

**Summary Notes – June 10, 2014  
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 10, 2014, from 4:30-6:20 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 updates on the results of the Consultative Technical Evaluation Report for H-Tank Farm and the Liquid Waste System Plan Revision 19. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

**Attendees:**

**CAB Members:**

Dr. Marolyn Parson – CAB Chair  
Earl Sheppard – WM Chair  
Dr. Virginia Jones – WM Co-Vice Chair  
Louis Walters – WM Co-Vice Chair  
Dr. Rose Hayes  
Harold Simon – CAB Vice Chair  
Cleveland Latimore  
Nina Spinelli

**Agency Liaisons:**

Dan Burnfield, DNFSB  
Jim Shaffner, NRC  
Chris McKenney, NRC  
Mike May, SCDHEC  
Thomas Rolka, SCDHEC  
Martha Berry, EPA – *Online*

**DOE/ Contractors/ Others:**

Jean Ridley, DOE-SR  
Phillip Giles, DOE-SR  
Jim Folk, DOE-SR  
Eleanor Prater, DOE Intern  
Angelia Adams, DOE-SR  
Sherri Ross, DOE-SR  
Soni Blanco, DOE-SR  
Jeff Bentley, DOE-SR  
Bill Taylor, DOE-SR  
Gerri Flemming, DOE-SR  
Pete Hill, SRR  
Kim Cauthen, SRNS  
Jeff Allender, SRNL  
Ashley Whitaker, Time Solutions, LLC  
James Tanner, Time Solutions, LLC

**Stakeholders:**

Chuck Munns  
Nancy Bobbitt  
Karen Patterson  
Tom Coleman  
Jim Tisaranni  
Tom Clements  
Joe Ortaldo  
Clint Wolfe

**Welcome and Introduction:**

CAB member Earl Sheppard welcomed everyone, and stated the meeting was being streamed online. He asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves. He provided a brief recommendation status update, stating recommendations 311 and 312 were open. He introduced Mr. Jim Shaffner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to begin his presentation.

**Presentation: Consultative Technical Evaluation Report for H-Tank Farm – Jim Shaffner, NRC**

Mr. Shaffner said he planned to discuss the NRC Consultative Technical Evaluation Report (TER) for the H-Tank Farm (HTF), as required by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2005. He discussed NRC's roles of consultation and monitoring. He said NRC hoped the HTF TER would be publically available in June 2014 so monitoring efforts could begin. He said monitoring activities, which were conducted in coordination with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), for F-Tank Farm (FTF) and HTF were combined since there were several similarities between the tanks. Mr. Shaffner briefly discussed the consultation chronology, which began in February 2013, before he provided an overview of the HTF TER. He said the results and recommendations for the HTF TER were very similar to the FTF TER; however, the difference with HTF TER was that some tanks were located below the water table, some tanks had waste in the annuli, and some contamination had left the primary containment. He explained that there were three main criterions, specified in the NDAA, that were addressed in the HTF TER. Mr. Shaffner said the three criterion were "whether disposal in a geologic repository was required, removal of highly radioactive radionuclides to the maximum extent practical, and

waste classification and ability to meet performance objectives.” He then explained how each criterion applied to the HTF TER. He said the NRC review results and recommendations within the HTF TER were based on extensive interactions between DOE and the NRC. He explained that the HTF TER did not draw specific conclusions regarding DOE’s ability to meet the performance objectives.

#### **Presentation: Closure of H-Tank Farm – Sherri Ross, DOE-SR**

Ms. Ross said she wanted to briefly explain DOE’s next steps for closure of HTF. She provided a diagram of the HTF and said DOE consulted the NRC about accessing all the HTF tanks within the TER. She provided a copy of the “HTF Closure Regulatory Roadmap” chart before she discussed DOE’s path forward in fiscal year (FY) 2014. Ms. Ross explained that DOE would consider NRC’s Consultative TER for closure of HTF before actually making any decisions. She said DOE was currently working on a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Supplement Analysis, which the SRS Manager would make a decision in July. She stated DOE planned to revise the Waste Determination (WD) and supporting Basis Document in order to support the NRC’s consultative advice. She explained the WD and Basis Document would be signed by the Secretary of Energy and hopefully published by September. She said the “Tier 1 Closure Authorization” would be signed by the Assistant Manager for Environmental Management and available in September. She stated that DOE planned to provide responses to each public comment about the Basis Document by September before publishing the information in the Federal Register.

