

The

Board Beat



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
Spring 2011, Newsletter



Working Together to Provide the Public Perspective on SRS Activities



The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board is a public volunteer board and its mission is to study the issues and provide informed, and timely recommendations, from the public's perspective, to the Department of Energy concerning Environmental Management work at SRS in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

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The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) extends a big “thank you” to everyone that helped make this newsletter possible. Thank you to all the CAB members who presented ideas and articles for the newsletter, to all the presenters and managers who make Full Board and Committee meetings great, to the Board’s agency liaisons, and to the Department of Energy for continued support. We, the members of the SRS CAB, serve a very important role for DOE and our communities.

The *Board Beat* is published semiannually by the SRS CAB, with publications coming out in November and May. It is distributed primarily by email. Content is provided by Board members and the support team. To subscribe to the *Board Beat*, submit your request, with name and email address, to srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

If you’re interested in learning more about what we do, or think you would like to apply for membership, please check out our website at: <http://cab.srs.gov>

Contact us at 803-952-7884 (800-952-7884), or via email at srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov



Message from the Chair– Dr. Donald N. Bridges, CAB



Manuel Bettencourt passes the gavel to new CAB Chair, Donald Bridges.

I extend a hearty welcome to each of you for 2011 and as you read this we will be approaching mid-year. The new year finds us with eight new members and 17 returning members. I want every one of you to know that I appreciate the time and effort you put into being a CAB member. It requires time away from family and fun time, and quite often meetings occur at inconvenient times, impacting both work and personal schedules.

However, it is a high calling and an exceptional opportunity to be a vital part of a very important activity. The cleanup activities at SRS began in the early 1990s and will likely extend into the 2030s timeframe. The cost of cleanup could be as high as \$60 to \$80 Billion and the nature of the cleanup is as complex and difficult as any such activity in the entire world. Both new “state of the art” technology and conventional measures will be utilized in many ways. As a Citizens Advisory Board member you are empowered by the Department of Energy to represent the public and serve as a conduit for communications between the public and the US government on matters relating to SRS cleanup. Your role will include assessing cleanup priorities, progress, and general direction, and in turn making your views known. We all have a proud tradition to live up to. In our 17-year history, dating back to 1994, the CAB has generated more than 275 recommendations that have contributed significantly to improved relations with the public and to the general Site cleanup effort.

As a new Chairperson for 2011, I would like to emphasize two areas of particular importance. The first emphasis I would encourage you to focus on is increased input to DOE in the way of recommendations. The overall history of input to the DOE has been very good but in the recent past the input seems to have dropped off a little. We have a lot of energetic, knowledgeable, and concerned members so it’s clear to me that the talent and interest is in place to continue to provide bountiful, thoughtful input to DOE. The second emphasis I would like to focus on is increased public involvement. For the most part there is very limited input from the public at our meetings. We have a small cadre of interested people who faithfully attend and provide input, but it would be great to expand that body of interest and input. It would be great to expand the public involvement at our meetings and to publicize and make known our CAB activities to a much wider public audience. I encourage you to work on these two items and really show the DOE what a great idea the CAB is for input on the SRS cleanup program.

Now for one parting comment- It appears that 2011 may be the start of a period of austerity for all of DOE including the CAB. At this point no one knows just how much or how dramatically any of us will be impacted. As we conduct our activities for this year be mindful of ways that we can save money both at the CAB level and at the SRS overall level. It’s always a good idea to provide more “bang for the buck” regardless of the funding level. Working to economize and save money will help all of us and make a good program even better.

With that I say once again, “Thank you for your time and effort”, and have a great year!!

Donald N. Bridges, CAB Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. N. Bridges".

Judy Greene-McLeod is Elected Vice Chair of the Board for 2011



**Judy Greene-McLeod
CAB Vice Chair**

Judy currently serves on the research staff of the University of Georgia’s Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) at SRS. During her tenure at SREL, she has served as the herpetology group research manager and authored numerous studies, peer-reviewed research articles, and two books. She is a member of Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Judy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and currently resides in Beech Island, South Carolina. She has been a member of the Board for five years and has been very active on several committees, including the Nuclear Materials Committee and Waste Management Committee.

CAB Notes:

Your Quick Guide to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board 2011 Edition

Q: What is an EM SSAB?

A: Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Boards (EMSSAB) were developed to involve stakeholders more directly in Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) clean-up decisions.

The EM SSAB has a unique mandate to provide input regarding the cleanup of nuclear legacy sites in the United States. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the EM SSAB today comprises eight local boards. The Office of Environmental Management has made public participation a fundamental component of its cleanup mission and has found that the EM SSAB has contributed greatly to bringing community values and priorities to the cleanup decision-making processes. Public participation that involves ongoing community engagement has inherent challenges; the EM SSAB has additional challenges that reflect the political and technical nature of the Agency's work.

Q: What is the purpose of the CAB?

