the point at which a facility discharges liquid or gaseous releases to the environment. Environmental Surveillance is defined as the collection of samples of air, water, soil, foodstuff, biota, and other media – or of data – from the ambient environment. The following factors are used during monitoring: radionuclide knowledge via, process knowledge, movement through the environment, any health impacts, sample locations and exposure pathways.

The following types of samples are taken at the SRS:

- Ambient air
- Rainwater
- Surface water
- Drinking water
- Food products
- Deer and Hogs
- Fish
- Soil
- Sediment
- Vegetation
- Groundwater

Mr. Fledderman stated that all results of the Program are reported annually in the SRS Site Environmental Report, and noted the 2004 report is in the mail to the CAB members and being made available to the public. The SRS monitoring results for 2004 airborne and liquid releases, as well as all potential radiation doses from the site were well below applicable regulatory standards. Additionally, the total radiation dose to the public living near SRS is well below DOE's 100-millirem/year standard; and the downriver water consumer is well below EPA's 4-millirem/year standard.

Perry Holcomb commented that tritium was last produced in 1989 and that tritium has a half life of 12.5 years. Bill Lawless stated that Pu238 comes from legacy operations in H-Area. Mr. Lawless asked if anything is detected as coming from Plant Vogtle. Mr. Fledderman stated that SRS can differentiate between what it contributes from that of Plant Vogtle. Mr. Lawless asked how likely it was that someone could fish at Par Pond. Mr. Fledderman stated that the person would have to enter SRS illegally, fish and leave without being detected by site security; not to mention that they would have to do that every day for a year to get close to any limit associated with fish consumption. Wendell Lyon asked when the last deer was rejected from leaving the site following an SRS deer hunt. The last deer confiscated was in 1996.

Perry Holcomb presented two draft motions for board considerations. Concerned about how the loss of expertise from Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) capabilities, the re-bidding of the operating contractor, the

continuing loss of work force, the transfer of personnel to other positions, and budget reductions will impact the projected waste site/closure process and schedule at SRS, Mr. Holcomb presented a draft motion (see attachment). It questioned whether these concerns are shared by the Site regulators and recommended that DOE demonstrate to the SRS CAB on or before November 15 that the loss of SREL expertise will not impact projected waste site/area closure projects and schedules, especially the legally-enforceable schedules in the FFA. It also asked SCDHEC and EPA-4 to provide any concerns about the loss of experienced remediation professionals at SRS and the potential slippage that this loss may have on the FFA schedule.

The second draft motion dealt with classified information issues in DOE-EM cleanup activities at the SRS (see attachment). As SRS' D&D and environmental cleanup projects move toward potential classified areas (i.e., F-Area and reactor areas), Mr. Holcomb noted his interest in ensuring public disclosure to the maximum extent possible without jeopardizing security. The motion recommended that by January 26, 2006, DOE describe the unclassified format it will use to disseminate D&D and cleanup information containing potentially pertinent, but classified details to the general public. It also requested a list of future D&D and environmental cleanup projects that may have classified information associated with them and if such information might have a potential impact to cleanup schedules and area closures. Lastly, it asked EPA and SCDHEC to present how such classified information is being and will be disseminated to facilitate proper management review of SRS D&D and cleanup projects.

#### **Strategic & Legacy Management Committee**

Meryl Alalof, Vice Chair, informed the group that William Lawrence was called to Mississippi to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the wake of the hurricanes.

#### **SRS Dose to Public Reconstruction - Correcting a Misperception**

Todd Crawford, co-chair of the SRS Health Effects Subcommittee (SRSHES), explained that he had presented this information at the July CAB meeting and some of the numbers had been misrepresented. He wanted to correct the misperception. From the dose reconstruction total over 39 years, the largest dose of 940 millirem to a child born in 1955 to an outdoor family corresponded to risk of cancer incidence of .10 percent and cancer fatality of .024 percent. This had been interpreted as an excess of 200 cancer fatalities in the population surrounding SRS. Dr. Crawford explained why 200 cancer fatalities are not possible from the data.

Excess fatalities are determined for populations. The population used is within 50 miles of the facility at the time of release. It is an average dose for the population for all directions within 50 miles. The 940 millirem is not the average dose over the population within 50 miles. Using the maximum dose to the hypothetical individual at the site boundary of 0.07 millirem and the population dose of 36 person millirem from the air releases and the 50-mile population of 713,500 from the SRS Environmental Report for 2003 shows a maximum dose roughly 100 times the average dose to the population. The conclusion shows that the application of this ratio brings the suggested 200 excess fatalities down to two.

