



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Waste Management Committee Meeting

**Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC
March 22, 2005**

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management (WM) Committee held a meeting on March 22, 5:00 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 3116 Implementation and the Salt Process status to-date and hear public comment. Those in attendance were:

CAB Members

- Bob Meisenheimer
- Joe Ortaldo
- Manuel Bettencourt
- Cassandra Henry
Tracy Carroll
Perry Holcomb
Wendell Lyon

Stakeholders

Michael Norton
* Rick McLeod

DOE/Contractors

Charlie Hansen, DOE
Doug Hintze, DOE
Greg Johnson, DOE
Joe Carter, WSRC
Sonny Goldston, WSRC
Jim Cook, WSRC
Elmer Wilhite, WSRC
Ron Campbell, WSRC
Lyddie Broussard, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC

- *WM committee members* * *CAB technical advisor*

Note: Jimmy Mackey, Karen Patterson and Bill Willoughby are members of the WMC, but were unable to attend.

Welcome and Introduction:

Bob Meisenheimer, WM Chair, welcomed those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

NOTE: This meeting consisted of Charlie Hansen, DOE, speaking for about 15 minutes and then opening it up to questions/answers for the balance of the meeting. Rather than list all the questions and answer, these notes are written to take into consideration the questions and answers in a summary manner. There were no handouts.

3116 Implementation and Salt Process Status:

Charlie Hansen, DOE, reviewed the status of the 3116 implementation and the salt process together. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 was signed into law on October 28, 2004. Section 3116 provides the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the authority to determine that certain waste does not require disposal in a geologic repository as high level waste. The NRC and South Carolina are determining how to implement section 3116.

On March 7, 2005, the draft salt Waste Determination document was sent to NRC for their review and concurrence. It is hoped that the document will be available for a 45 public comment period early April.

It is anticipated that the NRC will take six months to review and comment on the document which would be the end of August. At this time DOE expects that initiation of salt waste processing cannot begin earlier than February 1, 2006, which is four months later than the planned date of October 1, 2005.

It should be noted that Tank Closure Waste Determination documents will be developed for tank closure separately. DOE is currently evaluating the criteria to use in these documents. The National Academy of Science (NAS) will be visiting the site on April 13 and 14 for a tour and public discussion of Section 3146 of the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense and Authorization Act. CAB members are invited to attend those events.

The South Carolina (SC) Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council (GNAC) has agreed with the current DOE path forward to limit on site disposition of salt waste to Saltstone in the 3.5 million curie range. DOE's 2002 plan was to dispose of 20 million curies as part of its low curie salt initiative. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has agreed to move forward with the DOE plan but only after DOE has consulted with the NRC and issued a waste determination with Section 3116.

SCDHEC will be reviewing the draft salt Waste Determination document in parallel with the NRC but will not discuss DOE permit revisions publicly until DOE has issued a final waste determination.

The Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) is scheduled to be started in 2009. This start up time has been expedited and is optimistic but obtainable. The DOE contract with Parsons incentivizes early startup, however, a startup in the last half of 2009 is considered possible by aggressive. In order to free up tank space so that feed can continue to be prepared for the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) operation, it will be necessary to start up the interim salt processing facilities, Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and the Modular Cesium Removal Unit (MCU). These facilities would operate from fiscal year 2006 through 2009.

Paul Golan, DOE-HQ, has written a letter to SCDHEC confirming the Departments commitment to accelerating disposition of tank waste at SRS, including use of SWPF and Interim Processing for salt waste treatment. The Office of Environmental Management also committed to requesting the funding for this program.

There will be opportunity for public comment while NRC reviews draft DOE waste determinations. DOE will request public comments on its salt processing draft waste determination sent to the NRC in early April. In addition, SCDHEC will request public comment on the DOE permit applications for Saltstone after DOE has made its waste determination.

Adjourn:

With no public comments, the meeting was adjourned.

Action Item:

The following are the action items from the meeting:

- Charlie Hansen requested that the Paul Golan letter to DHEC be distributed. - Jim Moore (Complete)
- Charlie Hansen stated that as soon as the Waste Determination Document is available for public release, a copy would be forwarded to the CAB for review. - Charlie Hansen/Jim Moore
- Bill Lawless requested that the Performance Assessment on Saltstone be presented to the CAB in April. - Jim Moore
- Joe Ortaldo, new CAB member, requested a copy of the two slides used by Charlie Hansen. - Jim Moore (Complete)