

Summary Notes – October 14, 2015  
Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)  
Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee Meeting

The NM Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 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 website and YouTube page. The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update on L-Basin Spent Nuclear Fuel Program. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

Attendees:

CAB:

Larry Powell – NM Chair  
David Hoel  
Virginia Jones  
Daniel Kaminski

DOE/Contractors/Others:

Jim Giusti, DOE-SR  
de’Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR  
Michael Mikolanis, DOE-SR  
Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR  
Tony Polk, DOE-SR  
Jeff Allender, SRNL  
Wyatt Clark, SRNS  
James Tanner, Time Solutions  
Tina Watson, Time Solutions

Stakeholders:

Joe Ortaldo  
Rose Lee Hayes  
Tom Clements

Agency Liaisons:

Tom Rolka, SCDHEC  
Taylor Stow, SCDHEC

Welcome and Introduction:

CAB member Larry Powell welcomed everyone. He reviewed the agenda, committee focus, and stated the NM Committee had no open recommendations. He introduced Ms. Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR, to provide the DOE Point of Contact update. Ms. Maxted provided a brief oral update of ongoing DOE-SR activities related to the NM Committee. Wyatt Clark, SRNS gave a further oral briefing on the operational pause.

Presentation: SRS L-Basin Spent Nuclear Fuel Program – Maxcine Maxted, DOE-SR

Ms. Maxted stated the purpose of the presentation was to fulfill a 2015 NM Work Plan topic by providing an overview of L-Area Operations. Ms. Maxted began by giving an overview of L-Basin followed by a rundown on its stored fuels and capacities. Ms. Maxted summarized the L-Area accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2015 and its continued path forward. Ms. Maxted wrapped up her presentation with H-Canyon processing and then opened the floor to questions. David Hoel asked why the Amended Record of Decision was limited to 1,000 bundles and not the whole inventory. Ms. Maxted explained that, at the time the decision was made, they needed process 1,000 bundles in order to avoid the added expense of installing racks in L-Area. CAB Member Hoel asked about the option of shipping the stainless and zircaloy clad fuel to Idaho. Ms. Maxted stated that as of now, this option is suspended; however they keep this option on the books. CAB Member Hoel then asked if SRS was still receiving aluminum clad fuel from Idaho. Ms. Maxted said SRS is not receiving aluminum clad fuel from Idaho. Tom Clements, Savannah River Site Watch, asked about where the four foreign research reactor casks and where the three domestic casks were from. Ms. Maxted said that the domestic casks were from Massachusetts and Missouri. The foreign casks were from Switzerland, Germany, Canada and Jamaica. Mr. Clements then asked about dry cask storage research. Ms. Maxted answered that there has not been any funding for dry cask work. Ms. Clements followed with a statement about

receiving weapons grade plutonium at SRS. Rose Hayes, a member of the public, asked about the concrete studies and whether that was what the 50-year lifespan of the basin was based on. Ms. Maxted explained that is only one of the things they have to take into account. Ms. Hayes followed up with a statement about the 50-year benchmark being a problem based on her reading of documents from the Federal Register and the idea of “selling” the future repository. Tom Clements then questioned what happens when SRS is in the process of moving materials from L-Basin and H Canyon goes down. Ms. Maxted explained that if the material was still in a cask, it would be sent back to L-Area; if the material was already dissolved, there would have to be a plan of attack to move the material to a safer area. Mr. Clements then asked if anyone has analyzed what happens if H Canyon goes down again. Ms. Maxted stated that material would not sit in the transfer system; it would be put into a bundle into L basin. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

#### Committee Discussion:

Committee Chair Powell asked if the CAB members had anything to discuss. CAB Member Hoel commented that a member of the public suggested the CAB take a look at societal acceptance of a future repository. Mr. Hoel suggested that this be put on the Work Plan for next year. Committee Chair Powell stated that he would like to put on the Work Plan for next year the topic “plutonium disposal options”. CAB Member Virginia Jones suggested having the contractors talk about their workforce in terms of shift times and employment data. Discussion was held on this suggestion. CAB Member Jones questioned whether there was a law that prohibits nuclear employees from working over so many hours. Ms. Maxted answered by saying that if they are in the transportation category, yes, but for a nuclear worker in a facility, she did not know. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

#### Public Comments:

Joe Ortaldo commented that he supported the work being done with the fuel coming in and working it off in H Canyon. He stated that was the right thing to do for the country. Mr. Ortaldo further commented that the CAB may want to consider taking the position that we should keep bringing material into the country, but that DOE headquarters needs to make funds available to work the material off. CAB Member Dan Kaminski questioned whether there was any rule of first-in-first-out associated with the materials or are the containers categorized as to which should be dealt with first. Ms. Maxted answered by saying that the fuels have been categorized for priority and was one of the factors in determining which bundles would make up the 1,000 to be processed. Further discussion was held on processing priority and receipt of further fuel. Tom Clements suggested that the CAB get a better handle on where the fuel is coming from. Mr. Clements feels that if there is a storage capacity issue, the low enriched uranium from domestic sources should get priority over foreign spent fuel. Mr. Clements also suggested that the CAB pursue MOX options since HB Line is tied to MOX. Joe Ortaldo, public, pointed out that HB Line is not only tied to MOX. Marolyn Parson, public via telephone, commented on her experience with the online meeting. Rose Hayes, public, also commented on public participation. These comments can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov).

CAB member Powell adjourned the NM Committee meeting.

The next WM Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 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 located on the CAB’s website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)