SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee Meeting

North Augusta Community Center, N. Augusta, SC
August 23, 2005

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee (FD&SR) met on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, 5:00 PM, at the North Augusta Community Center, N. Augusta, SC. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the SRS M-Area Operable Unit; Natural and Enhanced Attenuation – Assuring Sustainable Environmental Protection and to hear public comment. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members	**Stakeholders**	**DOE/Contractors**
- Leon Chavous	Lee Poe	Michelle Ewart, DOE
- Perry Holcomb	Liz Goodson	de'Lisa Bratcher, DOE
- Mary Drye	Ed Wannamacher	Brian Looney, SRNL
Wendell Lyon		Gerald Blount, WSRC
Bob Meisenheimer		Paul Sauerborn, WSRC
		Teresa Haas, WSRC
		Nick Delaplane, DOE
		Ed McNamee, BSRI
	Regulators	Joao Cordoso, WSRC
	Robert Pope, EPA	Shelia McFalls, WSRC
	Albert Frazier, Jr, Ga. DNR/EPD	Michael Graham, BSRI
	Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC	
- FD&SR committee members	** CAB technical advisor*	

Note: Danielle Mackey, Dorene Richardson are CAB members of the FD&SR committee, but were unable to attend this session.

Welcome and Introduction:
Perry Holcomb, Chair, welcomed those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves

M-Area Operable Unit Update/Status: Michelle Ewart stated the purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview and schedule for the M-Area Operable Unit. The M-Area is located in the Northwest portion of the SRS and comprised of the following:

- Production Area (313-M Slug Fabrication Facility, 320-M Alloy Building, 321-M Fuel Fabrication Facility, 322-M Metallurgical Laboratory)
- Liquid Effluent Treatment Facilities (341-M Dilute Effluent Treatment Facility, 341-

1M Interim Treatment Storage Facility, 341-8M Vendor Treatment Facility)
- Test Reactor Facilities (777-10A formerly known as the Physics Laboratory, 305A Test Pile Facility)
- Salvage Area (741-A Salvage Yard, 740-A Salvage and Reclamation Building, 743-A Rigging and Storage Facility)

Ms. Ewart stated the last D&D activities will be submitted for 341-1M in May of 2006. Soil and Groundwater activities for M-Area Inactive Process Sewer Line are timed as follows:
- Record of Decision in March 2006
- Remedial Action Start in January 2007
- Remedial Action Complete in June 2008

The M-Area Operable Unit will then follow the following schedule
- Record of Decision in June 2008
- Remedial Action Start in June 2009
- Remedial Action Complete in August 2001

Perry Holcomb asked if the process sewer lines which carried solvents were checked for leakes. Ms. Ewart stated that leak tests have already been completed. Lee Poe asked why the process sewer lines were not a part of the Operable Unit. Ms. Ewart stated that the work on the sewer lines started before M-Area Operable Unit. If the concrete slabs are contaminated, then how are they cleaned? Ms. Ewart stated that the slabs would be scabbled clean and the contaminated material would be appropriately dispositioned. Mary Drye asked what becomes of the contents of buildings of historical importance. Ms. Ewart stated that before the buildings are demolished all content that is deemed to have historical importance is sent to a storage facility for future disposition.

Natural and Enhanced Attenuation – assuring sustained environmental protection: Karen Adams stated the purpose of the presentation is in response to the CAB recommendation 175 which calls for periodic updates on the status of the project. In addition, a semiannual newsletter is available called *Natural Attenuation Monitor* which is available on the SRS homepage at www.srs.gov in the publications folder; and to provide periodic presentations to the FD&SR Committee of the SRS CAB. Ms. Adams gave a quick update.
- The Natural Attenuation Monitor – three semiannual issues have been published and electronically distributed to approximately 200 recipients. The newsletter is a detailed record of the project and technical updates including lists of publications, summaries of ongoing research projects, and progress of the regulators in developing guidance.
- Project team regularly interfaces with regulators/stakeholders – actively participating with ITRC
- Research projects ongoing – technical deliverables being received
- Three key documents drafted and peer review is underway
- The project is on schedule

Ms. Adams explained the lifecycle of a contaminant plume as the contaminants are released into the soil and groundwater will spread out into a “plume”. If the contaminants are

attenuated by natural processes the plume will stabilize and then shrink. The question can then be raised as to what are MNA and EA. These environmental strategies require that a contaminant plume poses minimal risk to people and the environment and that the plume is either stable or shrinking. This must be documented and monitored. This commitment to this transitional end-state allows a high level of environmental protection and efficient use of resources. Brian Looney stated that historically a typical remediation strategy included intensive source treatments, active plume treatment, and MNA/EA. DOE created an alternative project to advance MNA/EA. This project was initiated to address chlorinated solvents, but most of the concepts are applicable to other contaminants. The project group performs in partnership with regulators, Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council, end-users, universities, and industry.

Mr. Looney identified three inter-related development topics for which there are reports available to develop better ways to understand plume stability called the mass balance concept; encourage consideration of enhanced attenuation; and examine innovative approaches for monitoring attenuation based remedies. Mr. Looney stated that much of the research is performed in the field using SRS Test Beds at C-Area Reactor Groundwater, P-Area Reactor Groundwater and the Chemicals, Metals, and Pesticides Pits.

In conclusion, Mr. Looney stated Monitored Natural Attenuation is a simple and powerful remediation tool, Enhanced Attenuation is promising, MNA/EA assures environmental protection at a lower cost, SRS is leading the national project to encourage appropriate uses of MNA/EA, and the project is on schedule for completion in 2006 with regulatory guidance and training in 2007. Mr. Holcomb asked if the project was in jeopardy due to SRS budget reductions. Mr. Looney stated that this project is totally funded by DOE-HQ and is funded through its conclusion. Mr. Poe asked if other DOE sites are aware of the project and technologies. Mr. Looney stated they were and that the Mound facility has benefited from the projects findings.