A: The Savannah River Site (SRS) - Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is a component of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EMSSAB), a stakeholder board that provides the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management and designees with advice, information, and recommendations on issues affecting the EM program at various sites. Among those issues are clean-up standards and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship; risk assessment and management; and clean-up science and technology activities. The CAB serves as an outlet for public involvement and helps keep communities informed about the cleanup activities that take place at SRS.

Q: In what areas do CAB members reside?

A: CAB members reside from several cities and counties within Georgia and South Carolina. Current members hail from areas in South Carolina such as Hopkins, Barnwell, Beaufort, North Augusta, Lexington, Blackville, Beech Island, Aiken, Windsor, Williston, Bluffton, Gilbert, and Irmo. There are also members who reside in Georgia cities such as Savannah, Waynesboro, Pooler, and Augusta. These areas could all be affected by the clean-up activities at the Savannah River Site.

Q: How does the Board decide what is discussed at meetings?

A: Once a year, the entire Board creates an annual Work Plan with the help of DOE officials. The Work Plan is broken down by the Board's issues-based committees. This document is what the CAB follows when it is creating topic schedules for committee and Full Board meetings. Topics can be added if an emerging issue calls for it. You can find a copy of the 2011 Work Plan at:

www.cab.srs.gov

Q: How can I get involved?

A: There are several ways to become involved. DOE conducts a membership campaign between May and June every year in order to solicit new applications. In addition to membership information, the CAB's website also lists meeting schedules and links to online meetings.

To fill out a membership application, go to the CAB's website at:

<http://cab.srs.gov>

Q: What kind of committees make up the CAB?

A: The SRS CAB is made up of four issues-based committees, including the Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee, the Nuclear Materials Committee, the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee, and the Waste Management Committee. The SRS CAB also has an Administrative Committee.

All members must sign-up to participate in at least one issues-based committee every year during their service on the Board. Each committee meets for committee meetings approximately five times per year, and during every bi-monthly Full Board meeting.



The CAB Welcomes New & Returning Members for the 2011-2013 Term!

Every year DOE holds a membership campaign to recruit new community volunteers to serve on the Board. We were pleased to introduce eight new members at the March 2011 Full Board meeting! These new members hail from areas in Georgia and South Carolina, and represent a diverse public. In addition to these new members, the CAB is happy to welcome back eight returning members. Thank you all for volunteering your services to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board!



Welcome new Board members!



Thomas Barnes
Hopkins, SC



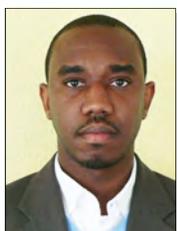
Paul Boynton
Augusta, GA



Louie Chavis
Lexington, SC



Mary Davis
Blackville, SC



Travis Johnson
Aiken, SC



Clinton Nangle
Aiken, SC



Harold Simon
Augusta, GA



George Snyder
Aiken, SC

Congrats on your reappointment!



Emile Bernard
Beaufort, SC



Rose Hayes
Aiken, SC



Stanley Howard
Windsor, SC



Cleveland Latimore
Pooler, GA



Marolyn Parson
Bluffton, SC



John Snedeker
Savannah, GA



Gerald Wadley
Beaufort, SC

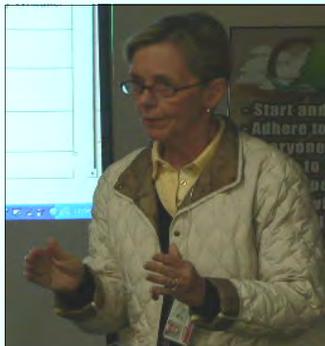


Sarah Watson
Irmo, SC

New CAB Member Orientation Held In March



The CAB welcomes eight new members to the Board for the 2011-2013 term.



Kathe Golden, CAB Administrative Committee Chair, gave the new members insight on what it's like to serve on the Board.



Tina Difranco, OPSEC, gave an insightful presentation on Site security practices.

On March 8, 2011, DOE conducted an orientation for eight new incoming CAB members. During the orientation, there were presentations on SRS, Operations Security (OPSEC), and how the CAB operates. Afterwards, the new members attended a tour of the Savannah River Site. The eight new members hail from affected areas such as Aiken, Augusta, Hopkins, Blackville, Lexington, and Wagener.

The March 28-29 Full Board, held in Augusta, GA, was the first meeting for these eight newcomers. Each new member has been assigned a mentor to help facilitate their transition onto the Board.

Would you like to be a Member of the CAB?

Do you live in an area that is affected by the cleanup activities at SRS? Would you be interested in learning about SRS and working as a team to help inform local communities? If the answer is "yes", you would be perfect for the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. We are currently recruiting new members to the Board for the 2013-2015 term. Please fill out an application at <http://cab.srs.gov>, email us at srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov, or give us a call at 803-952-7884 (800-249-8155.)



