

**SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Waste Management Committee Meeting
North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, SC
January 17, 2007**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Wednesday, January 17, 5:00 PM, at the North Augusta Community Center in North Augusta, SC. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the status of the Saltstone Disposal Facility Permit Modification Approval decision; the Status of Tank Closure; and the status of the Point of Compliance (POC) determinations; and to receive a presentation on the concurrent operations of the Deliquification, Dissolution and Adjustment (DDA), Actinide Removal Project (ARP), and the Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU); and to hear public comments. Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

- Bob Meisenheimer
- Joe Ortaldo
- Manuel Bettencourt
- Bill Lawless
Leon Chavous
Jerry Devitt
Alex Williams
Mary Drye
Judy Greene-McLeod

Stakeholders

Stan Howard
Ted Millings
Jack Roberts
Charles Pair
Chris Timmers
Perry Holcomb

DOE/Contractors

Terry Spears, DOE
Larry Ling, DOE
Sheron Smith, DOE
Julie Peterson, DOE
Dave Amerine, Parsons
Steve Thomas, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC
Mike Mikolanis, DOE
Pat Suggs, DOE
Mindy Mets, V3
Robert Campbell, WSRC
*Rick McLeod, V3
Tony Polk, DOE
Charles Hansen, Parsons
David Hoel, DOE
Ginger Dickert, WSRC
Mark Schmitz, WSRC
Doug Hintze, DOE
Gerri Flemming, DOE

- *Waste Management Committee Members* * *CAB technical advisor*

Welcome and Introduction:

Bob Meisenheimer, Chair, thanked everyone for being at the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

Mr. Meisenheimer referenced the meeting ground rules, reviewed the revised agenda and encouraged everyone to be brief due to the expected significant interest in the meeting topics.

The meeting agenda was revised to complete first the presentation from Sonitza Blanco on the DDA, ARP, and MCU concurrent operations; and then discuss the Tank Closure Status and the Salt Waste Processing Facility Permit Modification Approval; and add to the agenda discussions to explain how the DOE will respond to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) geotechnical and seismic design concerns, (ref. ltr. dated 01-10-07)

The meeting continued with Sonitza Blanco, DOE-SR, Office of Salt Processing Division, who presented how the Interim Salt Waste Processing concurrent operations of the DDA, ARP, and MCU are being conducted and explained how each facility is needed and will be used at the Savannah River Site.

Actinide Removal Process (ARP)

- Completed construction 3/28/06 and currently conducting Startup Testing
- Complete Startup Testing and Cold Runs 4/30/07: startup testing is to prove that the process works; cold runs is to prove operators are well trained and that the procedures are appropriate to ensure readiness for Proficiency Runs 4/30/07
- To ensure meeting the DHEC commitments the process will be ready for Radiological Operations on 9/30/07
- Concurrently developing strategy for integrated runs, readiness reviews, and the start of operations

Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU)

- Completed construction 11/14/06 and currently conducting Startup Testing
- Reviewing operating procedures and plan to complete Startup Testing and Cold Runs 4/30/07 and be ready for Proficiency Runs 4/30/07.
- Start Radiological Operations 9/30/07 which is a SCDHEC commitment.

Ms. Blanco provided an Interim Salt Processing chart to demonstrate the DDA and the ARP/MCU parallel operations and how the salt will be processed to the Saltstone Production Facility. She stated that the concurrent operation of DDA and ARP/MCU slows down interim salt processing by delaying recovery of Tank 25 as a drop tank; delays sludge batch preparation; and delays tank closure. Introduction of organics in Saltstone through the MCU reduces the processing rate of the Saltstone Processing Facility.

Discussions and questions asked during the presentation were:

Joe Ortaldo asked if maximizing tank space was the overall objective and Soni responded as yes, converting tank 25 as drop tank to 2F Evaporator.

Rick McLeod asked about the run time for DDA, and Soni replied that we are emptying one tank with about 83,000 gallons per week, and that the DDA process has one batch ready for processing as soon as we get the SCDHEC permit approval which is expected this month.

Bill Lawless asked about the estimated volume in Tank 41 and Soni responded approximately 1.2M gallons salt cake and Steve Thomas stated that the whole process will take about 8 months to complete. The key is to have Tank 25 available as the drop tank. Feed for ARP/MCU will come from Tank 25 and ARP/MCU will run until SWPF is operable. Also, the permit has limitations, only a certain amount of waste is designated for processing through DDA and through ARP/MCU.

Mr. Lawless asked if not approved would the DDA stop, and Soni replied yes, DDA would stop and that there is no contingency planning with the State at this point.

