

Summary Notes–October 13, 2015
Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation (FD&SR) Committee

The FD&SR Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, from 6:30-8:20 p.m., at the New Ellenton Community Center in New Ellenton, South Carolina. It was also streamed online via Google Hangouts and posted to the CAB's website and YouTube page. The purpose of this meeting was to receive a presentation about environmental dose and health risk. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

CAB:

Nina Spinelli, CAB Vice Chair
Eleanor Hopson
David Hoel

DOE/Contractors/Others:

Michael Mikolanis, DOE-SR
Avery Hammett, DOE-SR
de'Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR
Amy Meyer, SRNS
James Tanner, Time Solutions
Tina Watson, Time Solutions

Welcome and Introduction:

CAB Vice Chair Nina Spinelli welcomed everyone, and stated the meeting was being streamed online. She asked everyone to introduce themselves. She invited those in the back to sit around the table. CAB Vice Chair Spinelli introduced Ms. Avery Hammett, DOE-SR, who serves as the FD&SR Committee DOE Point of Contact to provide a brief update of ongoing DOE activities relating to the FD&SR Committee. CAB Vice Chair Spinelli thanked Ms. Hammett and introduced Walt Kubilius of SRNS to give the scheduled presentation.

Presentation: Environmental Dose and Health Risk – Walt Kubilius, SRNS

Mr. Kubilius explained that his presentation was part two of a three part series of understanding risk. He explained that there are 515 waste units at SRS. His job is to evaluate a waste unit. They start with the concentration, assess the dose, then the health risk, and finally, the remedy. He reviewed the unit measurements discussed in the first part of the series at the January CAB meeting. Mr. Kubilius then gave a Geiger counter demonstration. He explained that radioactivity is naturally occurring and is everywhere you go. Background radiation gave off 42 counts per minute; a granite countertop gave off approximately 28 counts per minute. He explained the mathematical concept to convert the counts to picocuries. He also showed a shark's tooth that gave off 2000 counts per minute and a Fiestaware bowl that gave off 13,000 counts per minute. The Fiestaware contains one million picocuries. Mr. Kubilius then continued the presentation on evaluating a waste unit. He further clarified the difference between an acute dose and a chronic dose of radiation. He then showed the graph equating rem exposure to cancer risk and explained that receiving 17 rem = 1% lifetime cancer risk. Mr. Kubilius also showed how risk assessment is calculated. He discussed the EPA Action Level and the calculations of the various risks. Finally, he discussed the various levels of toxicity associated with groundwater. You can listen to the complete presentation on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov.

Committee Discussion:

There was no committee discussion.

Public Comments:

Joe Ortaldo made a public comment about the great presentation on a complicated subject. The full comment can be heard on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov.

CAB Vice Chair Spinelli adjourned the FD&SR Committee meeting.

The next FD&SR Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, from 6:30-8:20 p.m., at the New Ellenton Community Center in New Ellenton, SC.

The online recording of this meeting is located on the CAB's website at: cab.srs.gov