CAB Members Present Papers at the Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, Arizona

The annual Waste Management Symposia was held in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 27 through March 3, 2011. It is considered the premier international conference for the management of radioactive material and related topics. This year, two CAB members, Dr. Donald Bridges, CAB Chair, and Dr. Rose Hayes, Chair of the Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee, attended this event, and have shared their experiences below.



Dr. Rose Hayes

Dr. Hayes presented a paper at the Waste Management conference titled, "Public Opinion: Its Impact on U.S. Energy Policy and Planning." In her paper, she used her experience as a social scientist to research what "effect recent public opinion, and the definition of nuclear energy and waste management as serious social problems, has had on policy and planning." She said her paper was "well-received," noting there were quite a few people in attendance and she was able to field some interesting questions from attendees. She said there were a variety of topics being presented at the conference.

"There were a few that really got my attention," she said. "Overall, I was struck by the real problems concerning nuclear waste present with all the countries attending."

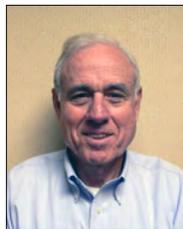
Dr. Hayes said every day there were numerous sessions to choose from. She made many contacts at the conference that may be helpful in her work on the CAB as Nuclear Materials Committee Chair.

Overall, she described her experience at the conference as worthwhile, and said it would help her when discussing Board issues in the future.

"I found it absolutely informative," she said.

She stated she just couldn't believe the amount of information she heard about nuclear waste management.

Written from content provided by Rose Hayes



Dr. Donald Bridges

The Waste Management conference had more than 2,000 in attendance with more than 500 papers presented at 101 technical sessions and panels. It is the largest nuclear waste management gathering in the entire industry and it always has a large international contingent. The scope was so large that we even suggested that it be named to reflect a broader scope of nuclear technology and waste management. The conference was widely attended from the SRS community including many SR attendees, SRS contractors, and many other SRS regulatory people such as the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

Topics ranged from very technical topics such as geological disposal of radioactive waste and nuclear power plant waste management, to less technical topics such as public involvement and the citizen's voice. This conference was particularly interesting since SRS was the featured U.S. Site and an entire afternoon was devoted to a panel session on "DOE-Savannah River Site Accomplishments and Challenges." My presentation was based on the perspective of the CAB and indicated what the SRS public wanted to see in the cleanup effort and the long-term Site development.

On the following day both Rose Hayes and I gave presentations at a session titled, "The Citizen Voice- Impacting the Nuclear Renaissance Through Public Involvement." The discussion by Rose Hayes was titled "Public Opinion: Its Impact on U.S. Energy Policy and Planning." My presentation was titled, "SRS Citizens Advisory Board- Elements that Have Contributed to Our Success" and provided some insight into how the SRS CAB has been particularly successful.

Overall, the conference was a wonderful learning experience. When we weren't giving presentations, we attended technical sessions and were receiving updates on many other aspects of cleanup technology. This conference is clearly the place to get an update on latest technology and activities.

Written by Donald Bridges

The CAB Develops its 2011 Work Plan



Jenny Freeman, CAB Facilitator, lists CAB-identified Work Plan topics.

At the January 2011 Full Board Meeting in Hilton Head, SC, Doug Hintze, DOE-SR, presented the CAB with a list of planned and ongoing activities at SRS that assisted the CAB in selecting issues and topics for the 2011 CAB Work Plan.

The 2011 Work Plan consists of topics the CAB has chosen to address and learn more about in 2011, and helps the Board stay focused during the year as it works to provide informed, and timely, recommendations to the Department of Energy (DOE).

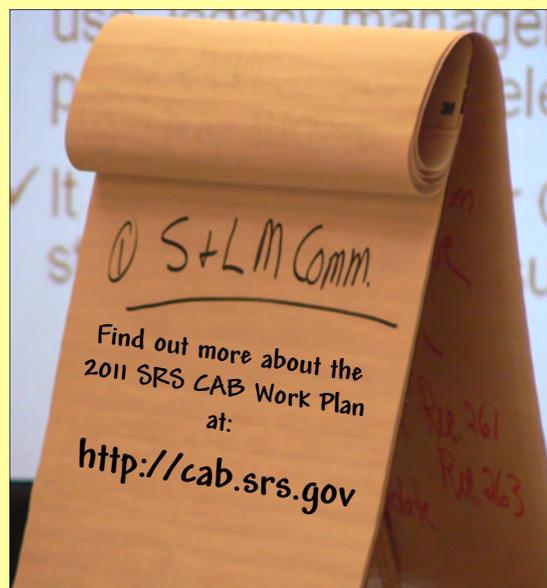
The topics presented by Mr. Hintze are DOE's request for the CAB to provide public advice during the current calendar year. The CAB will work to keep the number and intensity of topics selected at a manageable level with a goal of completing all topics in the Work Plan. The

CAB Chair, Don Bridges, has challenged the CAB members to set a goal of providing more recommendations in 2011.