Mr. Holcomb expressed strong concerns of the actinides settling to be able to process and that waiting time is a problem.

Bill Lawless asked while pushing salt through the ARP/MCU facilities, what is being done with the sludge, is it going to DWPF? Soni replied yes, that ARP will send a stream of MST sludge to DWPF while the H-Tank Farm also sends sludge to DWPF. The cesium from MCU also goes to DWPF.

Joe Ortaldo asked if there is a process in place to share information with Parsons, and Soni answered yes that there is a channel of communication between WSRC and Parsons to share information on MCU.

Soni Blanco concluded her presentation with a recent photograph of the ARP/MCU facilities and provided an explanation of where the facility is located onsite.

Tank Closure and the Point of Compliance

Tony Polk, DOE-SR, Waste Disposition Programs Division, provided informal remarks on Tank Closure status and an update on the Point of Compliance (POC) determination as committed to in the Recommendation #242 Item 6 response.

Tony began by stating that DOE is working with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) under the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) process to negotiate new closure dates for tanks 18 and 19 in 2010. He continued that the extension of closure dates are needed to

accommodate the new Performance Assessment (PA) of F-Tank Farm and the ongoing evaluation of new technologies for potential additional waste removal from the tanks.

The extensive evaluation of technologies and potential issues is still in progress and DOE-SR is consulting with NRC and SCDHEC on closure of tanks and the F-Tank Farm PA. DOE-SR provided technical input to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to inform the first technical discussions that is scheduled on February 13 -15 in Columbia, SC with staff level attendance expected. The NRC agrees in concept with DOE's plan and schedule for consultation process leading to a Waste Determination for F-Tank closures. All other tanks for closure are on schedule in accordance with FFA commitments.

There were extensive open discussions from CAB members on the definition of the POC (i.e., location or measurement, quantitative) and who determines the POC. Rick McLeod stated that it appears DOE is stretching out the evaluation period. Tony stated that DOE, NRC, and SCDHEC are working closely to define and that although technologies have been used for bulk removal to the extent possible, new technologies may remove more, so it is beneficial to continue the PA, reviews, and communications with the NRC and SCDHEC to achieve maximum.

Terry Spears concluded the discussion stating that DOE agrees with the CAB member's position that the decision should be made by the Secretary of Energy with consultation with the NRC and the State, that is why we are working the POC through the staff meetings in February to resolve any issues and the end goal of all is working within the frame work of the law and using a reasonable approach. Bob Meisenheimer reinforced that all are saying the same and asked that DOE keep the CAB informed and provide a status update during the July 2007 timeframe.

Salt Waste Processing Facility

Larry Ling and Mike Mikolanis, DOE-SR, Salt Waste Processing Facility project managers provided an update on the status of the Saltstone Disposal Facility Permit Modification decision and provided information on the recent Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) concerns as stated in their letter dated January 10, 2007. The seismic and structural design issues pointed out by the DNFSB were consistent with the findings of an Independent Technical Review (ITR) Team that was chartered by the Department. The ITR Team was commissioned to evaluate the preliminary design of the SWPF to determine whether it was satisfactory for establishment of the cost and schedule performance baseline. The ITR Team indicated that their findings could be resolved as part of the Final Design effort which is currently underway. Parsons and DOE are working to expedite resolution of issues raised by the ITR and DNFSB and are committed to keep the Citizens Advisory Board informed on progress in resolving these issues.

Larry stated that Parsons is taking prudent actions (such as minimizing overtime, curtailing hiring, etc.) to minimize impacts due to funding limitations posed by the existing FY 2007 Continuing Resolution (CR). In February, Congress is expected to take additional action on the FY 2007 budget. The Department will inform the Citizens Advisory Board of any project impacts once Congress acts on the budget and Departmental guidance is received.

Larry stated that for these two issues, it is still too early to speculate on the impacts, if any, to the project. The Department is committed to keep the Citizens Advisory Board informed as issues develop

Public Comment:

- Charles Pair, who is a candidate for the 2007 CAB Board, introduced himself and stated his interest in the Board activities.

Adjourn:

Mr. Miesenhiemer adjourned the meeting

Follow-Up Actions:

The following are the actions items:

- DOE provide a presentation of their response to the DNFSB concerns at the February WMC meeting.
- Invite a member of the DNFSB to attend and provide any additional information on their SWPF geotechnical and facility design concerns.
- Bill Lawless requested that his (9) questions and answers be added to the summary notes as documentation of his concerns and to emailed them to all WMC members.