



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

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Waste Management Committee Meeting

Aiken Municipal Conference Center

May 3, 2005

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Tuesday, May 3, 5:00 PM, at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, Aiken, SC. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Status of Worker Safety Issues in the TRU Waste Program, Mound TRU Waste Update, Status of WMC Recommendations, and to hear public comment. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

- Manuel Bettencourt
- Joe Ortaldo
- Bill Lawless
- Karen Patterson
- Bill Willoughby
- Tracy Carroll
- Wendell Lyon
- Perry Holcomb
- William Lawrence
- Jerry Devitt

Stakeholders

- Dan Battleson
- Lee Poe
- Bill McDonnell
- Kevin Brown
- Mike French

DOE/Contractors

- Bert Crapse, DOE
- Nixk Delaplane, DOE
- D'Lisa Bratcher, DOE
- Joe Carter, WSRC
- Sony Goldston, WSRC
- Jim Cook, WSRC
- Ron Campbell, WSRC
- Tommy Edwards, WSRC
- Tim Faugl, WSRC
- Teresa Haas, WSRC
- Jim Moore, WSRC
- Lyddie Broussard, WSRC

- *WM committee members*

Note: Cassandra Henry, Jimmy Mackey, and Bob Meisenheimer are CAB members of the WMC, but were unable to attend this session.

Welcome and Introduction

Manuel Bettencourt, WMC Vice Chair, welcomed the group at 5:00 PM, and requested that each attendee identify themselves and their affiliation. He introduced Bert Crapse as the evening's first speaker.

Status of Worker Safety Issues in the TRU Waste Program, Bert Crapse, DOE-SR

Mr. Crapse opened his presentation with a recap of the conditions that led to the identification of potentially unsafe worker conditions when handling drums of transuranic (TRU) waste. He explained that an issue had been identified concerning the potential for hydrogen generation in the drums. He characterized the issue as one whereby the hydrogen generation had the potential to cause a drum lid to pop off and injure a worker. As a result of the impact of these issues on the

facility's safety basis, operations had been suspended. He stated a phased approach was used to address the concerns and as of today, full operations had been resumed.

According to Mr. Crapse, approved changes in the safety controls have allowed the movement of drums to be resumed which was a key first step since it allowed venting and purging operations to resume. He explained that changes to the safety basis had been done to allow the resumption of characterization activities for TRU waste.

Mr. Crapse showed a variety of photographs of TRU waste activities that highlighted significant operational changes that had been made in the last several months. He pointed out a plexiglass cover that has been incorporated into the process to allow the workers to evaluate the integrity of the top of a TRU waste drum while maintaining a protective layer between the worker and the drum. Another photograph showcased a safety box that could hold four drums and contain an explosion. According to Mr. Crapse, although the risk is low, this apparatus would be used for any at-risk drums in order to maintain worker safety.

Mr. Crapse fielded numerous questions about the changes and the overall TRU waste process. He explained the numerous quality control checks that were required to demonstrate full compliance with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC).

In response to a question on schedule impact, Mr. Crapse explained that the resumption of activities has not had a negative impact on the long-term schedule to ship TRU waste to the WIPP. He said recent developments resulting in the shipping problems for Idaho has resulted in SRS being asked to accelerate to six shipments per week. Mr. Crapse said that the worker safety issue did result in a temporary suspension that has impacted our backlog of drums ready for shipment. At the current time, it is anticipated that there is a sufficient backlog inventory to maintain the accelerated shipping schedule through July. It is his hope that with today's full resumption of TRU waste activities, a sufficient number of drums will be ready to be shipped as long as the accelerated schedule requires it.

He fielded numerous stakeholder questions about prohibited item relief and the status of new shipping containers. Mr. Crapse told the WMC that he would keep them informed on the progress of resolving these issues.

Mound TRU Waste Update, Bert Crapse, DOE-SR

Mr. Crapse began his presentation by detailing the goals of the National TRU Waste Program. He explained that due to the extraordinary expense of a characterization program, DOE looked to larger sites such as SRS to assist in meeting the needs of smaller sites. According to Mr. Crapse, the amount of TRU waste at the Mound facility is very small and to establish the full requirements of a TRU Waste Program at that facility would be cost prohibitive.

Mr. Crapse reminded the committee that under a previous agreement, Mound waste had been shipped to SRS in exchange for the ability to accelerate shipments to WIPP. It was through this agreement that much of the early progress in shipping waste to WIPP from SRS was achieved.

While the last receipt of Mound TRU Waste at SRS was in September 2003, it was always recognized that another shipment was anticipated according to Mr. Crapse. He said that due to recent decontamination and decommissioning activities, Mound has requested permission for an additional 60 to 70 cubic meters of TRU waste above the original projection be shipped to SRS. If authorized, the plans for this waste call for it to be shipped to SRS in WIPP approved containers.

When questioned about equity, Mr. Crapse explained that accelerated shipments of TRU waste would not be feasible since the site was already on an accelerated schedule. He explained that as another incentive, Mound is paying \$2 million for the characterization and storage costs. As a result, SRS will have additional funding for other waste initiatives.

As Mr. Crapse answered questions, Bill Lawless reminded the committee of the CAB's past support for the receipt of Mound Waste. He stated that he believed this was a reasonable approach to addressing the TRU waste issues nationwide and supported the approach taken by SRS.

Stakeholder Discussion - - Status of WMC Draft Recommendations

Mr. Bettencourt asked Joe Ortaldo to lead the discussion on the three draft recommendations before the committee that were identified as:

- Draft Salt Waste Determination
- Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) Confinement System
- End State Vision Document (Joint Recommendation between WMC and the Strategic & Legacy Management Committee.

The stakeholders during a lengthy discussion reviewed the merits of each recommendation. Upon completion of the discussion, it was agreed that additional changes would be incorporated prior to presenting the final draft at the next Combined Committee Meeting in Savannah, GA on May 23, 2005.

Public Comment

During the public comment period, Lee Poe thanked Mr. Crapse for his presentation but expressed concern about the lack of supporting handouts from the evening's presentations. He stated that he felt it was important to have copies of the presentations to take home and review after the meeting. Mr. Poe stated that this had become a recent trend that should be addressed.

Mr. Bettencourt asked for any other public comment and with none, he then adjourned the meeting.

For additional information or meeting handouts, call 1-800-249-8155.

Follow-Up Actions:

1. Incorporate changes into draft recommendations. (Responsible party: Rich McLeod and Jim Moore)