Occasionally, emerging issues and topics may surface after the Work Plan has been approved. For example, on March 3, which was after the February 28 DOE approval date, Mr. Hintze approved a request to add Greater-than-Class C (GTCC) Waste as a topic to the 2011 Work Plan. After receiving information about GTCC Waste, the CAB requested it as an addition to the Work Plan.

The 2011 Work Plan topics included, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ HWCTR (Heavy Water Component Test Reactor)
- ◆ R-Area Completion Update
- ◆ P-Area Completion Update
- ◆ Plutonium Storage and Surveillance Program
- ◆ H-Canyon Complex (Includes HB-Line Processing Activities/Capabilities/Schedules)
- ◆ Storage and Receipt of Used Nuclear Fuel
- ◆ Performance Measures
- ◆ Environmental Monitoring
- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Salt Waste Processing
- ◆ Upgrades-Melter Bubbler Performance
- ◆ Tank Annulus Cleaning



The 2011 CAB Work Plan is available online for print or download.

SRS Site Manager Honors Retiring Members

At the January Full Board, held in Hilton, Head, SC, the Board said farewell to five members. Dr. Dave Moody, SRS Site Manager, attended the meeting to offer DOE's gratitude and appreciation for the departing members, and their service to the Board. Among those members leaving the Board were Joe Ortaldo, Aiken, SC; Art Domby, Atlanta, GA; Ranowul Jzar, Savannah, GA; Manuel Bettencourt, Hilton Head, SC; and Lee Harley-Fitts, Allendale, SC.



Dr. Dave Moody, SRS Manager, thanks retiring CAB members for their service and efforts on the Board. *Pictured from left: Art Domby, Manuel Bettencourt, Dr. Moody, Lee Harley-Fitts, Joe Ortaldo, and Gerri Flemming, Lead Federal Coordinator, assisting.*



Four Previous CAB Chairs Attended the January Full Board Meeting



Representing years of CAB leadership is past CAB Chairs Manuel Bettencourt, Donna Antonucci, Jean Sulc, and Karen Patterson. The January Full Board was Manuel's last meeting as a CAB member and Chair.

Manuel served as chair from 2009-2011.

Donna served as chair from 2008-2009.

Jean served as chair from 2004-2006.

Karen served as chair for two terms, including 2000-2002 and 2006-2008.

Check out the Remaining Full Board Meetings for 2011



CAB members listen to presentations and participate at the March Full Board Meeting in Augusta, GA.

July 25-26: Savannah Rapids Pavilion in Martinez, GA

September 26-27: Marriott Charleston in Charleston, SC

November 14-15: USC Aiken Convocation Center in Aiken, SC

Print out your own copy of the CAB's meeting schedules for both Full Board and Committee Meetings at:

<http://cab.srs.gov>

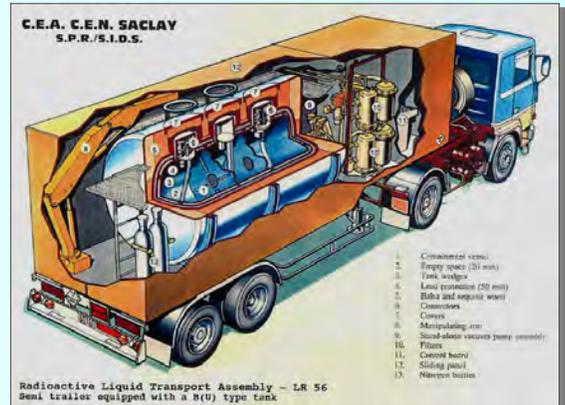
Savannah River Site Provides Support to Japan

Republished from DOE-SR press release

AIKEN, SC- Some retired equipment at DOE's Savannah River Site is being brought back in service but not in South Carolina, instead, in Japan.

As part of DOE response to assist the disaster relief effort in Japan, SRS is preparing a mobile monitoring transport and 5 storage tanks for shipment.

A high-tech, self-contained, trailer housing a 1,000 gallon tank, pumps and a monitoring system is prepared for shipment to Japan. Referred to as a "Radioactive Liquid Transport Assembly" (LR-56), the semi trailer is not radiologically contaminated. The LR-56 is a liquid storage and sampling system that can test contaminated liquids. It also has a small companion trailer containing a diesel generator and a fuel tank that allows it to operate in remote areas.



A diagram of the mobile monitoring transport.

In addition, SRS is preparing five large, metal storage tanks for use in Japan. Each tank is 36 feet long and nine feet in diameter. They hold approximately 16,000 gallons of liquid and were used for chemical storage at SRS. Four of the five tanks are made of stainless steel, while the fifth was constructed using carbon steel.

