

Summary Notes – June 2, 2015
Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee Meeting

The NM Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 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 an overview of K-Area. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

CAB:

Dr. Virginia Jones–NM Vice Chair
Louie Chavis–Online
Dawn Gillas
David Hoel

DOE/ Contractors/Others:

Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR
Tony Polk, DOE-SR
Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR
Allen Gunter, DOE-SR
Michael Mikolanis, DOE-SR
de'Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR
Dan Burnfield, DNFSB
Kim Cauthen, SRNS
James Tanner, Time Solutions
Tina Watson, Time Solutions

Agency Liaisons:

Tom Rolka, SCDHEC

Stakeholders:

Tom Clements
Frances Close
Liz Goodson

Welcome and Introduction:

CAB member Virginia Jones welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves, including online attendees. She reviewed the NM committee's focus and reminded everyone the meeting was being streamed online. She stated the NM Committee had no open recommendations. CAB member Jones introduced Ms. Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR, who serves as the NM Committee DOE Point of Contact. Ms. Maxted provided a brief update of ongoing DOE activities related to the NM Committee. CAB member Jones then introduced Mr. Allen Gunter, DOE-SR, to begin his presentation.

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

Mr. Gunter said the purpose of his presentation was to fulfill a 2015 NM Work Plan topic by providing information on K-Area and plutonium (Pu) storage. He pointed out K-Area's location on the CAB Waste and Material Flow Path diagram. Mr. Gunter discussed Pu consolidation stating in 1998 the Department decided to consolidate non-pit Pu from various sites to SRS. He explained in 2001 the Department approved the consolidation of only Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) Pu to SRS and in 2007 the Department approved the consolidation of remaining non-pit Pu to SRS from Hanford, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). He discussed Pu under safeguards stating SRS had approximately three metric tons (MT) of Pu under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. He said RFETS and Hanford each had approximately one MT of Pu under IAEA safeguards prior to consolidation, which was transferred to SRS and remained under IAEA safeguards. He also explained the Department placed one additional MT of Pu under the IAEA safeguards. He compared pictures of K-Area storage from the year 2000 and storage today, which contained the storage configuration of "9975" shipping containers. Mr. Gunter explained one "9975" shipping container held one "3013" container. He showed a computer generated image of a "9975" shipping container divided down the middle to point out the different containment levels and how the "3013" container was securely stored inside. He discussed how in 2010 the Department initiated a project to expand the storage capacity of K-Area. He said the Department's decision was made prior to any discussions concerning the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication project. Mr. Gunter stated Phase 1 was completed and became operational in June 2012 and Phase 2 was completed and became operational in December 2014. He said the expansion added an additional 2,500 storage positions. Mr. Gunter addressed the 3013 Surveillance Program stating the Surveillance and Monitoring program was approved in 2003. He discussed Non Destructive Examinations (NDE), which looked for pressurization, and Destructive Examination (DE), which looked for corrosion, gas analysis, and material characteristics. He said the NDE's were completed; however, nine DE's were currently being performed every year in K-Area. He briefly mentioned a Shelf Life Program that was being conducted at LANL on small scale and large scale samples. Mr. Gunter discussed typical glovebox operations and listed actions performed by workers for the Surveillance Program. He also showed pictures of various functions within the Surveillance Program. He listed surveillance results stating the Surveillance Program has not identified any condition that would challenge the 50 year storage life. He summarized his presentation stating Pu was safely stored in K-Area, SRS continued to evaluate storage conditions to ensure safe storage, and SRS had the experienced staff and facility to handle Pu. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov

Committee Discussion:

CAB member Jones asked if there was any Committee discussion. CAB member Daniel Kaminski asked if it was possible to get a copy of the Full Board meeting minutes before the following subcommittee meeting. Mr. James Tanner, CAB Support Team, informed CAB member Kaminski that it took several weeks to fully transcribe the meeting minutes and receive approval from DOE-SR security before the CAB members could have a copy of the transcription. Mr. Tanner also explained the meeting minutes were sent to the CAB with the general mailing. CAB member Dawn Gillas asked what facilities would be visited on the September NM tour. Ms. Tina Watson, CAB Support Team, said the September tour details had not been fully decided yet since she was trying to finish arrangements for the July tour. CAB member Kaminski said in the future he hoped a NM tour would be available earlier in the year so newer CAB members could get a visual understanding of nuclear facilities at SRS. The full breakdown of this discussion can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

CAB member Jones adjourned the NM Committee meeting.

The next NM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, from 6:30-8:20 p.m., at the New Ellenton Community Center in New Ellenton, SC.

The online recording of this meeting can be found on the CAB website at: cab.srs.gov