

Summary Notes, September 1, 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, September 1, 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 Salt Waste Processing Facility Project Update; and the In-Service Inspection for SRS Waste Tanks Update. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

ATTENDEES:

CAB Members

Joe Ortaldo, Chair
Art Domby, Vice Chair
Alex Williams, Vice Chair
Don Bridges
Ed Burke
Judy Greene-McLeod
Stan Howard
Manuel Bettencourt
Mercredi Giles
Cleveland Latimore

Stakeholders

Sam Walker
Karen Patterson
Dan Burnfield, DNFSB
Lili Burnfield
Rick McLeod, SRSCRO
Liz Goodson

DOE/Contractors/Others

Sheron Smith, DOE-SR
Zack Smith, DOE-SR
Ron Campbell, SRR
Paul Sauerborn, SRNS
David Little, SRR
David Broder, DOR-SR
Mike Mikolanis, DOE-SR
Terry Spears, DOE-SR

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. To facilitate meeting timeliness, he encouraged all questions to be held until the end of the presentations.

Committee Update:

Mr. Ortaldo began by providing the status of the WMC open recommendations. He stated that the WMC has two pending recommendations and eight open recommendations.

Art Domby, VC WMC, asked if the SRR 'Gear Chart' presentations that the committee asked for are being scheduled for any upcoming committee meetings. In reply, the 'Gear Chart' presentations will be scheduled after the SRR baseline has been delivered to DOE on October 1st. Manuel Bettencourt stated that he is proposing to the Site Specific Advisory Board at the upcoming meeting, that the new liquid waste contract operations and how they are going to accomplish the work is one of the SRS CAB's top issues.

Meeting Summary:

Members of the Waste Management Committee conducted a committee meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the Aiken Municipal Conference Center, in Aiken. DOE-SR hosted the meeting. Topics presented and discussed were the In-Service Inspection of Waste Tanks / Annual Radioactive Waste Tank Inspection Program 2008; and an update on the Salt Waste Processing Facility. An opportunity for the public to comment on CAB related issues was provided.

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The meeting was moderately attended. The presentations were well received with positive discussions.

Terry Spears, AMWDP, DOE-SR, opened the meeting with a few remarks on the recent DOE-HQ decision to allocate \$200M from the Environmental Management (EM) Reserve Funds of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to the SRS liquid waste contract. Mr. Spears stated that as the SRS CAB (Recommendation #264) and regulators recommended back in the Spring of this year, the Department feels the liquid waste contract is a good place for opportunities and investments in reduction of risks in the Complex. The other onsite Recovery Act funding is being use for the footprint reduction to allow other missions, and the disposition of transuranic waste, and newly generated waste of new D&D work. We can maintain pace to complete the \$1.6B funded work and accomplish liquid waste disposition high payback by improving and integrating salt waste infrastructure and ensure complete within the next couple of years. Also he stated that we will be able to enhance safety in the tank farms to meet facility needs. Mr. Spears continued by stating that there is a lot of work to prepare and align expectation mechanisms in place to ensure oversight planning is underway – real work is pending authorization. The question was asked if the shifting of funds had any impacts on the recently hired employees and Mr. Spears responded that there have been no impacts on the new hires.

Zack Smith, DOE-SR, provided an update on the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) Project. He stated that the SWPF Project has been recognized by a recent construction project review as the most likely to succeed—the technology is proven; the funding is very secure; and the project has tremendous DOE-HQ support. There were open discussion on the welding issues and how these issues cost and schedule delays have been recovered. Mr. Smith provided photos of the SWPF basemat progress and concrete placement. In closing, Mr. Smith stated that the SWPF Project is on schedule to commence hot operations in July 2013. Open discussions were very positive.

Karthik Subramanian, SRR, Office of the Chief Engineer, provided a very informative presentation on the In-Service Inspection Program for the SRS Waste Tanks and the 2008 Annual Radioactive Waste Tank Inspection Program. Mr. Subramanian provided the 2008 inspection results; reviewed the waste tank designs; explained the Structural Integrity Program; and the Corrosion Control Program. He demonstrated the In-Service Inspection Program with photos and videos. He stated that the onsite Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board staffs are involved with the inspection programs. He stated that the 2008 Annual Radioactive Waste Tank Inspection Program report had identified two new leak sites in Tank 5 (during final cleaning) and Tank 12 (during waste removal) consistent with known degradation mechanisms in non-compliant, old-style Type I/II tanks with partial secondary containment. Open discussion and questions were of clarification and process understanding. Mr. Subramanian stated that the frequency of tank inspection occurs based on the type of tank and that the acceptance criteria outline actions in response to indication consistent with national Tank Structural Integrity Panel recommendations. Stan Howard, VC WMC, asked if evaluation was done around fittings. Mr. Subramanian replied that not around the mounts on the walls and we avoid obstructions in the risers. He continued by stating we also measure for temperature control and work around thermo couples; the goal is to get all of the data. Don Bridges asked what other DOE sites have meaningful tank inspection programs that are comparable. Mr. Subramanian stated that Hanford does, Idaho has stainless steel tanks; Los Alamos and Oak Ridge have small tanks; and West Valley had some older tanks.

In summary, Mr. Subramanian stated that the structural integrity program for the SRS tanks has over 50 years of successful operations; the program aggressively addresses emerging issues; the program proactively evolves in support of mission goals; and the technology-based evolution of programs are poised to support the future.