They were formerly used as cold chemical feed tanks for the now decommissioned F-Canyon chemical separations facility. Any residual acid or caustic chemicals have been thoroughly flushed from the tanks. The units are free from any form of radiological contamination. Wooden cribbing is now being constructed to be placed on "low-boy," flat bed trailers - cradling the tanks to prevent any movement.

The Department of Energy is currently holding discussions with senior U.S. Government officials to determine the best means of transportation to relocate this equipment from SRS to Japan. Meanwhile, the truck and tanks remain at SRS awaiting shipment to Japan.

SRS employees continue to work at an expedited pace to prepare the equipment for shipment. Sending these items to Japan will have no impact on the Site's safe operations.



Pictured are three of the five storage tanks Savannah River Site is providing to support the disaster relief in Japan.

Take a Look: Full Board Presentations in 2011

In case you missed a Full Board meeting this year, below is an overview of presentations given at the January and March Full Board meetings during 2011.

Topics Presented at CAB Full Board Meetings in 2011:

- ◆ Update on Savannah River Recovery Act Program
- ◆ NRC Role at Saltstone
- ◆ Nuclear Workforce Initiative
- ◆ SRS Performance Measures Update-Nuclear Materials
- ◆ Biomass Cogeneration Facility
- ◆ 2010 Work Plan Review
- ◆ H-Canyon and HB-Line Future Options
- ◆ Area Completion Projects
- ◆ Budget Update & Integrated Priority List
- ◆ Site Safety Overview



Doug Hintze, DOE-SR, presents 2011 Work Plan topics to the CAB at the January Full Board meeting.



Site Manager, Dr. Dave Moody, spoke to the Board at the March Full Board meeting.



Mindy Mets, SRSCRO, gave a presentation on the Nuclear Force Initiative during the January Full Board Meeting.

Check out upcoming meetings at the CAB's website: <http://cab.srs.gov>

2011 SRS CAB Committee Schedule

June 14th, 2011: Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation (FD&SR) Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

June 14th, 2011: Strategic & Legacy Management (S&LM) Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

June 28, 2011: Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

June 28, 2011: Waste Management (WM) Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

August 16, 2011: FD&SR Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

August 16, 2011: S&LM Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

August 30, 2011: NM Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

August 30, 2011: WM Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

October 11, 2011: FD&SR Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

October 11, 2011: S&LM Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

October 25, 2011: NM Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

October 25, 2011: WM Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

December 6, 2011: FD&SR Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

December 6, 2011: S&LM Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

December 13, 2011: NM Committee 6:00-7:30 p.m.

December 13, 2011: WM Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Please note that all committee meetings will have scheduled work time from 5:30-6:00 p.m., prior to the meeting.

Can't make it to a committee meeting? Consider viewing the meeting from your own home! For more details, visit the CAB's website at <http://cab.srs.gov>, or contact the Support Team at 803-952-7884 (800-249-8155).

All committee meetings are held at :
The DOE Meeting Center
(at the rear of the Village Center)
230 Village Green Blvd., Suite 220
Aiken, SC 29803



The Department of Energy (DOE)-Gerri Flemming

In early 1992, during the public comment period for the SRS Federal Facilities Agreement and the SRS Public Involvement Plan, DOE, along with state and federal regulators began working towards the development of a citizens review committee.



**Gerri Flemming,
DOE-SR**

“A public comment from citizens wanting to have input in SRS cleanup plans helped form the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, which was announced in late 1993, and chartered under the DOE Environmental Management Office in May 1994,” said Ms. Gerri Flemming, Lead Federal Coordinator for the CAB. “The CAB proved to be an effective cornerstone for public involvement and a conduit for gauging public views regarding SRS cleanup.”

The SRS CAB has provided 276 recommendations to the DOE Assistant Secretary for EM over the past 17 years. Site employees, especially top level managers and subject-matter experts that speak to the CAB, all recognize the time commitment and depth of involvement the CAB members exhibit in their efforts to review site activities. While it is not the only means of outreach on site, it is viewed as one of the most effective means of receiving independent public advice from communities all along the Savannah River near SRS, as well as downstream communities. Ms. Flemming said this advice is taken very seriously both at SRS and DOE-HQ, and every effort is put forth to ensure the CAB’s ability to interact with the site, communities, and the regulators can be done in a virtually seamless and timely manner. She reflected on the process, which she said also relies heavily on agency interactions.

“This great process began with the collaborative efforts of DOE and the regulators working with citizens, and we are very pleased with their willingness to continue to sit at the table,” Ms. Flemming said.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) - Shelly Wilson

SCDHEC has been involved with the CAB since its inception in 1994, and has always supported the Board with two agency Liaisons.

Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC, has been seated at the Full Board table, and interacting with the CAB, since 2004. In total, she said she has more than 20 years of experience working with SRS issues.

Ms. Wilson explained that working with the CAB helps SCDHEC gain insight on the public perspective. For instance, she said that during public comment periods at CAB meetings, community members can express their input on environmental issues.

