Committee Welcome: Gil Allensworth, WM Chair

CAB member Allensworth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Point of Contact Status Update: Jim Folk, DOE-SR

Mr. Folk began his update by noting 8 WIPP shipments have been completed and they’re working to get eight to ten for next year – currently they’re going through the certification process. Melter 3 is in the melter cell and connections are being completed with a December startup. Plant infrastructure upgrades and maintenance during the SWPF tie in/outage continues. Regarding Tank 15 FFA milestone 3 campaigns, progress is being made. Regarding cesium removal progress, design is complete and fabrication has been started, components are build and startup is expected for May 2018 with completion expected for August 2018. 202 canisters have been double stacked which was a goal for this year that has been met. Canister transport has been outfitted with new tires and fire protections. They’re in the process of replacing the Saltstone pump. SDU 6 completed 1 year before filling with SWPF startup. SDU 7 has been authorized to begin – design has begun and field prep is next. This is critical to the LW program long term.

Q&A Session

CAB member McMichael asked if surprises come up regarding the melter, will that result in delays. Mr. Folk answered that they would not.

CAB Member Hoel asked for the status of FFA deadlines for closure. Mr. Folk answered that Tank 15 is scheduled for next August – TICKR at the end of next Summer. Tank 10 bulb waste removal is scheduled for the end of October in the evaluation. Three of bulk waste removals – two they can declare and one they cannot declare an estimate for – which they are discussing with SCDHEC and EPA next week. There are also two tank closures that won’t be met which is
also being discussed. CAB member Hoel then asked about the grout pump failure, to which Mr. Folk replied that it is located in the overflow container which is easily removed and material can easily be put in a container – they’re also replacing the pump and the material designed to take overflow will be cleaned as well.

CAB member Allensworth asked about waste re-classifying explanation, to which Mr. Folk replied that he could not specify – they’re looking into it as a solution to meet TRU criteria.

Committee Discussion: SWPF Status & Liquid Waste Integration
CAB member Allensworth reviewed the 3H Evaporator presentation from the previous full board meeting. He noted that it was very timely and important. He then asked if bottleneck concerns were answered. CAB member Hoel answered that no, they had not.

CAB member Malik asked if MCU could be paired with SWPF? Mr. Folk replied that no, the system is designed to use parts from MCU for SWPF it can feed into one another, but feeding both would’ve been too expensive.

CAB member Kaminski asked what the top three bottlenecks are. Mr. Folk replied that attaining more SDU authorization and funding is the biggest challenge, the second is the feed and take away balance which is much more than MCU and the last would be the grout pump failure which helped tremendously with this since there was such a fast response and other strategic spares in place.

CAB member Allensworth asked about shortfalls with the budget, to which Mr. Folk responded for FY 18 the pension will be a big challenge and SDUs will require more funding and more will be built annually. CAB member Allensworth noted the pension budget will be discussed during the SLM meeting.

CAB member Sheppard noted this presentation is one of the better presentations given to the CAB and improved their understanding of the topic.

CAB member Malik asked if during the tie-ins would leak protection be addressed. Keith Harp, SRR, answered that they will, and modifications are being worked on in addition to leak protection which will be shown in the control room. CAB member Malik then asked what happens in the event of leaks, which Mr. Harp responded to by noting that there is a secondary containment leak box which is pumped into tanks and then transported to waste tanks.

CAB member Sheppard asked for the number of cameras on that system in case an alarm doesn’t sound. Mr. Harp replied that there are no cameras on that transfer system but there are safety systems which will detect failures and overflow shows liquid buildup. CAB member Sheppard asked if they use probes, to which Mr. Harp replied that they do.

CAB member Kaminski asked regarding slide 14 project status to be updated – if that’s on track. Pam Marks, DOE-SR, answered that the slide was updated on the day of the presentation and is available online, though there are no significant changes and it is on schedule to complete in September with the integrated test completed early.

CAB member Hoel asked what the critical path is, to which Ms. Marks noted that through testing, integrated water runs, cold commissioning and an upset in the process would affect the critical path although most updated every day to prevent that.
CAB member Kaminski noted that the new agenda format is working, the SWPF visit recently through a CAB tour was very informative and asked if there are more tours scheduled for the future. Mr. Tanner replied that one is tentatively scheduled for September.

CAB member Kaminski noted that the potential waste streams which could go to WIPP including surplus plutonium from SRS and HLW canisters are being looked at by the National Academy and encouraged the CAB to keep an eye on that.

Public Comment

None.

~Meeting Adjourned