

Summary Notes, July 14, 2009
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Nuclear Materials Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee met on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken SC.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Enriched Uranium Disposition Project as it affects Spent Nuclear Fuel and Plutonium Disposition and provide an opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

Don Bridges, NM Chair
Ed Burke
Joe Ortaldo
Marolyn Parsons
Manuel Bettencourt
Rose Hayes
Stan Howard
Judith Greene-McLeod
John Snedeker
K. Jayaraman
Alex Williams

Stakeholders

Karen Patterson, Public
Howard Gnann, Public
Bob Adams, SCDHEC
Frances Close, FOE
Tom Clements, FOE
Lizabeth Goergen, Public
Anna Cornelious, EPA
Kyle Bryant, EPA
Dan Burnfield, DNFSB
Tedda Howard, Public

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Debbie Wisham, V3
Pat McGuire, DOE-SR
Brenda Mills, DOE-SR
Carl Lanigan, DOE-SR
Dawn Gillas, DOE-SR
Paul Sauerborn, SRNS
Bill Bates, SRNS
Danny Saylor, SRNS
Chuck Goergen, SRNS
Richard Reichel, SRNS
Larry Ling, SRNS

E-Meeting Attendance:

Bill Lawless, Technical
Advisor
Donna Antonucci, Public

Welcome and Introduction:

Don Bridges, Chair, NM Committee, opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and thanked them for attending. He reviewed the ground rules, and asked for attendees introductions. Mr. Bridges informed all attendees that the meeting is being webcast to the internet.

Committee Update:

Don Bridges, Chair, NM Committee, provided a status of the two open and one pending NM recommendations. He stated that the DOE-SR response to pending recommendation #263 has not been received; although issued on July 1. Mr. Bridges continued with the committee update by providing the background and purpose of the NM committee activities. He stated that as in the SRS-CAB 2009 Work Plan, this committee was established to study issues that involve nuclear materials (generally uranium and plutonium) that have an impact on present or future SRS activities. Issues include spent nuclear fuel program activities (foreign and domestic), nuclear materials management and nuclear materials integration. This committee addresses the consolidation, storage and disposition issues related to the legacy materials that were once part of the nuclear weapons production cycle that are no longer needed for their original purpose, but are not considered waste.

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He stated that this evening there is a full agenda and we are going to hear about the Enriched Uranium Disposition (EUD) Project as it affects Spent Nuclear Fuel and Plutonium Disposition. He stated that although everyone is very interested in the Plutonium Consolidation studies results, the results are not available and Mr. McGuire will provide the update at the end of the presentations.

Mr. Bridges invited Carl Lanigan and Dawn Gillas to provide their presentations and lead discussions on the EUD Project.

Meeting Summary:

Members of the SRS CAB Nuclear Materials Committee conducted a committee meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC. DOE-SR hosted the meeting. The agenda topic was an update on the EUD Project as it affects Spent Nuclear Fuel and Plutonium Disposition; presentations were provided by Carl Lanigan, Dawn Gillas, and Pat McGuire, DOE-SR. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided. The committee meeting was moderately attended. The presentations were well received with some discussions.

Carl Lanigan, DOE-SR, began the presentations and discussions portion of the meeting with the Nuclear Materials Mission which is to safely, securely, and efficiently store and process excess nuclear material to improve our security posture, protect public health and the environment, and to allow either beneficial reuse or disposal of these materials thereby supporting transformation of the Savannah River Site for the future and supporting other national priorities. He stated that the new and updated EM and NNSA capabilities would allow SRS to consolidate, securely store, process, and disposition excess nuclear materials. By consolidating nuclear materials from other sites into existing SRS facilities will allow the other sites to de-inventory and save taxpayers the expense of upgrading those facilities to meet the security Design Basis Threat requirements mandated by Homeland Security after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. Mr. Lanigan reviewed the Highly Enriched Uranium Disposition Strategy to accommodate the different types of fuel and that the EUD project has a fixed scope of work to process and complete the project by 2019.

Dawn Gillas, DOE-SR, provided information on the Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) mission, project status, and photos of the different types of SNF Casks being shipped to the Savannah River Site. A short video was viewed on the shipping and handling of SNF. She explained the receipt process, storage, and different types of transfers that occurs onsite.

Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, provided an update of the Plutonium Consolidation Project. He stated that studies are looking at H-Canyon to process some of the materials for processing in the Defense Waste Processing Facility, but most of the material will be processed by the MOX facility. Mr. McGuire stated that a decision has not been made and that the Department wants to always have options and look at alternatives. The SRS CAB members and the public in attendance have significant interest in the amount of Plutonium being brought to SRS and the SRS capabilities to receive, store, and disposition the Plutonium. Karen Patterson stated that there is a concern by the public that no facility is willing to buy the moxable reprocessed fuel, so why is the Tennessee Valley Authority willing to buy the moxable reprocessed fuel?

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Mr. McGuire explained that TVA is a federal agency and that TVA will only accept the fuel when it is low enriched status. Open discussions continued with expressions of concern on the path forward for NEPA associated with processing SNF in H-Canyon and when will the public have opportunities to comment.

There may be a recommendation based on the meeting discussions.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn:

Mr. Bridges adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Follow-Up Actions:

1. Don Bridges, Chair, NM Committee, requested that Allen Gunter, DOE-SR, present the Plutonium Consolidation Status at the full Board meeting on July 27, 2009.
2. Provide a copy of the DOE-SR Response to Recommendations #261, #262, #263, and #264 to Don Bridges, Chair, NM Committee.

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PRESENTATIONS:

Presentations will be posted as supporting documentation on the SRS CAB Webpage.