“SCDHEC finds it extremely helpful to hear the impressions and conclusions from the full CAB and individual CAB members,” she said. “The CAB recommendations and meetings help to inform SCDHEC about the thought processes and perspectives of members of the public.”

She stated that the CAB is highly effective as “a public forum for explanation and information sharing,” and said that working with the CAB helps SCDHEC work more efficiently with local communities.

“The CAB is an excellent gathering for various community members interested in learning about SRS and expressing their viewpoints,” she said.



From left: Shelly Wilson and Kim Newell, SCDHEC.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Rob Pope

Rob Pope, EPA, has been working with the SRS CAB since 2003, and like members of SCDHEC and DOE, is seated at the table during Full Board meetings. He has a history with advisory boards such as the CAB, and previously worked on Department of Defense sites.

Mr. Pope said the EPA’s involvement with the CAB stems from the importance of community involvement.

“ In Superfund, community involvement is a facet of the program,” he said. “SRS tends to use the CAB as the main conduit for community involvement. It helps to hear what community members care about. At EPA, we consider it a basic responsibility of the Superfund program to listen to the community and get their input.”

This interaction with the local community is only one reason why the EPA considers interacting with the CAB to be beneficial. Mr. Pope explained that working with the CAB allows the EPA to share ideas with colleagues, develop contacts relevant to cleanup, and helps facilitate efforts between the EPA and other agencies.

“We get to hear what the community is looking for in terms of cleanup and other activities,” he explained.

With eight new members joining the Board in 2011, Mr. Pope advised newcomers to always feel free to ask questions.

“Even if I don’t know something, I’ll get back to them,” he said. “You can ask me about anything that is environmental. I may not know the answer, but I will look it up for them.”



Rob Pope, EPA



Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

The Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP) at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) became involved with the CAB shortly after the inception of Section 3116 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2005. However, since NRC monitoring began at the Saltstone facility in 2007, the NRC has taken a much more active approach to CAB involvement.

There are several arenas in which DWMEP is involved at SRS, including SRS disposal actions at the Saltstone Facility, the F-Tank Farm, and the H-Tank Farm. Due to its involvement at SRS, the NRC finds communication with the CAB to be helpful.

“The NRC finds interactions with the CAB, including attending and presenting during meetings, to be a very important tool for communicating with members of the public most affected by Federal decisions at SRS,” an NRC staff person said.

Several NRC representatives, including Nishka Devaser, Gregory Suber, and George Alexander have provided the CAB with interesting and informative presentations on functions, and projects in which the NRC is involved with at the site. Although the Commission’s involvement with the Site is self-described as “limited,” it does find that the Board serves a valuable purpose in communicating with the public.

“For the NRC’s purposes of requiring a forum available to the public, the agency finds the Board to be very effective,” an NRC staff person said.



George Alexander, NRC, presenting at the January Full Board.

WIPP Marks 12 Years of Operations

Republished from U.S. DOE Carlsbad Field Office press release

CARLSBAD, N.M., – On Saturday, March 26, 2011, the Department of Energy’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) marked another anniversary. It has now been 12 years since WIPP received its first shipment of transuranic (TRU) waste. TRU waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residues and other disposal items contaminated with radioactive elements – mostly plutonium.

“WIPP employees and members of the community cheered when the first shipment of TRU waste arrived here in 1999,” said Acting Carlsbad Field Office Manager Ed Ziemiński. “I applaud their continued dedication to our nation, which has placed its trust in WIPP to maintain those rigorous safety standards that made its opening possible.”

Since WIPP opened in 1999, more than 73,000 cubic meters of legacy TRU waste have been removed from temporary locations around the nation and shipped to WIPP for permanent underground disposal. To illustrate the significance of this cleanup effort, it would take more than 410 large-sized railway box cars to hold all of the waste now safely disposed at WIPP. DOE has completed legacy TRU waste cleanup from 17 sites around the country.

To date, WIPP drivers have traveled more than 11 million loaded miles and transported more than 9,300 shipments to WIPP. The communities along those shipping routes have benefitted through improvements to highways and high-level training provided to first responders. WIPP also serves as a model for other developing national and international waste cleanup efforts.

In its 12th year of operations, WIPP will continue to lead efforts to reduce the nation’s nuclear footprint. During the upcoming year, WIPP expects to receive its 10,000th shipment and to begin shipments of large boxed waste in the TRUPACT-III, a new shipping package scheduled for delivery this summer.

On the disposal side of the project, WIPP will complete waste emplacement in Panel 5 of its underground repository. The panels in WIPP’s underground each consist of seven waste disposal rooms that are 300 feet long, 33 feet wide and 13 feet high. Panel 6 is already prepared to receive waste.

