

Recommendation 333  
Timely CAB Notification of SRS Unusual Events and Issues

Background

The background of previous Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 322<sup>1</sup> stated: “...*In order for the Citizens Advisory Board to be able to provide meaningful input and meaningful written recommendations to the Department of Energy, its members need to be informed of situations at the Site in a timely manner. The failure of the Department to do such is threatening to erode public trust and hampering the effectiveness of the Board. The Department’s lawful commitment to transparency requires a more forthright approach...*” In Recommendation 322, the CAB recommended that DOE provide agency updates at bimonthly committee meetings; provide updates via e-mail when the need arises and; provide news releases via e-mail.

While now providing the agency updates and news releases requested by Recommendation 322, DOE-SR has continued to withhold timely notification to the CAB of important new and emerging issues and events relating to EM operations at SRS or elsewhere in the DOE-EM complex, often by many months. This continued lack of transparency hinders the CAB’s adequate involvement in EM evaluation, planning and decision-making processes regarding these events or emerging issues. Accordingly, specifically adding the CAB to established internal SRS notification processes is warranted.

Discussion

The “*Site Environmental Protection Coordinator (SEPC) Handbook*” and Section 5 of the “*SRS Emergency Plan*” provide information on the notification processes and communications systems used if there is an unusual event or emergency at SRS. They specify which off-site organizations are to be notified, including regulators, federal, state and local authorities, as well as others including the certain businesses and the public. Information is provided verbally to offsite authorities within 15 minutes to an hour of an initial event being reported to the SRS Operations Center, depending on event classification. “Informative” and “Courtesy” notifications are made to offsite organizations for events that are minor in nature, but may be considered newsworthy by the local news media.

Currently, nowhere in the *SEPC Handbook* or *SRS Emergency Plan* is there a provision to include the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) in these notifications.

Recommendation

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board recommends that the Department of Energy:

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<sup>1</sup> SRS CAB Recommendation 322 - Updates Provided to the Citizens Advisory Board at the Bi-Monthly Committee Meetings and Via Email, Adopted September 23, 2014

1. Revise the *SRS Emergency Plan* to include notification of the CAB Chair<sup>2\*</sup> of any unusual events and emergencies that trigger implementation of Section 5.
2. Revise the *SEPC Handbook* notification checklists to include the CAB Chair<sup>\*</sup>.
3. Notify the CAB Chair<sup>\*</sup> of upcoming visits to SRS by elected officials, dignitaries, and other VIPs.
4. Add or increase the priority of notification by SRS contractors to DOE of unusual events or issues relating to EM missions as an award fee criterion.

#### Related Recommendations

SRS CAB Recommendation 322 – Updates Provided to the Citizens Advisory Board at the Bi-Monthly Committee Meetings and Via Email, Adopted September 23, 2014

#### References

*Site Environmental Protection Coordinator (SEPC) Handbook*, SRNS-IM-2014-00005, Revision 1, Effective Date 1/15/2015

*SRS Emergency Plan*, (SCD-7), Section 5 – Notifications and Communications, Revision 13

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Sponsored by the Strategic & Legacy Management Committee

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\* Or Vice Chair if the Chair is unavailable.