Dr. Crawford stated that at a SRSHES meeting on September 15, an independent scientific peer technical review of the Report indicated that the Report's conclusions were substantiated.

#### **Nuclear Materials Committee**

Karen Patterson presented a draft motion regarding plutonium consolidation (see attachment). DOE possesses about 50 metric tons of plutonium that is no longer needed by the United States for nuclear weapons. DOE plans to establish enough storage capacity at SRS in the event it decides to consolidate its plutonium there until it can be permanently disposed of in a geologic repository. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine the extent to which DOE can consolidate plutonium at SRS and SRS's capacity to monitor plutonium storage containers. Recently issued, this report recommended that DOE develop a comprehensive strategy to consolidate, store, and eventually dispose of its plutonium and ensure that its individual sites cleanup plans are coordinated and integrated with its plutonium consolidation plans. The report noted several complications, including heightened costs due to necessary security upgrades, difficulties preparing Hanford's plutonium for transportation to and handling at SRS and other problems that have delayed consolidation at SRS.

The draft motion noted that while the SRS CAB agrees that the report has several inaccuracies and comes across as critical, it does reaffirm what the CAB has been pointing out for several years — that DOE has no comprehensive plan to manage, consolidate or dispose of plutonium. Therefore, the motion recommended that DOE develop a

comprehensive strategy to consolidate, store, and eventually dispose of its plutonium and that this strategy include a public participation component. It also asked that as part of the Nuclear Materials Disposition and Consolidation Coordination Committee (NMDCCC) Strategic Plan, DOE evaluate building a dedicated robust facility capable of storing and monitoring excess plutonium as well as processing the material for eventual shipment to Yucca Mountain. Lastly, it requested specific information regarding the NMDCCC' charter, timeline, milestones and membership.

### **Public Comments**

#### Lou Zeller, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Mr. Zeller commented that he had sent a letter to Jean Sulc regarding the minutes of the July 12, 2005, Waste Management Committee meeting requesting a correction to erroneous information.

#### Joe Ortaldo, Aiken, S.C.

Mr. Ortaldo commented that there had been negative guest editorials on relations between DOE and the public and the Aiken County Council is suing DOE for the delay in the MOX program. He commented that this is erosion in public affairs between the site and local community.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

## **Tuesday, September 27, 2005, Attendance**

### SRS CAB Members

Meryl Alalof  
Donna Antonucci  
Manuel Bettencourt  
Tracey Carroll  
Leon Chavous  
Gerald Devitt  
Arthur Domby  
Cassandra Henry  
Perry Holcomb  
Bill Lawless

Wendell Lyon  
Jimmy Mackey  
Joseph Ortaldo  
Karen Patterson  
Barbara Paul  
Jean Sulc  
Carolyn Williams  
Gloria Williams-Way  
Bill Willoughby

### Stakeholders

Ann Loadholt  
Mary Kelly  
Dan Battleson  
Gary Coxon  
Charlie Hansen  
Lou Zeller

### Regulators/Commission

Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC  
David Wilson, SCDHEC  
Eddie Wright, EPA  
Kim Newell, SCDHEC

### Ex-Officio Members

Bill Spader, DOE  
Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC  
Robert Pope, EPA  
Dawn Taylor, EPA

### DOE/Contractors

Jeff Allison, DOE  
Terry Spears, DOE  
Kevin Smith, DOE  
Gerri Flemming, DOE  
Becky Craft, DOE  
Randall Ponik, DOE  
deLisa Bratcher, DOE  
Todd Wright, SRNL  
Rich Edwards, WSRC  
Teresa Haas, WSRC  
Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Jim Moore, WSRC  
Dawn Haygood, WSRC  
Mary Flora, WSRC  
Joe Carter, WSRC  
Sonny Goldston, WSRC  
Jeff Stevens, BNG  
Tiajuana Cochauer, USFS

SRS CAB members Mary Drye, Ranowul Jzar, William Lawrence, Danielle Mackie, Robert Meisenheimer, and Dorene Richardson were unable to attend. The meeting opened with Bill Spader, DOE, serving as Designated Federal Official. Mike Schoener served as facilitator and Rick McLeod, Board Technical Advisor was present as well. 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 July 25-26, 2005, were approved with no changes.

### Agency Update

Bill Spader, DOE, introduced Jeff Allison, DOE Site Manager who commented on Bill Spader's new position as Deputy Manager of the site. DOE is in the process of filling other positions as well, including several Assistant Managers' positions. Chief Financial Officer Paul Anderson is retiring this month and Sarah Blandy was hired to replace Mr. Anderson. The Contracting Officer of DOE-SR also retired recently. Regarding the acquisition strategy, Mr. Allison noted meetings with potential bidders held in Washington, D.C. in the past few weeks. There was feedback from 38 companies. Mr. Allison noted that Patty Bubar really did want to meet with the CAB but it was too preliminary.

Mr. Spader announced that DOE had interrupted work in F Area to reevaluate the end state for F Canyon. Decommissioning of F Canyon is not scheduled to occur until 2014. DOE is reevaluating to ensure the right standards are in place for safe working conditions. The end states could be different for various support systems, such as electrical power, cranes, etc...DOE is moving forward diligently to re-evaluate and will keep the CAB informed. Regarding waste determination, DOE continues to work to resolve comments and making progress on WIR for Tank 19 closure. Mr. Spader admitted that progress has not been as quick as DOE would like. This has been a learning process and lessons learned will be applied to future waste determinations.

Mr. Spader also reported on Tank 5 bulk waste removal. SRS is about to deploy waste on wheels, portable technology, which is expected to begin in October. To support waste removal, it is necessary to add water which will bring the levels in the tank to above known leak points. The tank will be monitored and systems are in place to remove any material from the annulus. Lastly, Mr. Spader noted the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis workshop on October 18 at the North Augusta Community Center and encouraged participation in this workshop. EECAs are a tool in the toolbox we are likely to see often as SRS moves forward with D&D.

Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC, discussed four issues. SCDHEC has also been discussing an agreement related to potential shipments from Battelle-Columbus, Ohio. In 2000, DHEC entered into agreement with SR for Mound Waste, which included terms for acceleration of SR waste to WIPP. Ms. Sherritt said the terms of agreement on Battelle waste are similar, including accelerated shipping to WIPP; emplacement of infrastructure for the large box program; and a firm shipping date when remote-handled TRU would have to leave SR. The agreement is not yet finalized, but does overlap with the CAB recommendation. Regarding the NAS report, Ms. Sherritt noted that SCDHEC does not agree with recommendation one for the tanks with a lot of residual waste left. SCDHEC agrees that additional studies are needed on tank closure, but SRS should not slow down the accelerated tank closure schedule while waiting on a "magic bullet." She stated SCDHEC does agree with many of the other points in the NAS report.

Ms. Sherritt stated that they thought 3116 would clear the path for closure but the schedule was impacted and now DHEC is waiting on the WIR for tank closure to be submitted to NRC. In an effort to be proactive, DHEC wrote a letter with Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council addressed to NRC and DOE and asked if all parties could get together to look at all the issues. The meeting is planned for October. Ms. Sherritt also addressed the schedule for Salt Waste Processing noting DHEC is looking at strategies for moving forward with Salt Waste Disposition, one being DDA, secondly an interim processing facility; and thirdly the large facility to process the waste. The strategy counted on all those working together to end up with minimal curies remaining in Saltstone. This has become less defined and now salt waste may be delayed up to 18 months. SCDHEC is wondering how the strategy still works and asked for a meeting with SR to get back together to discuss the impacts of the schedule slippage.

Dawn Taylor, EPA, noted EPA has met with SCDHEC on HLW issues and is in full support of SCDHEC. She also noted the public comment period for EPA radiation standards has been extended to November 21. Ms. Taylor commented that area closures are well underway. SRS is beginning to close P Area and this will be the first time dealing with a reactor.

### **Public Comments**

#### **Alex Williams, Aiken, S.C.**

Mr. Williams introduced himself as a candidate for membership. He stated he wants to be an informed citizen and a source of information for the community.

#### **Lou Zeller, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League**

Mr. Zeller commented on the NAS Interim Report proposal to decouple the tanks, which includes a 5-10 year look ahead at technologies in the near term that will make the cleanup safer, more efficient and cheaper. He stated he doesn't understand why the Board would not support this and hopes they will reconsider their position.

