

Summary Notes, August 4, 2009
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Waste Management Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management Committee conducted a committee meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken, SC.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive presentations on the revised status of Tank 48 Treatment Project and the Liquid Waste Contract. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

Joe Ortaldo, Chair
Art Domby, Vice Chair
Ed Burke
K. Jayaraman
Stan Howard
Judy Greene-McLeod
Kathe Golden
Manuel Bettencourt
Rose Hayes

Stakeholders

Tom Clements, FOE
Martha Berry, EPA
Murray Riley, Public
Karen Patterson, Public

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Vickie Wheeler, DOE-SR
Debbie Wisham, V3
Tom Gutman, DOE-SR
Bill Stephens, SRR
Elmer Wilhite, SRNL
Kim Cauther, SRNS
Sharon Mane, SRNL

Bill Lawless, Technical
Advisor

Participation via e-meetings:

Anna Cornelious
Ric Castagna

Welcome and Introduction:

Joe Ortaldo, Chair, WMC, opened the meeting with a welcome and thank you to all attendees.

The attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Ortaldo then referenced the meeting ground rules and encouraged adhering to them. He stated that the Waste Management Committee charter is available on the handout table for those interested.

Committee Update:

Mr. Ortaldo began by providing the status of the WMC recommendations. At the recent July full board meeting, Mr. Ortaldo asked the WMC members review the Department of Energy response to Recommendations #263 and #264 and provide any comments to him. He stated that he has not received any comments; therefore, the WMC would like to move the two recommendations from pending to open status. He continued the committee update by stating there are eight remaining open recommendations. Recommendation #211 which addresses Tank 48 is a topic on the agenda this evening.

Mr. Ortaldo reminded all attendees that the committee meeting is informal and everyone is invited to participate in the discussions.

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As a final committee activities update, Mr. Ortaldo stated that the next WMC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1st, with the topics of the Salt Waste Processing Facility Update and the Annual Update on High Level Waste Tank Inspection Report.

Meeting Summary:

The SRS CAB Waste Management Committee members and stakeholders conducted a committee meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 5:30 -7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken. The agenda topics were the revised status of Tank 48 Treatment Project, presented by Vickie Wheeler, DOE-SR; and an update on the Liquid Waste Contract Transition, presented by Tom Gutman, DOE-SR. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided. The meeting was moderately attended. The Tank 48 Treatment Project presentation and the Liquid Waste Contract status presentation were very well received by the attendees.

Vickie Wheeler, DOE-SR, provided the Tank 48 Treatment Project background and project status. She stated that the project cost range was approved in March 2008, and that Fluidized Bed Steam Reforming (FBSR) Technology was selected as the preferred technology in a business decision in June 2009. The FBSR waste treatment technology was chosen because it presents the least risk to a successful project execution. SRS CAB members were interested in the Tank 48 funding and its placement on the Integrated Priority List; is the technology chosen used at any other DOE sites; and since the radioactive organic material is needed, will the process ensure that Tank 48 will support the Salt Waste Processing Facility schedule. Ms. Wheeler stated that the technology is being used at other sites; the project is fully funded, but they will continue to look for cost savings, such as using previous infrastructure; and the technology will support the Salt Waste Processing Facility schedule. The FBSR subcontract, which was open to competitive bidding, is expected to be awarded in mid-August 2009 and the DOE project management process will be fully implemented. Ms. Wheeler assured that discussions included the DOE-Headquarters staff and members of the SRS Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) members are involved.

Tom Gutmann, DOE-SR, provided a presentation on the status of the Liquid Waste Contract that was assumed by the Savannah River Remediation, LLC, on July 1, 2009. Mr. Gutmann stated that the LLC members are the Washington Division of URS Corporation; Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group, Inc; Bechtel National, Inc.; and CH2M Hill Constructors, Inc. The integrated and critical subcontractor is AREVA Federal Services, LLC, who will bring vitrification and general nuclear efficiencies in technology. Other critical subcontractors are Energy Solutions Federal EPC, Inc, who will provide expertise in the melter operations and Washington Safety Management Solutions, LLC, will bring expertise in the Authorization Basis arena. Mr. Gutmann stated that the expertise of all of these companies plan to execute the EM liquid waste mission at SRS and optimize performance by accelerated tank closures and maximize waste throughput at the Defense Waste Processing Facility while ensuring sufficient tank space for continued long-term operation. He stated that the contract is a six-year term with a two-year optional renewal. Mr. Gutmann further explained the liquid waste request for proposal and expectations by the Department for the new contract.

