October 20, 2026
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
Subcommittee Meeting Summary
Microsoft Teams, Aiken, SC

Meeting Summary:

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Subcommittee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 4:00 PM Eastern Time. Matt Baker (Facilities Disposition/Site Remediation), Herbert Crapse (Nuclear Materials), and John Clark (Liquid Waste) focused on providing updates across environmental monitoring, nuclear materials management, and liquid waste operations. Presenters addressed questions about previous presentations, long-term trend data, and upcoming reporting expectations. Discussion also covered progress metrics, contamination trends, sampling frameworks, and examined process improvements related to tank closure and waste processing. The discussion emphasized coordination with state agencies and the importance of understanding environmental data and regulatory milestones.

Key Updates

- **Review of Prior Presentations**: Herbert Crapse asked Board members if they had any questions from the brief last month. Board members provided feedback indicating that previous presentations were clear and understandable. The result reinforced that members felt more confident in their understanding as they progressed through their board tenure.

- **Environmental Report Overview**: Matt Baker reviewed environmental sampling maps and long-term trend data, explaining monitoring locations, sample types, and historical contaminant patterns. He emphasized available public resources, where that information can be found and upcoming presentations from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the state, and the next step was for members to preview these materials ahead of future discussions.

- **Clarification on Radiological Trends**: Wanda Jackson, CAB Co-Chair, raised questions about historical cesium-137 data, and Matt Baker explained the downward trend resulting from decay and cleanup efforts

- **Sludge and Tank Processes**: John Clark and Brittany Califf invited questions regarding sludge handling and tank 42 processes, offering additional clarification where needed. No major questions were raised, and the topic was closed with acknowledgment of prior materials provided to the board.

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- **Tank Closure Acceleration and Safety:** Larry Romanowski delivered a concise overview of tank closure steps, from sampling to grouting and engaged Willie Priester, CAB Member, on questions about process acceleration and safety. The conclusion reaffirmed that efficiency improvements were being explored without compromising safety or regulatory standards.

- **Liquid Waste Program Progress:** John Clark reported processing 5.9 million gallons of salt waste for FY26, nearly tripling prior years, and described targets for upcoming canister production and robotic inspection tools. He also confirmed progress on tank Preliminary Cease Waste Removal (PCWR) milestones and operational closures. The next step included continued monitoring and updates at future meetings.

- **Public Comment on Cleanup Priorities:** James Schacht, speaking as a private citizen, recognized progress in reducing tank curies since 1996 and asked the board to state in future recommendations whether new site activities compete with cleanup for funding, water, or workforce resources.

Follow-Up Tasks:

- **Recommendation Response:** Board members should review DOE's accepted recommendation response that was recently signed and vote at the next full board meeting on whether to close the recommendation.

- **Outstanding Recommendations:** DOE will provide responses to the board's two remaining outstanding recommendations.

- **Draft Recommendation:** James Tanner, CAB Facilitator/DDFO, will coordinate with Wanda Jackson, CAB Co-Chair, to define the path forward for the tabled draft recommendation and bring it back to the board for further discussion.

The meeting concluded at 4:40 PM.

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