### **Chairs Update**

Jean Sulc noted the Chairs meeting participants and information exchange. She commented that previously there was a possibility of transferring EM programs to NNSA, however Linton Brooks did send out a message that they will not propose this transfer in 2007. Congress is not in favor of the transfer. Therefore, the current dual chain of command will continue for the indefinite future.

Jean Sulc presented a draft letter (see attachment) from the SSAB Chairs. She noted the four issues presented in the letter and the one that the SRS CAB may take issue with regarding Pre-1970 waste final disposition. Bill Lawless provided arguments for why the SRS CAB should not support the draft letter, noting his concern regarding the intent behind a national policy for TRU waste disposal. Several members provided arguments in support of signing the letter since there is no national policy and there shouldn't be an assumption made of what might or might not be developed. Several members supported Mr. Lawless' position. By a show of hands, the SRS CAB decided to sign

the letter by a vote of ten members in favor and nine members opposed. Mr. Lawless commented he would develop a minority statement.

### **Facilitator Update**

Mike Schoener presented the Recommendation Summary Report (see attached). Eight recommendations are pending, 29 open and 181 closed. Mr. Schoener presented the agenda for the process retreat to be held October 6-7. He also presented a survey for all CAB members to complete by the end of the meeting. The results will be presented during the retreat.

### **Strategic & Legacy Management**

#### **Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL)**

Todd Wright, Laboratory Director of the Savannah River National Laboratory provided an update on SRNL (see attachment). The mission of SRNL is to enable the success of SRS operations; provide technical leadership for future missions; and utilize its technical strength to provide vital support for national programs. The mission emphasis areas are national security, energy security and environmental science and technology. Mr. Wright discussed the approach for the future regarding conduct of research, security, site support and customer base growth. He discussed progress toward strategic initiatives; support for all EM closure activities; and facilities for all types of testing. Mr. Wright noted F Area closure and completion of several processing programs in H Area as closure accomplishments. He noted achievements in liquid waste disposition and waste solidification as well. Accomplishments in the operations arena included defense programs, nuclear non-proliferation and solid waste examples as well as support to soil and groundwater projects and D&D at SRS. He noted work for off-site customers and independent research and development at SRNL continues to spawn new technologies and approaches for solving problems. Board member questions and discussion revolved around hydrogen technology, staffing, and microbe cleanup technology.

#### **Waste Management Committee**

Manuel Bettencourt presented the final draft motion for TRU Waste Shipments from Battelle Columbus, Ohio as it was presented on Monday afternoon. With no comments from Board members regarding the proposed recommendations, Jimmy Mackey moved to adopt and Donna Antonucci seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 18 members in favor.

Joe Ortaldo presented the second draft motion on the NAS (see attachment). Shelly Sherritt questioned the Board intention regarding DDA in proposed recommendation #2. Her concern is that there is no definition of number of curies yet. Following much discussion, the motion was modified as follows:

- DOE-SR should not wait 5-10 years between tank waste removal and tank closure actions but use the waste determination basis and the performance objective to determine when a tank is clean and ready for closure. DOE should ensure these actions support the Federal Facility Agreement schedule.
- DOE-SR should continue to implement the deliquification, dissolution, and adjustment (DDA) process as long as it remains a viable part of the whole salt waste processing strategy and to minimize any use of noncompliant tanks for waste storage.
- DOE-SR should demonstrate through performance assessments of the waste disposal system that the SRS plans to dispose of waste and to close tanks at SRS are protective of health, workers, and the environment.
- DOE-SR should continue to fund research and development and incorporate new technologies when they become available.
- By November 15, 2005, DOE-SR provide the current expected timeline for the Waste Determination documents (Salt Determination and Tank Closure) and describe the contingencies for the potential schedule slippage and the expected impacts to the salt waste processing program and tank closure dates.

Jimmy Mackey moved the Board adopt the motion and Wendell Lyon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with 19 members in favor.