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Mr. Gutmann explained the SRR Contract H.50 Performance requirements and that the baseline to include cost and schedule is expected by October 1. Mr. Gutmann stated the transition results have completed a rigorous review of the entire liquid waste scope; confirmed that SRR will use current site systems to prioritize and manage; and that material differences will be resolved during the contract baseline establishment.

Open discussions and questions indicated concerns of why the efficiencies planned by the new contract were not used earlier considering the high risk of the liquid waste tanks; that the accelerated efficiencies stated will increase the work load and usage high enough to reduce the future functionality of the infrastructure and systems; and the integration between the two major SRS contracts, who will determine priorities on steam usage, infrastructure, etc. Mr. Gutmann assured the CAB members that these concerns will be monitored closely by the Department and that there are built in controls within the contract to ensure facilities and systems will be maintained for future use.

On behalf of Terry Spears, DOE-SR, Mr. Gutmann provided an update on DNFSB 2001-1 that directed DOE to maintain safety margins, dated March 2001. DOE-SR recently issued a revision to the dates of the #5 recommendation and processed the revision to the DNFSB.

Public Comment:

- Tom Clements stated that he has concerns on increased productions and increased usage of systems to meet the increased performance goals. Mr. Clements continued by stating that he does plan to contact the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to ask that they pay close attention to what is going on and why were these efficiencies not implemented earlier.

Adjourn:

Mr. Ortaldo adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Follow-Up Actions:

1. Tank 48 funding - below IPL line which indicates this project does not have priority funding in FY09, 10, & 11. Is the project fully funded? Are the project funds limited?

DOE-SR Response: The IPL information provided to the CAB by Mr. French was based on execution of the liquid waste program in conformance with Liquid Waste System Plan, Rev. #14. The award of the new contract has identified opportunities to re-prioritize projects, accelerate waste disposition efforts, and identify efficiencies which will permit more work to be accomplished, more quickly, and at less cost to the Government. These opportunities will be factored into the updated Liquid Waste System Plan Rev. #15 due to be delivered to DOE by October 1, 2009. It is expected that cost savings associated with such opportunities will permit execution of the Tank 48 Project scope in a timely manner.

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2. Liquid Waste System Plan, Rev. #15 - when will the Plan be issued and available to the public?

DOE-SR Response: Per Appendix M, "Deliverables" of Section J, "List of Attachments" of the Contract, a Liquid Waste System Plan (Rev. 15) shall be delivered by SRR to DOE on October 1, 2009. The plan will be made available to the CAB following its delivery to DOE.

3. What controls have been placed in the SRR Contract that will ensure they do not operate SRS facilities and systems, "in the ground" for the next eight years just to achieve award fee? Their concern is that the efficiencies stated will increase the work load and usage high enough to wear out the current infrastructure.

DOE-SR Response: Controls include:

Contract Section B, "Supplies or Services and Prices/Costs," provides that payment of fee is dependent upon (among other things)

- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract relating to environment, safety and health;
- financial incentives for timely mission accomplishment or cost effectiveness shall never compromise or impede full and effective implementation of the ISMS and full ES&H Compliance.

Contract Section C, "Statement of Work" provides that (among other things)

- The contractor shall "operate and maintain" liquid waste facilities
- the contractor is responsible for the planning and execution of specified liquid waste removal and processing activities, but also for planning and staging activities to support "continued and uninterrupted" processing activities, but also for planning and staging activities to support "continued and uninterrupted" liquid waste removal and processing activities.
- The contractor is responsible for the "planning, oversight, engineering, operations, surveillance, maintenance, upgrade and modification" of all liquid waste facilities and systems.

Contract Section E, "Inspection and Acceptance," provides that the Government has the right to inspect and test all services called for by the contract and if any of the services performed do not conform to contract requirements, the Government may require the contractor to perform the services again in conformity with contract requirement for no additional fee.

Contract Section H, "Special Contract Requirements," provides that the contractor "recognizes that the work and services covered by this contract are vital to the DOE mission and must be maintained without interruption, both at the commencement and expiration of this contract.

This collection of controls will act to assure SRR will service and maintain SRS liquid facilities and systems properly throughout the performance period of the contract.

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Presentations are posted on the SRS CAB Website separately.