

Summary Notes – June 2, 2015  
Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)  
Waste Management (WM) Committee Meeting

The WM Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, from 4:30-6:20 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 update on mercury in the Liquid Waste (LW) system. There was also time set aside for committee discussion and public comments.

**Attendees:**

**CAB:**

Earl Sheppard–WM Chair  
Virginia Jones–WM Vice Chair  
Susan Corbett  
Louis Walters  
David Hoel  
John McMichael  
Nina Spinelli–CAB Vice Chair

**DOE/ Contractors/ Others:**

de'Lisa Carrico, DOE-SR  
Michael Mikolanis, DOE-SR  
Jean Ridley, DOE-SR  
Jim Folk, DOE-SR  
Armanda Watson, DOE-SR  
Kim Cauthen, SRNS  
Jeff Allender, SRNL  
Dan Burnfield, DNFSB  
Richard Edwards, SRR  
James Tanner, Time Solutions  
Tina Watson, Time Solutions

**Stakeholders:**

Tom Thomas  
Joe Ortaldo  
Tom Clements  
Frances Close  
Kelly O'Neal

**Agency Liaisons:**

Tom Rolka, SCDHEC

**Welcome and Introduction:**

CAB member Earl Sheppard welcomed everyone. He reviewed the agenda, committee focus, and stated the WM Committee had no open recommendations. He asked everyone to introduce themselves, including online attendees. He introduced Ms. Jean Ridley, DOE-SR, who co-served as WM Committee DOE Point of Contact with Ms. Soni Blanco, DOE-SR. Ms. Ridley provided a brief update of ongoing DOE activities related to the WM Committee. CAB member Sheppard then introduced Mr. Richard Edwards, Savannah River Remediation (SRR), to begin his presentation.

**Presentation: Mercury in the Liquid Waste System – Richard Edwards, SRR**

Mr. Edwards said the purpose of his presentation was to provide an overview of new mercury information and the near and long term actions related to the mercury in the LW system. He explained mercury had been a consideration in the LW system, both from a hazard and a processing perspective, for a long time. He said there had been no exposures, releases, and all waste treatment complied with requirements; however, he said there were recent examples of new information related to the mercury found within the LW system. He listed examples of recent events before he showed a flow chart of all the facilities within the LW Program. Facilities and processes in the LW Program flow chart were labeled to describe where mercury was found, where it was removed, and where there were trace amounts. He provided background information about mercury stating mercury originated in the LW system from decades of canyon processing where mercury was used to aid reactor fuel dissolution. He said mercury was present throughout the LW system and was not a new issue. He listed various steps and processes that were used throughout the LW System to analyze and remove the mercury. He commented the mercury issue was changing and he listed different challenges the mercury could potentially create for waste processing. He discussed near-term issues and actions, which included industrial hygiene and worker protection actions. He explained most radiological work practices protected workers from mercury. He listed other near-term actions to address the mercury before discussing long-term mercury management. Mr. Edwards stated an integrated system-wide evaluation would be conducted to evaluate mercury behavior in the LW System. He stated a Mercury Expert Advisory Panel was created and listed the members. He said the Mercury Expert Advisory Panel conducted its first review on May 13 and 14, 2015, which concluded that SRR's near-term approach and sampling schemes appeared to be effective. He said SRR was developing a long-term action plan to address overall mercury management and removal. Mr. Edwards summarized his presentation stating mercury was pervasive throughout the LW system, which was not a new issue, but SRR and DOE-SR were seeing elevated levels. He stated there was no risk to the public or the environment, but the mercury issues represented a current and long-term challenge to LW processing. Mr. Edwards mentioned worker safety continued to be a priority, worker protection continued to be effective, and conservative actions were taken in response to new information. Mr. Edwards said the long-term action plan was under development before asking if there were any questions. This presentation can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

### Committee Discussion:

CAB member Sheppard thanked Mr. Edwards for his presentation and asked if the CAB could be updated on the mercury issue in the future. Mr. Edwards agreed to a future update. CAB member Sheppard then asked if CAB members had any discussion. There was no additional comments or discussion. This discussion can be found on the CAB website at: [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)

### Public Comments:

Mr. Tom Clements, SRS Watch, said his comment was not related to the mercury issue, but that he enjoyed Mr. Edwards' presentation. Mr. Clements encouraged the CAB at the July Full Board meeting to renew the Position Statement about spent fuel storage at SRS, which originally was developed in July 2013. He said the Position Statement was renewed in July 2014 and he hoped the CAB would renew it again for another year.

CAB member Sheppard adjourned the WM Committee meeting.

The next WM Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, from 4:30-6:20 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)