

**Summary Notes - June 25, 2013**  
**SRS Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Waste Management Committee Meeting**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Waste Management (WM) Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, from 6:00-7:50 p.m., at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC. It was also streamed online via Google Hangouts.

The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update on the status of Closing High-Level Waste Tanks 5 and 6 and a brief discussion on the Glass Waste Storage Program. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

**Attendees:**

**CAB Members:**

Ed Burke- WM Chair  
Earl Sheppard- WM Vice Chair  
Dr. Donald Bridges- CAB Chair  
Harold Simon- CAB Vice Chair  
Dr. Rose Hayes  
Nina Spinelli  
Dr. Virginia Jones  
Louie Chavis- *Online*

**Agency Liaisons:**

Beth Cameron, SCDHEC  
Jeff Joyner, SCDHEC  
Rob Pope, EPA- *Online*  
John Richards, EPA- *Online*  
Don Richards, EPA- *Online*  
Martha Berry, EPA- *Online*

**DOE/ Contractors/ Others:**

Terry Spears, DOE-SR  
Jean Ridley, DOE-SR  
Sherri Ross, DOE-SR  
Gerri Flemming, DOE-SR  
Bill Taylor, DOE-SR  
Larry Ling, SRR  
John Tseng, SRR  
Mark Schmitz, SRR  
Kent Rosenberger, SRR  
Cherri DeFigh-Price, Parsons  
Michael Norton, Parsons  
Ashley Whitaker, NOVA  
James Tanner, NOVA  
Jesslyn Anderson, NOVA

**Stakeholders:**

Joe Ortaldo  
Judy Greene  
Tom Clements  
Frances Close  
Susan Corbett  
Lee Poe  
Tedda Howard  
Stan Howard  
Connie Young  
Charles Munns  
Courtney Hanson  
CeCe Anderson  
Annie Laura Stephens  
Willie Tomlin  
Brad Swanson  
Nancy Bobbitt  
Murray Riley

**Welcome and Introduction:**

CAB member Ed Burke opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He asked everyone to introduce themselves, including online attendees. He stated that he had three position papers to discuss after the presentation. He explained Mr. Terry Spears, DOE-SR wanted to briefly address the CAB before Ms. Sherri Ross, DOE-SR, began her presentation.

**DDFO Address: Mr. Terry Spears, DOE-SR**

Mr. Spears wanted to clarify a comment made during the public comment period at the May 21, 2013 CAB Full Board meeting. He explained a member of the public said there were four leaking legacy waste tanks, sitting in the water table, at SRS. He said the individual also specifically mentioned tank 22 was “rapidly leaking;” however, Mr. Spears stated the comments were “inaccurate.” He explained tank 22, which was a type IV single-walled tank, did not have a history of leaking. He explained the tanks at SRS were categorized as “very slow,” “slow,” or “rapid generation” based upon analyses that determine the amount of time it would take for any volatile gases to develop in the air space above the waste and reach the “lower flammability limit.” He said in April 2013, DOE-SR discovered the amount of sludge carry-over found in tank 22, when calculated, was higher than it should have been. He said DOE-SR previously categorized tank 22 as “very slow;” however, tank 22 was re-categorized as “rapid generation.” He explained the re-categorization of tank 22 did not mean the tank was more unsafe than other tanks;

it meant DOE-SR must increase the controls in place for tank 22. Mr. Spears stated tank 22 did not have a history of leaking; however, the tank was re-categorized as a “rapid generation” tank for safety control purposes. He explained DOE-SR took immediate action so there would be a better understanding of actinides and the amount of sludge carried over into any tanks. He stated additional controls were established.

### **Presentation: Status of Closing High-Level Waste Tanks 5 & 6 – Sherri Ross, DOE-SR**

Ms. Ross stated the purpose of her presentation was to complete a 2013 WM Work Plan requirement by providing an update of the activities involved in closing tanks 5 and 6. She provided a copy of the “SRS Waste and Material Flow Path” and an aerial photograph to illustrate the location of tanks 5 and 6. She provided the CAB with a copy of a chart titled, “Status of Regulatory Drivers for Closure of Tanks 5 and 6 in F-Tank Farm,” which consisted of all the regulatory factors necessary for tank closure. She explained tanks 5 and 6 were both Type 1 tanks before discussing a chart titled, “Tank 5 Waste Removal Summary.” Ms. Ross explained cleaning efforts in tanks 5 and 6 resulted in high amounts of both waste volume and highly radioactive radionuclides being removed. She provided panoramic pictures of the inside of both tanks before discussing the risk analysis of the residual material left in the tanks after closure. She explained various scenarios and assumptions of how humans may encounter residuals once tank 5 and 6 were closed.

