

Summary Notes- December 2, 2014
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
Nuclear Materials Committee Meeting

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, from 6:30-8:20 p.m., at the Department of Energy (DOE) Meeting Center in Aiken, South Carolina. It was also streamed online via Google Hangouts.

The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update on L-Basin. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

CAB Members:

Dr. Marolyn Parson – CAB Chair
Harold Simon – CAB Vice Chair
Dr. Rose Hayes – NM Chair
Nina Spinelli – NM Vice Chair
Louie Chavis – *Online*
Dr. Virginia Jones
Christopher Timmers

DOE/ Contractors/ Others:

de’Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR
Angelia Adams, DOE-SR
Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR
Pat McGuire, DOE-SR
Dan Hanson, DOE-SR
Crissy Waller, DOE-SR
Dan Burnfield, DNFSB
Jesslyn Anderson, Time Solutions
James Tanner, Time Solutions

Stakeholders:

Tom Clements
Dawn Gillas
Gil Allensworth

Agency Liaisons:

Tom Rolka, SCDHEC
Adam Waller, SCDHEC

Welcome and Introduction:

NM Committee member Virginia Jones opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She asked everyone to introduce themselves, including online attendees. She stated the meeting was being recorded online and asked everyone to stand at the podium when making comments or asking questions. She introduced Ms. Maxcine Maxted, Department of Energy – Savannah River (DOE-SR) to begin her presentation.

Presentation: SRS L-Basin Used Nuclear Fuel Program Update – Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR

Ms. Maxted said the purpose of her presentation was to fulfill a NM Committee 2014 Work Plan topic by providing an update on L-Basin operations. She provided an overview of L-Basin before discussing the L-Basin water purification system. She explained the water in L-Basin helped protect workers from radiation and she listed parameters that were monitored to ensure the water quality remained in a “neutral area” to prevent corrosion or degradation of the fuel. Ms. Maxted discussed inventory stating there were approximately 18,400 assemblies within L-Basin. She listed various types of fuel located in L-Basin, which was approximately 90 percent full. Ms. Maxted said the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) conducted a report that determined L-Basin could safely store material for an additional 50 years. She provided a chart that depicted the forecasted capacity of L-Basin for bundled fuel. She provided another chart which depicted the capacity of high flux isotope reactor (HFIR) cores in L-Basin. She discussed the NRU/NRX fuel from Canada and needed modifications for L-Basin. She said the NRU/NRX fuel was longer and heavier and could not be handled in the L-Basin transfer bay so modifications to the shielded transfer system (STS) were required to remove the fuel from the LWT cask. She said a new unloading station was developed to remove the fuel from the basket and load the fuel into bundles for storage in L-Basin. She explained that fabrication and modifications were expected to be finished by the end of calendar year (CY) 2014, while receipts would begin in March 2015. Ms. Maxted said the current management approach was to continue safe wet storage, processing up to 1,000 bundles and 200 HFIR cores, and continue operating L-Basin for another 50 years as evaluated by SRNL. She discussed processing in H-Canyon stating the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) fuel campaign was completed in August 2014. She said the Idaho and SRS Fuel Exchange was currently suspended, but transportation packaging would have to be identified to work at both locations. Ms. Maxted discussed dry

storage, which she said was the other option if DOE did not process the fuel. She stated fuel was safely stored in L-Basin and some processing of fuel was occurring in H-Canyon. Ms. Maxted stated alternatives to wet storage were evaluated and a Departmental decision was needed on future direction of fuel storage versus processing. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov

Committee Discussion:

CAB member Jones provided a recommendation status update, stating recommendations 307, 319, and 320 were open and recommendations 324 and 325 were pending. She reviewed the DOE response for each open recommendation. CAB Chair Marolyn Parson mentioned in the November 17, 2014, SRS Environmental Bulletin it was announced that an Early Action Statement of Basis Proposed Plan for the C-Area operable unit was available for public comment. CAB Chair Parson explained how the document called for use of land use controls to protect the public. CAB Chair Parson said she wanted to write a letter to extend the public comment period from the current date of January 1, 2015, as well as request a public meeting so members of the public could ask questions about the document. She said she planned to discuss her suggestions with each committee before drafting a letter. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov

Public Comments:

Mr. Tom Clements, SRS Watch, said he felt some plutonium materials stored at SRS were outside the scope of the Plutonium Disposition Program. He suggested the CAB request information from DOE-SR for how much plutonium had been brought to SRS that was not covered under the United States Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program. Mr. Clements discussed the German graphite spent fuel stating that several demonstrations to leave the spent fuel in place had taken place in Germany. Mr. Clements suggested the CAB get involved and make comments in response to the Draft Supplemental Analysis. He said he filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the Nonproliferation Impact Assessment and encouraged the CAB to get involved with the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that was due in approximately a month.

Ms. Maxted said DOE was working on an EA; however, she said due to a schedule delay she was unsure if the draft would be available for public review in January. She said she thought the EA would be available in March. She said the EA would not make a decision about the project, but it would evaluate the impacts and determine if there were any significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement would need to be done.

CAB member Jones adjourned the NM Committee meeting.

The online recording of this meeting can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov