

**Summary Notes, March 10, 2009**  
**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 10, 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 following:

- 1) Waste Solidification Building Update;
- 2) Status of Waste Determination and Tank Closure;
- 3) Critical Path Schedule Update; and
- 4) An opportunity for public comments on CAB related issues.

**ATTENDEES:**

**CAB Members**

- Joe Ortaldo, WM Chair  
Manuel Bettencourt

Emile Bernard  
Kathe Golden  
Marolyn Parson  
Rose Hayes  
Ed Burke  
K. Jayaraman  
Ranowul Jzar  
Stan Howard  
Judy Greene-McLeod

Bill Lawless, Technical  
Advisor

**Stakeholders**

Lee Poe, Public  
Adam Waller, SCDHEC  
Tom Clements, Friends of the  
Earth Organization  
Karen Patterson, Public  
Van Keisler, SCDHEC  
Jack Roberts, Public  
Rick Ford, Public  
Heather Cathcart, SCDHEC  
Martha Berry, EPA  
Charles Hansen, Parsons  
Murray Riley, Public

**DOE/Contractors/Others**

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR  
Debbie Wisham, V3  
  
Jean Ridley, DOE-SR  
Elmer Wilhite, SRNL  
Soni Blanco, DOE-SR  
Lee Sonnanberg, WSRC  
Steve Thomas, SRNS  
Paul Sauerborn, SRNS  
Terry Spears, DOE-SR  
Sherri Ross, DOE-SR  
Sonny Goldston, SRNS  
Pete Hill, WSRC  
Rob Trumble, SRNS  
  
Larry Ling, SRNS  
Jeannette Hyatt, SRNS  
David Hoel, DOE-SR  
Tom Cantey, NNSA-SR  
Bill Stephens, WSRC

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Joe Ortaldo, Chair, Waste Management (WM) Committee, opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and stated that there is a very full agenda this evening. He reviewed the ground rules, and asked for attendees introductions. He reminded the new SRS CAB members that their opportunity to become a member of the WM committee would occur at the March full board meeting. He encouraged them to join the WM Committee.

Mr. Ortaldo provided an update on the progress of the WM Committee recommendations. At the next full Board meeting, he plans to close Recommendations #231 and #245, based on the presentations provided at the January WM Committee meeting on how DOE-SR evaluates risks on updates and new facilities. Recommendation #255 will be addressed during the Waste Solidification Building briefing, which will occur at this

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meeting. If no further questions, Recommendation #255 will be recommended for closure at the May full Board meeting. Then there will be ten open WM committee recommendations and they are available for review on the SRS CAB Webpage. Mr. Ortaldo encouraged the CAB members to review the open recommendations and be involved with working on any of the open recommendations.

Mr. Ortaldo invited everyone to attend the SRS CAB bi-monthly Full Board meeting which will be held in Aiken, SC, on March 23-24, 2009. The agenda includes the proposed Energy Park, and an update on the stimulus package, and update on the SRS Strategic Planning efforts, and Mr. Chuck Munns, President, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, will provide an update on the first six months as the M&O Contractor at SRS.

Then Mr. Ortaldo gave a special thank you to Tom Cantey, NNSA-SR, who is providing the presentation on the Waste Solidification Building. NNSA work at SRS is not under the SRS CAB charter, but NNSA-SR has always been cooperative in providing information to the SRS CAB members when asked. Mr. Ortaldo asked that all attendees please hold their questions until the end of the presentations.

**Meeting Summary:**

Members of the SRS CAB Waste Management Committee conducted a committee meeting on March 10, 2009, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC. DOE-SR hosted the meeting. The agenda topics were 1) Waste Solidification Building (WSB) Update provided by Tom Cantey, NNSA; 2) the Status of Waste Determination and Tank Closure, provided by Sherri Ross, DOE-SR; and 3) Critical Path schedule Update and System Plan Rev. 14, provided by Soni Blanco, DOE-SR. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided. The meeting was well attended.

