

Summary Notes, March 6, 2007
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Waste Management Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee (WMC) met on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 5:00 PM, at the Aiken Federal Building, in Aiken SC. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss 1) Status of Saltstone Disposal Facility Permit Modification informal remarks from Shelly Sherritt, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC); 2) Discuss a *draft motion* on the Liquid Waste Systems Approach; 3) Discuss a *draft letter* on the FY2009 Budget Priority Input; and to hear public comments.

Attendance was as follows:

CAB Members

- Joe Ortaldo
- Alex Williams
- Art Domby
Franklin Bolineau
Leon Chavous
Stan Howard
Manuel Bettencourt
Mary Drye
Cynthia Gillard-Hill
Karen Patterson
Madeleine Marshall

Stakeholders

Mike French
Bill McDowell
Perry Holcomb
Bill Lawless
Ron Campbell

*Rick McLeod, V3

DOE/Contractors/Others

Terry Spears, DOE
Larry Ling, DOE
Sheron Smith, DOE
Bill Spader, DOE
Mike Mikolanis, DOE
Pat McGuire, DOE
Wade Whitaker, DOE
Steve Baker, DOE
John Contardi, DNFSB
Bill Stephens, WSRC
S. A. Thomas, WSRC
Luke Reid, WSRC
Steve Thomas, WSRC
Dave Olson, WSRC
Charles Hansen, Parsons
Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC
David Wilson, SCDHEC

- Waste Management * CAB technical advisor
Committee Members

Welcome and Introduction:

Joe Ortaldo, Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Ortaldo referenced the meeting ground rules and reviewed the agenda. His opening remarks included a brief update of how and when the discussions occurred that led up to the formulation of the Liquid Waste Systems Approach *draft motion* and the benefits the analysis results would be in the future. Mr. Ortaldo continued by stating that Madeleine Marshall, Chair, Strategic and Legacy Management, would lead the discussions on the FY09 Budget Priority Input integrated priority list and *draft letter*. There will not be any formal presentation this evening, but informal remarks from Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC, and then open discussions on the *draft motion* and *draft letter*.

Mr. Ortaldo reminded all attendees of the full Board meeting scheduled on March 26-27th, at the North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, SC.

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Status of Saltstone Disposal Facility Permit Modification Appeals:

Tonight's meeting began with informal remarks provided by Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC, on the status of the permit approval. Ms. Sherritt stated that the Saltstone Permit Mod decision was made on January 23rd and became effective on February 26th. Board members questioned if there is a time limit for any further appeals; if appealed, when would they hear of the appeal; and who would have the burden of proof and enforcement actions expected. Ms. Sherritt stated that the time limit for appeals is 30 days from the effective date; if any appeals are received, she will notify Sheron Smith to forward the information of another appeal to the CAB members; and that at this time the permit is effective, if an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) orders a stoppage or change, it would be addressed at that time.

Larry Ling, DOE-SR, stated that we have proceeded with the Deliquification, Dissolution, and Adjustment (DDA) processing. On February 27, 2007, a transfer from Tank 49 to Tank 50 was unsuccessful due to inoperability of the transfer pump. On March 1, 2007, the decision was made to replace the transfer pump and to perform the Tank 23 to Tank 50 transfer. The Tank 23 to Tank 50 transfer was conducted late March 2, 2007. On March 5, 2007, Saltstone processing of the Tank 50 waste was initiated. The Tank 49 transfer pump will be changed out on March 6, 2007, and the transfer from Tank 49 to 50 is planned for the night shift on March 6, 2007. Saltstone processing of this material is anticipated to begin on March 7, 2007. DDA processing will free tank space for continued liquid waste disposition at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Board members had questions on how much waste needs to be processed and the characterization of the waste. Mr. Ling and Steve Smith, WSRC, stated that overall approximately 750,000 gallons needs to be processed and that they have a good understanding of the characterization of waste in Tank 49, but uncertain of content in Tank 41. SRS continues to determine content and will know the characterizations prior to transfer. Art Domby asked is there any impacts if required to stop processing by the ALJ and permit revoked. Steve replied that at this point, we could not send to Tank 50 and eventually the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) would be shut down which would extent the lifecycle costs. The physical impacts would be to continue the surveillance and maintenance of the tank farms.

