

**Summary Notes- October 7, 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, October 7, 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 H-Area. 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 – *Online*  
Louis Walters

**DOE/ Contractors/ Others:**

de’Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR  
Allen Gunter, DOE-SR  
Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR  
Pat McGuire, DOE-SR  
Tony Polk, DOE-SR  
Bill Taylor, DOE-SR  
Kim Cauthen, SRNS  
James Tanner, Time Solutions  
Ashley Whitaker, Time Solutions

**Stakeholders:**

Tom Clements – *Conf. Call*  
Dawn Gillas  
Chuck Goergen  
Elizabeth Goergen  
Joe Ortaldo  
Lee Poe

**Agency Liaisons:**

Martha Barry, EPA – *Online*  
Rob Pope, EPA – *Online*  
Tom Rolka, SCDHEC

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Committee Chair Rose Hayes opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She stated the meeting was being recorded online and asked everyone to stand at the podium when making comments or asking questions. She provided a recommendation status update, stating recommendations 307, 319, and 320 were open. She reviewed the DOE response for each open recommendation and said two draft recommendations would be discussed following the scheduled presentation. She introduced Mr. Allen Gunter, Department of Energy – Savannah River (DOE-SR) to begin his presentation.

**Presentation: K-Area Update – Allen Gunter, DOE-SR**

Mr. Gunter said the purpose of his presentation was to fulfill a NM Committee 2014 Work Plan topic by providing an update on H-Area operations. He provided a copy of the “SRS Waste and Material Flow Path” to show where H-Area was located at SRS. He listed H-Area activities that were ongoing or completed. Mr. Gunter provided an update on the H-Canyon ground level release project stating the H-Canyon safety analysis credits the exhaust tunnel and stack to provide an elevated air release after a seismic event. He listed the modifications DOE implemented to prevent a ground level release and explained the H-Canyon documented safety analysis/technical safety requirements (DSA/TSR) were revised to reflect the modifications. Mr. Gunter showed a simplified diagram of the H-Canyon exhaust and what locations required modifications. He provided a status update of plutonium oxide production stating the plutonium solution was first introduced into the facility on August 8, 2014 and produced the first can of oxide on August 27, 2014. He displayed a plutonium oxide production flowsheet. Mr. Gunter said DOE completed the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) fuel dissolution on August 14, 2014. He stated DOE initiated processing “al-clad enriched uranium SNF” on September 16, 2014. He said, “The Canadian liquids are the materials DOE was planning to bring to SRS from the Atomic Energy Canada Limited is the resulting solutions from the processing of the targets that contain highly enriched uranium (HEU) and fission products.” Mr.

Gunter explained how the solution would be handled at SRS before he described how the materials would be shipped from the Atomic Energy Canada Limited. He said the H-Canyon complex remained a unique national asset for large scale processing of nuclear materials. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

### **Committee Discussion:**

CAB member Hayes introduced two draft recommendations. She read the first draft recommendation titled, “L-Basin Cob Webs: Potential Impact of Deep Geologic Storage.” She explained the purpose of the draft recommendation. Mr. Lee Poe, public, commented that he felt the background section of the draft recommendation was too long. CAB member Nina Spinelli suggested adding the terms “request and” to recommendation number three. CAB member Virginia Jones said she thought the CAB had already addressed recommendation item number five in a previous recommendation. CAB Chair Marolyn Parson said she was concerned that DOE would possibly reject the recommendation since a deep geologic repository was referenced. CAB member Hayes said she understood any recommendation addressing a geologic repository would be sent to the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). CAB member Hayes asked Mr. Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, if in future, when DOE developed formal recommendation responses to include verbiage about whether or not a recommendation was passed to NE. CAB member Jones said she would be the recommendation manager for the draft recommendation.

CAB member Hayes read the second draft recommendation titled, “Functional Definition of Spent and Used Nuclear Fuel.” She stated that DOE frequently used the terms “spent nuclear fuel” and “used nuclear fuel” interchangeably; however, the CAB wanted DOE to decide which term would be used in the future. CAB Chair Parson suggested removing “DOE” from item number one. Mr. Tom Clements, SRS Watch, said the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 defined spent nuclear fuel. Mr. Pat McGuire explained how the various terms were developed. CAB member Hayes said she wanted to remove item number one of the draft recommendation. CAB member Spinelli said she would be the recommendation manager and she suggested drafting one recommendation that addressed using one term. CAB member Hayes said she wanted both draft recommendations to be discussed at the November Full Board meeting. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

### **Public Comments:**

Mr. Tom Clements, SRS Watch, said, “Concerning the Canadian material, this material in liquid form in the tank at the Chalk River Site can be “denatured in place” to be rendered not HEU. It is a proliferation concern that this option has not been considered. No Environmental Impact Statement had been done considering that option, so it remains a proliferation concern that Canada would not “denature in place” that material rather than shipping it to the SRS.” Mr. Clements said he had the opportunity to go into the spent fuel storage facility in Jülich and he planned to say more about his trip at the November Full Board meeting.

CAB member Hayes adjourned the NM Committee meeting.

**The next NM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, from 6:30-8:20 p.m., at the DOE Meeting Center in Aiken, SC.**

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