“There were many people involved in the making of this 12th anniversary milestone, and we appreciate the contributions of everyone associated with WIPP’s success,” Ziemiński said. “It’s a collective tribute to all those involved, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New Mexico Environment Department, communities across the state, CBFO and DOE Headquarters employees, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, state, county and local emergency response personnel along the transportation routes, and contractors—especially Washington TRU Solutions LLC, the WIPP management and operating contractor.”

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a U.S. Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related TRU waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.



A photo of WIPP, located in Carlsbad, N.M.
Photo provided by wipp.energy.gov

SRS Recovery Act Program Reaches \$1 Billion Mark

Republished from DOE-SR press release

AIKEN, S.C. – In 22 short months, the Savannah River Site (SRS) has spent \$1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to accelerate environmental cleanup of the remaining Cold War legacy, while supporting jobs, training and small businesses in our region. This funding milestone has resulted in 122 square miles of actual footprint reduction at SRS, which means the site is more than 50 percent of the way to achieving its goal of reducing the total footprint by 75 percent or 233 square miles.

“Allocating and managing \$1 billion in Recovery Act spending has been a huge responsibility, and it’s one that SRS has treated with diligence and transparency for the good of the nation,” said Dr. David Moody, manager, U.S. DOE-Savannah River. “Advanced planning, regulatory and stakeholder support, talented contractors and a dedicated workforce are the keys to the success of this important and historic cleanup project.”

Program highlights so far include:

- The SRS legacy transuranic (TRU) waste program, managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), has processed more than 2,000 of its 5,000 cubic meters of legacy TRU waste. Twenty percent of the inventory has been shipped offsite to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M., and more than 50 percent of the original inventory has been repackaged and remediated. This program accounts for \$175 million of the \$1 billion in Recovery Act payments SRS has made thus far.
- P and R Reactor, which for more than a half a century have represented SRS’s vital role in the nation’s defense, are 80 percent of the way toward completing in-situ decommissioning with Recovery Act payments of \$52.7 million and \$45.5 million, respectively.
- Savannah River Remediation LLC (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at SRS, has spent more than \$123 million in Recovery Act funding to support 41 projects that are accelerating the cleaning and closing of the Site’s 49 remaining underground radioactive waste storage tanks. Significant infrastructure improvements have been made to waste processing facilities through the use of Recovery Act funding. Fifteen waste tanks are now in various phases of operational closure, the most ever in the history of SRS.
- SRR’s Recovery Act funding has also supported the use of technology to accelerate tank closure. Remotely operated, tracked robotic devices sample tank waste. Industry-proven, enhanced chemical cleaning infrastructure will cost-effectively speed up the tank cleaning process. Waste sampling techniques that enhance worker safety, while also increasing information data on waste content, have benefited from the commitment of Recovery Act resources.

“These key projects and the subcontracts we’ve awarded bring SRS closer to a 75-percent footprint reduction, an achievement that will free land for possible reuse benefiting the local area,” said Garry Flowers, SRNS president and chief executive officer. “While we have reached this \$1 billion milestone, we continue striving on the remaining projects that comprise the \$1.6 billion Recovery Act projects at SRS.”



SRS loaded 14 standard waste boxes containing mixed and low-level waste that previously was classified as transuranic TRU waste. This shipment to a Florida treatment site marks the 1,000 cubic meter milestone of the 5,000 cubic meters in the Site’s TRU program that will be dispositioned through the Recovery Act.

Use it or Store it?

By: John Snedeker, CAB Member



There are 104 nuclear reactors operating in the United States today. They produce about 20 percent of the nation's electricity and they all generate used nuclear fuel (UNF). In a reprocessing facility the used fuel is separated into its three components: uranium, plutonium and waste, which contains fission products. Reprocessing enables recycling of the uranium and plutonium into fresh fuel, and produces a significantly reduced amount of waste (compared with treating all used fuel as waste).

In 1970 President Jimmy Carter ordered a halt to reprocessing for fear that the small amounts of plutonium produced in reprocessing could be stolen by terrorists. Thus, the United States became the only country with nuclear power plants that does not reprocess UNF.

President Carter's edict led to the enactment of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA) which required each nuclear utility to enter into a standard contract with the DOE under which the government would build a geologic repository to accept UNF starting in 1998. Pending the completion of the geologic repository, nuclear utilities built temporary storage facilities on their sites.

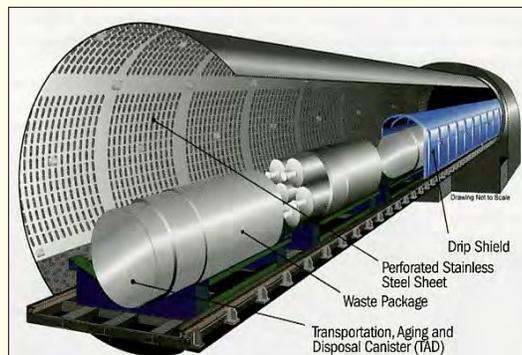
In 2002, after almost 20 years of study, Yucca Mountain was selected as the nation's primary long-term disposal site for both used nuclear fuel from electric power plants and solidified high-level waste from weapons programs. It was approved by President George W. Bush. In 2009, President Obama eliminated further funding for Yucca Mountain "while the Administration devises a new strategy toward nuclear waste disposal." However, a number of authorities have stated that the NWPA is the law and cannot be changed or repealed by presidential fiat.

