

Nuclear Materials Committee

January 27/28 2014

MEMBERS

Rose Hayes, Chair

Louie Chavis, Vice Chair

Ed Burke

Bill Calhoun

Virginia Jones

Nina Spinelli

Ed Sturcken

Christopher Timmers

Nuclear Materials Committee Responsibility

- This committee was established to study issues which involve nuclear materials (generally uranium and plutonium) that have an impact on present or future SRS activities, including:
 - Used/Spent nuclear fuel program activities
 - Nuclear materials management
 - Nuclear materials integration
 - Disposition of Pu and other HLW from SRS

Recommendations and Agency Responses for 2013 – Assumed Definitions

Pending Recommendations have been approved by the Board, and are awaiting response from the Department of Energy.

Open Recommendations have been responded to by the Department of Energy, and are being actively pursued by the Board. Closed Recommendations have been deemed completed satisfactorily, and are no longer actively pursued by the Board. Some recommendation actions continue past the closure date (i.e., annual updates and policy changes).

Closed With Exception can be opened at a later date when actions or events make it appropriate.

Recommendations and Agency Responses

– Definitions in Internal Processes as of May 2013

Status	Meaning
Pending	The draft recommendation has been approved by the full board and submitted to DOE; however, the response has not been received.
Open	The recommendation status is changed to “open” once the response has been received. The board may follow up for further information on a response that they find inadequate.
Closed	The action(s) in the recommendation have been completed, rejected in full by DOE, or overcome by events.
Closed with Exception	In the event that the CAB would like to stop tracking a recommendation or are collectively dissatisfied with the response provided, they may close the recommendation with exception. The responsible committee should draft a statement stating the committee’s dissatisfaction and the reason for closure. Once the committee has approved the statement, it is attached to the recommendation and the status is updated to “closed with exception”.

#303 Closed with Exception

- Title
 - Adopted by the SRS CAB, DATE
 - Closed with Exception DATE
- Department of Energy - SR Response:
 - Accepted/Rejected: Shortened

Option: Rewrite Recommendation #306. Closed with Exception

- Chemical Separation or Partitioning and Transmutation (P/T) of Used Nuclear Fuel and Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste
 - Adopted by the SRS CAB, May 21, 2013
 - Closed with Exception 9/24/2013
- Department of Energy - SR Response:
 - Rejected: H-Canyon, DWPF, & SWPF operations are mature technologies already in place
- SRS candidate for transmutation research center. Research past due.

Option: Rewrite Recommendation #308. Closed with Exception

- Request for Long-Term Assessment: Disposition of Research Reactor Fuels stored in L-Basin
 - Adopted by the SRS CAB, July 23, 2013
 - Closed with Exception 9/24/2013
 - Rewrite to recommend that L-Basin receive no additional shipments of UNF/SNF until **all** current inventories have an identified pathway from SRS.
 - Also, See Next Slide.

Open

- #307 Transferring Materials in L-Basin to Auxiliary Dry- Cask Storage
 - 9/03/13 response. SRNS study indicates costs at over a billion \$\$\$. OMB study indicated that processing is \$500 million cheaper than dry cask storage due to higher number of canisters requiring disposal in federal repository. **Will release report when finalized.**
- #314 Planning for Disposition of SRS Canisters.
 - 11/05/13 response. EM working with NE to plan implementation of DOE 2013 Strategy. SRS defense HLW part of UNF & HLW inventory being addressed in implementation planning. Recommendation premature.

Open

- #313 L-Basin Inventory as Trial Test for a Federal Repository.
 - 12/03/13 response. “The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office cannot accept your recommendation. The Federal Repository is not within the purview of the Office of Environmental Management..”
 - Need Clarification.

Closed

- #309 Consider Nuclear Waste Management Plan for Interim Storage of Defense Waste in Yucca Mountain, & Temporary Storage of Used Nuclear Fuel at Generation Sites.
 - 09/04/13 response. Yucca Mountain not within the purview of EM. This is a policy decision that will be handled by the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). **As such we are forwarding your recommendation along with this response to the appropriate NE personnel.**

Request for presentation on Government Shutdown Impact-SRS

Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

The recent government shutdown was fraught with potentials for the Savannah River Site (SRS), as well as all other sites in the Department of Energy (DOE) complex. In a general sense what were the lessons learned from this particular period of constrained budgets?"

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), in preparation for the October 18-19 Full Board, anticipated a pre-approved presentation addressing how SRS programs and projects were monitored and maintained during the government shutdown, what the impact of the government shutdown was on SRS programs and projects, and what the status of the programs and projects were following the shutdown. The intent of the request was constructive consideration of such issues as:

- Were there any indications from the downsizing experience that money can be saved for some programs or projects?
- Were there any indications that some programs or projects were at risk for a worst-case scenario as a result of the downsizing to a skeletal staff and security detail?
- In such a worst-case scenario, what resolutions were developed to control the risks?
- As a result of the worst-case scenario, what plans were developed to inform the public of the possible risks and what actions were to be taken for and by the public?

At a minimum, the answers to the questions that the CAB asks can be used to help inform the Congress and Administration of the impacts and risks posed by a government shutdown at SRS and potentially all other sites in the DOE nuclear complex. These same answers can also be used to inform inquiring members of the public. Therefore, we are making a formal request to DOE for a response to these questions, along with another request that the presentation prepared by Maxcine Maxted for the November 18-19 CAB Full Board meeting be given at the subsequent Full Board meeting. We are aware that the presentation given by Doug Hintze at the October 18-19 meeting addressed ramifications of the shutdown. However, it is the consensus of the CAB Executive Board that additional questions may develop as a result of the presentation which Mrs. Maxted was scheduled to present. There is still much to consider that may be useful as SRS programs and projects push forward in the complex cleanup effort and in preparation for future challenges such as budget reductions or another government shutdown.

Sincerely,

PRESENTATIONS

- Monday
 - Topics for Consideration
 - Maxcine Maxted, Department of Energy-SR
- Tuesday
 - Projected Receipts of Domestic and Foreign Research Reactor Fuels
 - Maxcine Maxted, Department of Energy-SR