Liquid Waste Systems Approach (draft motion):

Mr. Ortaldo introduced the *draft motion* stating that the motion is not challenging the PC-3 standard for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), but is intended to address the broader systems and request an quantitative analysis be completed on the risks associated with the large volume of radiological waste in the radioactive liquid waste tanks and the impacts on future decisions. This analysis has been requested previously and the CAB members were told that the analysis was put on hold due to reorganization at the DOE-HQ. Mike Mikolanis, DOE-SR, confirmed that the request had been put on hold, but not ignored. The process is in draft and plan to bring to the Board in April. Mr. McLeod asked if the High Level Waste Plan would be revised and reissued soon. Terry Spears, DOE-SR, stated that with the issuance of the permit, the Plan would be finalized and reissued in the latter part of May or June. Mr. Perry Holcomb reiterated that this is a very important recommendation and suggests a structured way of completing the analysis.

Mr. Art Domby stated that it is good to get the DOE and DNFSB issues out in the open and to envelope these concerns and bring to the CAB full board meeting in parallel to the review process, to get early warnings of all issues.

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Mr. Bill Lawless requested a briefing or documentation of the seismic activity history at the Site and this should be part of the quantitative risk analysis. He stated that he is aware of only two major earthquakes in this area, in 1886 and 1811. Terry Spears, DOE-SR, committed to provide the briefing and/or information on the seismic activity history.

Ms. Shelly Sherritt stated that she thinks this is a great recommendation, but should be extended to look at the impacts on the SWPF schedule and how the impact of the continuing resolution are effecting the SWPF project. Steve Baker, DOE-SR, confirmed that the SWPF is fully funded, but there have been some schedule delays due to the evaluation of the seismic and geotechnical concerns. Mr. Ortoldo stated that a revised SWPF schedule to include the critical path is being prepared and that Guy Girard is planning to present the schedule to the Board in April. As we are all aware, the SWPF is a critical path operation and if it slips the DWPF is impacted.

All comments/revisions on the *draft motion* are to be provided to Rick McLeod, Technical Advisor, as soon as possible, for incorporation and finalization of the motion.

FY09 Budget Priority Input and Annual Budget Update (*draft letter*):

Madeleine Marshall, Chair, Strategic and Legacy Management Committee, introduced the FY 2009 Budget Priority List *draft letter*. She provided the background information that had led up to the challenge of providing input to the FY 2009 integrated priority list. This is a very important opportunity for the Board to provide input to the Budget determinations and processes. The Committee Chairs and several of the Board members have reviewed and provided input to construct the *draft letter* and priorities using the FY 08 Integrated Priority List and the 2007 CAB Work Plan. Ms. Marshall formulated a spreadsheet to facilitate the evaluation. Open discussions identified agreement on the safety and regulatory commitments as being essential to maintain SRS as a viable operating facility and that the Pu Storage, Surveillance, and Disposition; the Canyon Utilization; and the TRU Waste Disposition programs should be fully funded. Discussions of the sources of funding provided to SRS, i.e., NNSA and GNEP, is not applied or may not be significant to funding the EM projects and programs. The CAB is addressing the EM funded projects and programs only. Clarification of the priority breakout within the applicable Performance Baseline Summary (PBS) was provided by DOE-SR line organization managers.

After agreement of the Board members in attendance, all comments will be incorporated, and the *draft letter* will be finalized and sent to DOE this week. The *draft letter* will be presented at the full Board meeting this month to ensure all CAB members support the priority determinations.

Ms. Marshall plans to introduce a Budget Process *draft motion* at the Combined Committee meeting on March 26th.

Public Comment:

Charles Hansen, Parsons, commended Spears, Ginger, Steve, and SCDHEC on the accomplishment of the Saltstone Modification permit approval and starting the Saltstone process and transfers. He stated that he had worked on this project when employed by the Department of Energy and knows the significant efforts and hurdles achieved to begin startup. Great consistent progress – good to see things are moving.

Mary Drye provided a telephone scam warning message from the Red Cross and encouraged the Board members to share this warning with friends and family.

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Adjourn:

Mr. Ortaldo adjourned the meeting

Follow-Up Actions:

The following are the actions items:

1. Incorporation all comments and finalize the *draft motion* for the Liquid Waste Systems Approach
2. Finalize the FY09 Budget Priority List Letter and tentatively develop a Budget Process *draft motion*.
3. Terry Spears, DOE-SR, committed to provide the briefing and/or information on the seismic activity history.