

**Summary Notes – August 12, 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, August 12, 2014, from 4:30-6:20 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 vault four at the Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF). There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

***Attendees:***

**CAB Members:**

Dr. Marolyn Parson – CAB Chair  
Earl Sheppard – WM Chair  
Cleveland Latimore  
Harold Simon – CAB Vice Chair  
Nina Spinelli

**DOE/ Contractors/ Others:**

Angelia Adams, DOE-SR  
Jim Folk, DOE-SR  
Jeff Bentley, DOE-SR  
Kim Cauthen, SRNS  
Jeff Allender, SRNL  
Mike Borders, SRR  
Mark Schmitz, SRR  
Tom Coleman, Areva  
Jesslyn Anderson, Time Solutions  
James Tanner, Time Solutions  
Ashley Whitaker, Time Solutions

**Stakeholders:**

Joe Ortaldo  
Lee Poe  
Karen Patterson  
Tom Clements

**Agency Liaisons:**

Rob Pope, EPA  
Tom Rolka, SCDHEC  
Greg Mason, SCDHEC

**Welcome and Introduction:**

CAB member Earl Sheppard welcomed everyone, and stated the meeting was being streamed online. He provided a brief recommendation status update, stating recommendation 312 was open. CAB member Sheppard announced that the next WM Committee meeting was scheduled for October 7, 2014, at the DOE Meeting Center. He introduced Mr. Mike Borders, Savannah River Remediation (SRR) to begin his presentation.

**Presentation: Z-Area Salt Disposal Facility Vault #4 Update – Mike Borders, SRR**

Mr. Borders stated the purpose of his presentation was to fulfill at 2014 WM Work Plan requirement by providing a status update on vault four at the Z-Area SDF. He provided background information about past low-level radioactive contamination at Storm Water Outfall Z-01. Mr. Borders provided pictures to show where the SDF was located at SRS. He said cracks in the roof of vault four enabled rainwater to migrate into the vault. He provided pictures of different cracks and explained that rainwater had collected in the narrow annular space between the grout waste form and vault wall. Mr. Borders explained that the rainwater inside vault four caused contaminated liquid to leak through construction joints or existing cracks in the vault wall. He showed pictures and listed the existing contamination controls for vault four. He explained the stabilization goal was to eliminate rainwater infiltration to vault four while mitigating worker and environmental risks. He said the selected alternative involved pouring a minimum “clean cap grout” on top of the vault four cells to lower the radioactive exposure rates for workers. He discussed the current status of vault four, stating that SRR and DOE were committed to the stabilization plan. Mr. Borders stated the project was ahead of schedule and cells J, K, L, and D had already been “clean capped”, while cell E was anticipated to be “clean capped” soon. He said he was hopeful that five cells would be coated this year. He said capping and coating of remaining cells was planned to be completed by February 2015. He discussed contamination at the Z-Area retention basin stating that rainwater carried contamination from vaults one and four to the Storm Water Outfall Z-01. He said the Storm Water Outfall Z-01 flowed to McQueen’s Branch; however, sedimentation breaks were installed to minimize the spread of contamination. He provided pictures of the June 12, 2014, basin expansion project, which, was scheduled to be complete in September 2014. Mr. Borders said soil was removed at Storm Water Outfall Z-01 in accordance with

DOE Order 458.1 and the SDF Solid Waste Permit. He said continued radioactive effluent monitoring of Storm Water Outfall Z-01 and McQueen's Branch had not detected any increases of contamination.

This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

#### **Committee Discussion:**

CAB member Sheppard introduced CAB Chair Marolyn Parson to introduce one draft recommendation titled, "Improving Public Communication and Understanding of the Liquid Waste (LW) Program and Revisions to the Liquid Waste System Plan." She read and explained the purpose of each recommendation. She said she wanted DOE to engage the CAB on the complexity of the LW program better than had done in the past. She held up two diagrams of the LW system plan from different years explaining how difficult it was to understand the current revision 19 diagram due to all the acronyms. She said we need to take the complicated process and put it in simple terms so the CAB and the public could communicate better feedback to DOE.

Mr. Jim Folk, DOE-SR, thanked CAB Chair Parson for sending him the draft recommendation prior to the meeting since it allowed him to look at past CAB recommendations related to the LW program. He suggested for CAB Chair Parson to review recommendation 269, DOE's formal response, and how specific commitments were worded to address any formatting concerns for the draft recommendation. Mr. Folk referenced how DOE-SR could address each item number of the draft recommendation.

CAB Vice Chair Harold Simon suggested having more than one tour a year since it would be difficult to learn the entire Liquid Waste process in one tour.

This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

#### **Public Comments:**

Mr. Tom Clements, public, said DOE had replaced older online documents with current documents, instead of leaving all documents online. He explained that not having consecutive documents posted online made it difficult for the public to compare different documents. Mr. Clements also stated he did not know when revision 19 of the LW System plan was released to the public. He encouraged DOE to provide the public with more information about when future LW System Plans would be released. Mr. Clements said he supported the draft recommendation since he felt the LW program was the most important process at SRS.

Mr. Joe Ortaldo, public, suggested that DOE simplify the graphs and diagrams related to the whole LW system plan. He also suggested asking DOE for a chart to show the changes from each new revision.

Ms. Karen Patterson, Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council (GNAC), suggested the CAB get a copy of the chart DOE-SR provided to GNAC that compared changes in the LW system plan from year to year. Ms. Patterson also suggested the CAB receive a tour of the LW facilities to better understanding of the process.

Mr. Lee Poe, public, said the CAB should rework the draft recommendation; however, he said he felt that public citizens could create significant political pressure if they better understood the LW process.

CAB member Sheppard adjourned the WM Committee meeting.

**The next WM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 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)**