The WSB presentation was well received and appreciated. Due to administrative issues, no copies of the presentation were provided and a copy will not be posted on the SRS Webpage. Mr. Cantey provided a description of the WSB and the process; the waste streams and use of the SRS infrastructure; program needs and constraints; the history of the project; and a discussion of the alternatives determinations. He stated the WSB will process high activity and low activity liquid waste streams from the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility and the MOX facility. He stated the WSB design was completed in May 2008; construction began in December 2008, with a completion schedule tied to the MOX startup testing in 2013. The Plutonium Disposition Program Mission need is the capability to process, treat, and dispose of program waste streams. Through alternative evaluation, the determination was made that the current onsite Environmental Management (EM) waste stream facilities does not accommodate the life cycle schedule of the Pu Disposition Program Mission need and the program costs to keep the EM facilities running are too high for the volume of waste being processed. NNSA and EM schedules do not align. He stated that EM closure activities for SRS began decommissioning of needed facilities in 2019.

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In conclusion, he state that the most cost-effective alternative is a WSB designed to avoid duplication of waste processing; only treat those wastes that are incompatible with the existing SRS infrastructure; avoid disposing of Transuranic waste as HLW and avoid high annual operating costs of the HLW system following the EM closure activities. Open discussions and information exchange occurred on the facility structure, is it PC-3 qualified; decision on the location of the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility; does the WSB require permitting and by whom, Mr. Cantey replied all permits needed for construction have been attained from SCDHEC.

Some CAB members expressed significant concerns about the WSB waste and other SRS waste being stored at SRS. They would like to ensure the waste will be sent to a Federal Repository eventually.

Sherri Ross, DOE-SR provided an update on the status of the Waste Determination and Tank Closure Project. The tank closure briefing included a video of the sand mantis. The CAB members are pleased with the progress being made to close tanks at SRS. They would like to ensure the Closure Plan and Waste Determination documents are processed timely. Terry Spears, DOE-SR, stated that the Department has no intentions of slowing down in processing the cleaning of the tanks and closure. The Department will continue to work with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to process document approvals as timely as possible. The CAB asked if DOE plans to become more efficient in closing tanks as they progress to working on tanks in F-Area. The response is yes, as new technology becomes available and we become more proficient at cleaning, DOE does expect the F-Area Tank Farm closure to progress quicker. Joe Ortaldo, Chair, WMC, requested the presentation be provided to the full Board at the March meeting.

Soni Blanco, DOE-SR, provided an update on the status of the EM critical path closure schedule. She stated that SRS is expecting new technology and innovation from the new Liquid Waste Contractor and the goal is to compress the schedules and meet the EM closure schedules. System Plan Rev. #15 will address the strategy of the Salt Waste Processing Facility schedule delay of approximately nine months and its impacts on the EM life cycle critical path. The CAB members expressed concern of storing the high level waste onsite for an extended period of time, if the federal repository does not open.

No recommendations are expected on the meeting presentation topics. The SRS CAB members may issue a letter or recommendation on the impacts to SRS and the State of South Carolina based on the delays of a Federal Repository opening.

**Public Comment:**

Lee Poe – He stated that the CAB members are too acceptable to the cancellation of Yucca Mountain and the impacts to the State of South Carolina. He stated that the CAB needs to be involved in the position, we don't wasn't any more Plutonium and Spent Nuclear Fuel. He states that the burden should be placed on DOE-HQ about the large amount of funding that has been spent to open a federal repository at Yucca Mountain.

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He would like the CAB members to be sure DOE-HQ understands that the people of South Carolina will not accept storing waste at SRS until a decision is made for a repository which could take years. He recommends the CAB members move quickly and weigh in on the possibilities that appear to be evident of storing waste at SRS.

Tom Clements – Stated there is a Bill in the SC Legislation to identify nuclear fuel as renewal energy and that reprocessing is stalled again whether in South Carolina or Yucca Mountain. He also stated that there are no mission reactors that are going to accept and use the MOX fuel – Duke is out—and the MOX facility is stumbling forward, but more Plutonium continues to come to South Carolina without a path forward.

Charlie Hansen - Stated the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) position is that the easy solution is to not do anything. That Nevada does not want the waste – so it resides in South Carolina because there is no solution for disposition. The balance is we do not want the waste, so to solve the issue; we need to continue to fight, consider all avenues and respect all avenues and commitments.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Ortaldo adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

**Follow-Up Actions:**

Sherri Ross provides the Status of the Waste Determinations and Tank Closure at the upcoming full Board Meeting in March.

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**PRESENTATIONS: Provided on the Webpage as a separate document.**