



August 18, 2026
Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
Subcommittee Meeting Summary
Microsoft TEAMS, Aiken, SC

Virtual Meeting began at 4:00 PM Eastern Time

Meeting Summary:

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Subcommittee convened to review operational updates, address staffing and funding issues, and discuss a draft recommendation concerning the protection of resources for environmental management (EM) activities, particularly regarding liquid waste operations.

Operational and Project Updates:

Site operations are progressing well. Shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) have resumed, and uranium processing for future vendors is ongoing. The contractor has completed key startup activities, and DOE readiness reviews are underway. Liquid waste processing is ahead of schedule, with nearly 5 million gallons already processed this year (targeting 6 million), and 81 glass waste canisters produced for storage. The site is also integrating innovative technologies, such as robotic dogs, to enhance safety and efficiency in high-radiation areas.

Funding and Risk:

Operational risks for new material processing are considered low, but securing adequate funding remains a top challenge. Current funding is provided through EM, with some costs potentially offset by vendor contributions. The CAB's budget recommendations reflect site priorities, but final funding decisions rest with DOE and Congress. Some board members emphasized the importance of ensuring funding is not diverted from cleanup priorities to other site projects.

Staffing:

Staffing levels are currently insufficient, prompting ongoing recruitment efforts. The site plans to hire new staff members over the next two years, including engineers and operators, leveraging both experienced hires and apprenticeship programs to build future capacity.

Waste Management and Security:

Solid and liquid waste management milestones are on track, with robust monitoring of tank farms (H & F). Glass waste canisters are in interim storage pending a national repository decision. New Saltstone Disposal Units (SDUs) are being filled with grout, not liquid waste, and will receive permanent caps. Security concerns were raised about potential threats (e.g., drones), underscoring the need for ongoing vigilance.

**Draft Recommendation:**

The subcommittee reviewed a draft recommendation to “ring-fence” (protect) funding and personnel dedicated to liquid waste operations, ensuring resources are not redirected to projects such as a proposed large data center. The recommendation also calls for an impact study to evaluate how new commercial developments could affect legacy cleanup. While some members questioned whether data center issues fall within CAB’s purview, consensus emerged to keep the focus on EM resource protection and forward the recommendation to the full board for further discussion and refinement.

Community Outreach and Next Steps:

CAB members are actively engaging with local communities to share information and solicit feedback. Clarification was provided on effective communication among board members. The recommendation will be refined and brought to the full board for a vote at the next meeting, with continued emphasis on staffing, funding, and public engagement.

Conclusion:

The meeting highlighted operational progress, ongoing challenges in staffing and funding, and the need to safeguard EM resources. The CAB is preparing to advance a recommendation to ensure cleanup priorities remain protected as new site projects are considered.

There were no public comments.

The meeting ended at 5:04 p.m.