#### **Presentation: Liquid Waste System Plan Revision 19 – Pete Hill, SRR**

Mr. Hill said he planned to provide a briefing on revision 19 of the Liquid Waste (LW) System Plan. He provided a systematic diagram, illustrating all the processes and facilities within the LW system. He displayed a “gear chart,” to explain the highly synchronized processes of several interdependent nuclear facilities and chemical operations in the LW system. He said the LW system plan was updated annually to incorporate advances in technology, changes in sequencing, acceleration opportunities, and funding adjustments into the plan. Mr. Hill provided an overview of the system plan revision 19 before he provided a chart titled “Relative Buying Power.” He discussed specific results of system plan revision 19 including why Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) operations would not be supported at rated capacity. He explained that when comparing SWPF “capability” versus “predicted throughput modeling,” revision 19 showed a cumulative difference of 18 million gallons between FY 2019 and FY 2024. He addressed future tank closure activities, interim salt processing at the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) / Modular Caustic-side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU), sludge processing strategy, and Saltstone Disposal Unit (SDU) construction. He provided a chart of parameters that compared the results of LW system plan revisions 18 and 19 results. He discussed an alternative case that addressed the necessities to support SWPF at rated capacity. He provided a second chart of parameters that compared revision 18 and 19 for the alternative case. He said after SRR gave DOE the LW system plan revision 19, DOE developed a third case that was similar to the alternative option of supporting SWPF at rated capacity; however, the third alternative addressed maintaining risk reduction, stressing waste removal from old-style tanks, and providing greater capability to feed SWPF. He said the results of revision 19 confirmed the importance of SWPF, near-term salt processing, SWPF support projects, and SDU construction.

Each of these presentations can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

#### **Committee Discussion:**

CAB member Sheppard read the May 16, 2014, letter the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) letter sent to DOE. CAB member Nina Spinelli stated she hoped the CAB could receive a briefing once DOE briefed the DNFSB. CAB Chair Marolyn Parson said she was concerned about the amount of time it took for the public to be made aware of security issues. Mr. Dan Burnfield, DNFSB, provided an overview of how the DNFSB conducted weekly safety reviews and explained that security issues prevented the DNFSB from releasing information to the public sooner. CAB member Virginia Jones stated that a specific CAB committee should address all presentations regarding safety issues. CAB Chair Parson explained this particular DNFSB letter involved the LW system and may be difficult to assign only one committee to address all safety issues. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Joe Ortaldo, public, addressed the LW plan and the cost for extending the lifecycle cost.

Mr. Clint Wolfe, Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA), asked if the lack of storage space for DWPF canisters was stretching the schedule. Mr. Hill explained that one of the factors for determining how fast SRR could operate the ARP/MCU was the availability of storage canisters. Mr. Hill said right now canister space was not a limiting factor, but if SRR accelerated ARP/MCU to increase investment, lack of canister availability could become a limiting factor.

Mr. Tom Clements, SRS Watch, said he was not tracking the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) situation closely, but he explained the New Mexico Environment Department had a June 30, 2014, deadline for materials awaiting disposal at WIPP, including materials from SRS. He said a decision would possibly be made on July 15, 2014, about whether those materials would have to be sent back to the sites from where they came from. Mr. Clements said a meeting was scheduled for June 24, 2014, to discuss the Environmental Assessment about bringing German graphite material to SRS and encouraged the CAB to consider the impact the materials had on the waste system.

CAB member Sheppard adjourned the WM Committee meeting.

**The next WM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, from 4:30-6:20 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)**