

Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee Report

Marolyn Parson, Ph.D., Chair

Augusta, GA

January 27-28, 2014



Committee members

- Marolyn Parson, *Chair*
- Tom Barnes, *Vice Chair*
- Louie Chavis
- Kathe Golden
- Larry Powell
- Bill Rhoten

Committee focus

- The committee addresses the remediation of contaminated soil, groundwater, and surface water.
 - Specifically, the committee deals with issues related to:
 - Federal Facility Agreement
 - Risk management/assessment,
 - The regulatory process, and
 - Other cross-cutting issues pertaining to environmental restoration.
- The committee also follows deactivation and decommissioning actions taken to reduce risk & costs following shutdown of excess industrial, radioactive, and nuclear facilities.

Status of recommendations



- Committee has three Open recommendations. The first is Recommendation #293 “Remedial Actions and Clean-up of 235-F.”
 - Basically asked the Department Of Energy to take a comprehensive look at the existing plans for decontamination and decommissioning of building 235-F and reassess the present schedule for 235-F cleanup.
 - Further, in view of comments made in the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board Recommendation 2012-1 (May 9, 2012), it asked the Department to take near-term immediate actions to remediate the situation.

Status of Recommendation #293, continued



- Finally, it asked the Department to advise the CAB of the cost and timeline of implementing the Safety Board's Recommendation and how other projects will be impacted by the implementation of said Recommendation.
- On November 30, 2012, the Department accepted the recommendation as a Savannah River action.
- In 2013, the Department has presented two updates on Building 235-F, the most recent being at the Committee Meeting on December 3, 2013. (2014 budget: \$5M)
- I support closing this recommendation since updates on Building 235-F can be included in the Committee's Annual Work Plan.

Status of recommendations, cont.

- The second Open Recommendation is #294
“Development of Environmental Review Roadmap and Document Listing.”
 - Basically asked the Department of Energy to develop a periodic report that provides an overview of upcoming environmental reviews and provide relevant information on the particulars of each review process.
 - It also asked the Department to develop a list of upcoming environmental reports and information soon to be issued that would be of interest to the public at large.
 - The response from the Department was received on November 30, 2012.

Status of Recommendation #294, cont.

- The response from the Department was received on November 30, 2012.
 - The essence of the response is as follows:
 - First,
DOE-SR does not believe creating a new report would be optimal use of our staff time. Instead, we are going to create a drop-down tab on the Savannah River Site website that will contain the information requested from existing reports on Environmental Management (EM) activities at SRS. (See answer to #5)

Status of Recommendation #294, cont.

- The essence of the response is as follows:
 - Second,

DOE-SR will have Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Savannah River Remediation, and other SRS contractor pull together information from existing reports on EM activities and post a list of documents under public review on the SRS website. On the website under the "Document" tab, a new link will be created that will take anyone to a list of environmental documents related to SRS that are under public review. SRNS will update the list monthly with input from other contractors and will use minimal acronyms. Once a document's public comment period has closed, it will be removed from the list.

Status of Recommendation #294, cont.

- I support closing this recommendation with exception.
 - Only two items have been included on the “drop-down” tab, and there is no way for the public to track these documents once the public comment period has expired.
 - Plus no other actions have been taken by the Department in response to the specifics of the recommendation.



Status of Recommendations

- The third Open recommendation is #315: “Public Meetings on Background and Status of High-Level Waste Tank Closure Program.”
 - Basically asks the Department of Energy to hold public meetings to provide information about the human health and environmental dangers, technological challenges, budget details, timetable, and successes of the tank closure program, including how budget constraints will impact the timetable of the tank closure program in FY 2014 and beyond must be included.
 - Asks that the meetings be held in the cities of Aiken, and Bluffton, SC, Augusta and Savannah, GA, and other communities deemed to be appropriate by the Department with input from the Citizens Advisory Board.



Status of Recommendation #315, cont.

- A response from the Department was received on December 11, 2013. (Please show this letter.)
- I support leaving this recommendation as “open” until the Committee has an opportunity to discuss the Department’s response in detail at its April 2014 meeting.

Status of Recommendations

- A draft recommendation “Fund an Independent Environmental Monitoring Program in Georgia” has been distributed and will be discussed later in this meeting.



Next Committee Meeting

- Not scheduled yet.

Presentations

- Today:
 - Topics of Consideration for the 2014 Work Plan
 - Presenter: Avery Hammett, Department of Energy, Savannah River
- Tomorrow:
 - Ecology Update
 - Presenter: Dr. Gene Rhodes, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory
 - FFA Appendix E Major Proposed Changes
 - Presenter: Brian Hennessey, Department of Energy, Savannah River