Karen Patterson presented the letter to James Joyce re: Advance Notice of Intent for Greater than Class C Waste EIS (see attachment). The letter formally submitted questions and comments for the Advance Notice of Intent for Greater than Class C Waste EIS to James Joyce, Document Manager in the Office of Logistics and Waste



Disposition Enhancements. These questions and comments were previously provided to Mr. Joyce during a CAB Waste Management Committee Meeting on September 13. Mr. Joyce participated in the meeting via conference call when he could not attend as planned. The letter was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

#### Hanford Treatability Studies Residues Returns Update

Rich Edwards, WSRC, provided an update on the Hanford Treatability Studies Residues Returns (see attachment). Treatability studies are lab experiments used to establish an optimum recipe for effective treatment of a waste. SRNL conducts treatability studies for Hanford for its high level waste. This became the subject of a legal dispute with the State of Washington and the Board provided Recommendation 200 regarding the issue last year. SRS has been returning sample residues and unused samples to Hanford since 1997. Hanford material is not mixed with SRS material. Mr. Edwards showed a photo of an ion exchange experiment using a Hanford sample. He showed an example of a liquid sample from Hanford and sample residues. Washington State proposed a fine of \$270,000 and issued an administrative order to DOE at the Hanford Site because they stated some of the returns did not appear to be legitimate residues, although they fully support the treatability studies. This is an ongoing legal dispute since DOE disagreed with WA Ecology's contention.

SRS and Hanford have aggressively pursued issue resolution and return of treatability study residues. They have overcome the challenges and have returned the majority of the residues and materials. Shipments have progressed well and met the time extensions provided by SCDHEC. Mr. Edwards concluded that the majority of materials present at SRNL in December 04 have now been returned to Hanford and SRNL is prepared to perform additional Treatability Studies for Hanford and other DOE sites should the need arise.

#### Public Comments

Bill Willoughby commented on miscellaneous correspondence from the CAB citing an example from several years ago on an issue dealing with a permit modification at WIPP. WM developed a set of comments to that proposed change and he submitted them as an individual.

#### National Nuclear Security Administration

Richard Arkin, DOE, provided an overview of Defense Programs (see attachment). Mr. Arkin discussed the Federal organizational structure, DOE and NNSA interfaces at SRS and the NNSA Nuclear Weapons Complex. Mr. Arkin shared organizational charts to depict the NNSA structure noting that he reports directly to Ambassador Linton Brooks. The mission of the NNSA is to enhance United States national security through the military application of nuclear energy; to maintain and enhance the safety, reliability and performance of the United States nuclear weapons stockpile, including the ability to design, produce, and test, in order to meet national security requirements. The NNSA mission also includes providing the United States Navy with safe, militarily effective nuclear propulsion plants and to ensure the safe and reliable operation of those plants; promoting international nuclear safety and nonproliferation; reducing global danger from weapons of mass destruction and supporting U.S. leadership in science and technology.

The role of the NNSA Site Office is to provide operations oversight and contract administration for NNSA Defense Programs activities at SRS. It also ensures that government owned corporate operated facilities are available to safely and securely conduct the NNSA mission and ensures the long term viability of the site to support NNSA missions and projects. The Site Office Manager establishes the operational requirements necessary to carry out missions assigned to SRS and acts as the agency's risk acceptance official.

There are four production facilities in the NNSA complex, three design laboratories and one weapons test site. The Defense Programs at SRS primarily involve the Tritium Facility and SRNL. The FY05 budget of \$237 million is about 13% of the total site budget. The FY05 physical security and cyber budget is about \$13 million. The largest single project is the Tritium Extraction Facility at \$506 million. Mr. Arkin discussed the Tritium Extraction Facility, noting it is basically a glove-box facility that encompasses 25 acres. Mr. Arkin discussed major DP interfaces with Pantex and Kansas City. NNSA recycles tritium, loading and unloading and shipping of gas-filled reservoirs. The Tritium Extraction Facility is a \$506 million project with a duration period of 1996-2007. Construction is basically complete and undergoing startup and testing. Currently, the project is under budget and ahead of schedule and will be operational by 2007. Mr. Arkin provided a ten-year outlook for NNSA DP activities at SRS. Building 232-H will be deactivated in 2005; the tritium reservoir loading workload will decrease as the weapons stockpile is reduced; reservoir surveillance workload will remain stable; the Center for Hydrogen Research

will be operational in late 2005; the TEF will be operational by 2007 and new DP program buildings will be added. Existing buildings will continue to be modernized to provide 40 more years of service.

Discussion revolved around disposal of the TPBARS as low-level waste at SRS; relationships between NNSA and regulatory agencies; the reliability of the weapons we have today if they cannot actually be tested; safety issues related to reservoirs; and waste generated by NNSA operations.

#### **Facility Disposition & Site Remediation Committee**

Perry Holcomb presented the draft motion regarding loss of expertise in support of cleanup at SRS (see attachment). Leon Chavous moved the Board adopt the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 16 members in favor and 2 opposed. A minority statement was provided by Art Domby and Karen Patterson.