Ms. Ross then described different charts, which calculated the dose to members of the public, composite analysis, and F-tank farm closure risk. She provided a diagram of the United States to show how cosmic and terrestrial radiation exposure levels vary significantly across the country. She discussed a chart, which illustrated the current schedule and status of grouting activities in the tank farm. She stated DOE-SR would continue field activities to grout tanks 5 and 6 by planning for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to perform a monitoring visit of the F-Tank Farm in August 2013. She said closure of tanks 5 and 6 was scheduled to be completed by December 2013, which achieved a partial Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) commitment to close four tanks by September 2015. She stated tanks 16 and 12, both located in H-tank farm, were undergoing sampling, analysis, and chemical cleaning. She announced a public meeting was scheduled for July 18, 2013 for DOE-SR and NRC to discuss the lessons learned from implementing Section 3116 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

### **Glass Waste Storage Program Discussion- Jean Ridley, DOE-SR**

Ms. Ridley stated that a year prior, the project she would be discussing that night was called “Canister Interim Storage Project.” She said DOE-SR built two Glass Waste Storage Buildings (GWSB), which housed the vitrified High-Level Waste canisters produced from the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). Ms. Ridley explained that DOE-SR had developed a conceptual design for the project, which consisted of transportation methods to move the canisters from each GWSB into concrete containers, to be stored on a pad. She explained not much had happened over the last year; however, in DOE-SR’s latest budget submission, the project was included in fiscal year (FY) 2014 as part of the operating dollars. She said DOE-HQ notified DOE-SR that the project had to be specifically authorized by Congress as a “line item.” Mr. Ridley explained that funding constraints meant the project would not begin until 2015.

### **Committee Discussion:**

CAB member Burke briefly read the draft position paper titled, “The SRS CAB Position on the President’s Budget Proposal” before allowing other CAB members to provide comments. CAB Chair Bridges explained that the document seemed to read better as a position paper instead of a recommendation. CAB member Rose Hayes suggested including the other federal regulators within the paper instead of only South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). CAB member Burke and the WM Committee decided to send the position paper forward to the executive committee.

CAB member Burke addressed the confusion from the May Full Board meeting regarding the WM Committee's draft position paper about consolidated interim storage at SRS. He stated he was unable to attend the meeting; however, the WM Committee decided, prior to the Full Board meeting, to postpone the vote on the position paper in order to allow public involvement. He explained the CAB decided that the draft position paper would now go forward to DOE in the form of a position paper; however, CAB Chair Bridges had written an alternative version of the draft position paper and the CAB would have to determine which version should be submitted to DOE.

CAB member Burke asked CAB Chair Bridges to begin discussing his version of the draft position paper titled, "Savannah River Site Citizen's Advisory Board Position Statement on: Use of SRS for Interim Storage of Commercial Used Nuclear Fuel." CAB Chair Bridges briefly described his version of the position paper before listing some of the CAB's concerns if the program came to SRS. CAB member Burke requested public input on the second version of the draft position paper since it was a newer version. CAB member Burke and the WM Committee decided to hold an additional public meeting for the board to determine which version of the draft position paper should go forward.

This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth, addressed the update Mr. Spears provided on the integrity of tanks at SRS. Mr. Clements asked if Savannah River Remediation (SRR) received the results of a report conducted by a panel from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). Mr. Spears stated he had not reviewed the report; however, DOE-SR would make the information available to the CAB. Mr. Clements also gave his input about CAB Chair Bridges version of the draft position paper.

Ms. Susan Corbett, Sierra Club, stated she understood that SRS had undergone budget cuts, but she could not understand why DOE-SR was considering interim storage when the site did not have the funding to take care of the waste material already at SRS. She also stated there were other plans besides the NRC strategy to consider.

Mr. Charles Munns, public, suggested that the CAB should become part of the consent-based process by requesting DOE to define what the CAB should do to ensure the board was included within the consent-based approach.

Mr. Joe Ortaldo, public, stated he preferred CAB Chair Bridges version of the draft position paper since it covered all areas of the draft position paper. Mr. Ortaldo stated he agreed that CAB Chair Bridges left his version of the position paper open because it would be several years before DOE made a final decision.

Ms. Frances Close, Friends of the Earth, encouraged the CAB to remember the issue of consolidated interim storage was much bigger than the local community.

CAB member Burke adjourned the WM Committee meeting.

**The next WM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013, from 6:00-7:50 p.m., at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC.**

**The online recording of this meeting can be located on the CAB's website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)**