Perry Holcomb presented the second draft motion on classified information issues in DOE-EM cleanup activities at SRS (see attachment). Mr. Holcomb provided information regarding the significance of classification issues. The motion recommended that by January 26, 2006, DOE describe the unclassified format it will use to disseminate D&D and cleanup information containing potentially pertinent, but classified details to the general public. By this same date, the board requested a list of future D&D and environmental cleanup projects that may have classified information associated with them and discuss if such information might have a potential impact on cleanup schedules and area closures. The third recommendation asked the regulatory agencies to present how such classified information is being and will be disseminated to facilitate proper management review of SRS D&D cleanup projects. Jimmy Mackey moved the Board adopt the motion and Bill Willoughby seconded. Bill Lawless discussed concerns regarding the motion noting EPA, DHEC and DOE have no current issues with classified issues and clearances. He suggested two friendly alternatives; to send as a letter or table until a public presentation is provided. The motion passed by a vote of 16 members in favor, 2 opposed and one abstention by Joe Ortaldo who stated he abstained because he did not agree with the 3<sup>rd</sup> recommendation.

#### **Nuclear Materials Committee**

Karen Patterson presented the draft motion regarding Plutonium Consolidation (see attachment). With no major issues or comments, Meryl Alalof moved the Board adopt the motion and Jimmy Mackey seconded. The motion passed unanimously with 18 members in favor.

#### **Administrative Committee**

Meryl Alalof provided a committee update. Tapes of two local talk shows regarding the membership campaign were viewed by the Board. Meryl Alalof and Karen Patterson had participated on a mid-day show on WJBF and Perry Holcomb had been interviewed on the 50 Plus show on WBEK. Ms. Alalof reminded CAB members of the candidate selection meeting to be held October 5. She also noted that nominations were needed for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board and that the election would be conducted in November. Karen Patterson announced she will run for Chair and Bill Lawless announced his intentions to run for Vice Chair.

#### **Public Comments**

##### **Mary Kelly, League of Women Voters**

Dr. Mary Kelly commented on U.S. law noting that NNSA would seem to be counter to the nonproliferation treaty. She commented that there are great concerns that the Modern Pit Facility will modify weapons and also allow room for creating entirely new weapons. Some of the activities being promoted are in violation of the non-proliferation treaty. Many people who write articles share in those views, she said.

Sarah Watson and Alex Williams introduced themselves as potential candidates for board membership.

#### **Handouts**

- SRS CAB Agenda, September 26-27, 2005
- TRU Waste Shipments from Battelle Columbus, Ohio, First Draft, Manuel Bettencourt
- National Academy of Sciences Interim Report- Tank Waste, First Draft, Joe Ortaldo
- Letter to James Joyce, dated September 27, 2005, Karen Patterson

- EPA Public Meetings on Yucca Mountain, August 23, 2005, Joe Ortaldo
- An Overview of the SRS 2004 Site Environmental Monitoring Report, Pete Fledderman
- Loss of Expertise to Support SRS Cleanup, Fourth Draft, Perry Holcomb
- Classified Information Issues in DOE-EM Cleanup Activities, First Draft, Perry Holcomb
- SRS Dose to Public Reconstruction Correcting a Misperception, Todd Crawford
- Plutonium Consolidation- GAO Report, First Draft, Karen Patterson
- Letter to James Rispoli, dated September 23, 2005, Jean Sulc
- SRS Gold Metrics- Through August 2005
- SRS CAB Recommendation Summary
- Draft Agenda, SR CAB Process Retreat
- TRU Waste Shipments from Battelle Columbus, Ohio, Final Draft, Manuel Bettencourt
- National Academy of Sciences Interim Report- Tank Waste, Final Draft, Joe Ortaldo
- Letter to James Joyce, Final, dated September 27, 2005, Karen Patterson
- Hanford Treatability Studies Residues Returns Update
- Loss of Expertise to Support SRS Cleanup, Final Draft, Perry Holcomb
- Classified Information Issues in DOE-EM Cleanup Activities, Final Draft, Perry Holcomb
- Plutonium Consolidation- GAO Report, Final Draft, Karen Patterson
- NEPA Report
- SRS CAB Calendar
- Defense Programs Overview, Richard Arkin, DOE NNSA
- SRNL-An Innovative Solutions Provider, Todd Wright, SRNL