At the same time that he closed Yucca Mountain, President Obama appointed the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, co-chaired by Lee Hamilton and Brent Scowcroft. It is anticipated that the Commission will recommend reprocessing commercial UNF as France, Great Britain and a number of other countries have been doing for many years.

The United States has the basic infrastructure at the Savannah River Site (SRS) to reprocess UNF. H-Canyon was constructed in the early 1950s.

In early January 2011, DOE announced that H-Canyon was scheduled to start reprocessing UNF in May 2011. A month later, DOE ordered H-Canyon to be put in a minimum safe condition with minimum staffing levels by December 31, 2011; in other words, shut it down. DOE cited three factors that prompted this sudden reversal of plans:

- (1) failure of Congress to pass a budget for FY 2011 which has required the government to be funded by a Continuing Resolution (CR) that does not provide funding for "new starts". (We believe this is a bit of a stretch because work on H-Canyon had been on-going for several years);
- (2) uncertainties regarding the FY 2012 budget, and
- (3) lack of visibility about recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission that will not be forthcoming until later in calendar year 2011.



The Yucca Mountain project in the Nevada desert consists of a series of lateral tunnels off the main vertical shaft, as depicted in the above diagram. This diagram is from the May/June issue of *Electric Light and Power Magazine*.

Recommendation 275

Research and Development for Reprocessing of Used Nuclear Fuel

1. Assess the nuclear materials and Used Nuclear Fuel at SRS and determine if there are some materials on-site that could be processed that would serve the dual role of permanently stabilizing the nuclear materials and at the same time providing research and development information that would be useful to the nuclear community if reprocessing of nuclear fuel became viable.
2. Assess the capabilities of H Canyon and determine what aspects of this operational capability would be likely to contribute to research and development for reprocessing.
3. Present this concept to DOE-HQ for consideration.

DoE Response:

The DOE response to Recommendation 275 was still pending as of May 1, 2011. The response will be published online at: <http://cab.srs.gov>

Recommendation 276

Concern for the Effective Utilization of H Canyon

1. In view of the FY 2011/ 2012 Budget constraints keep H-Canyon fully staffed and operational so as to maintain a capability to process any potential nuclear materials in need of stabilization and/or disposition.
2. Present the Citizens Advisory Board with the costs and impacts of running H-Canyon in a fully operational manner as compared to keeping the H- Canyon in a state of readiness (warm standby).
3. Identify the issues to be encountered if H-Canyon is placed in warm standby (or shutdown) and then is later needed for processing existing known inventories or additional nuclear materials (which could be identified well into the future).
4. Assess the entire SRS inventory of materials being evaluated for disposition options for plutonium, used nuclear fuel, and highly enriched uranium and identify those materials that would fit into the H-Canyon processing window and could be constructively and cost-effectively prepared for disposition in H-Canyon (as compared to keeping H canyon in warm standby alone).
5. Develop a rationale for being able to process a portion of the above materials in advance of the other decisions now being contemplated such as: 1) the need for processing at any early date due to potential safety issues, 2) the processing can be cost-effectively done now with minimal environmental and programmatic differences from any of the other disposition options.
6. Explain how the Department of Energy FY 2012 Congressional Budget Request supports Public Law 106-398 which states "The Secretary of Energy shall continue operations and maintain a high state of readiness at the H-Canyon facilities and shall provide technical staff necessary to operate and so maintain such facility".

Continued on next page...

Recommendation # 276: Concern for the Effective Utilization of H Canyon

(Continued from page 17)

7. Describe the approval process required to send significant amounts of plutonium to WIPP and the degree of confidence DOE has that such a plan would be fully implemented.
8. Describe the manner in which Used Nuclear Fuel (formerly Spent Nuclear Fuel) would be adequately stabilized and dispositioned in the event that some of the UNF became problematic.
9. Provide a forum in which stakeholders can provide input regarding the proposed transition of H-Canyon from an operational facility to a flushed/deinventoried facility. This decision impacts numerous stakeholders and their input should be considered by DOE in a forum that permits a clear understanding of the issue and impacts.
10. In view of CAB's concern with placing H-Canyon in warm standby, the CAB recommends that no additional domestic or foreign Used Nuclear Fuel be received at SRS until the processing path is resolved.

DOE Response:

The DOE response to Recommendation 276 was still pending as of May 12, 2011. The response will be published online at: <http://cab.srs.gov>

Recommendation # 274: Liquid Waste Programmatic Risk Reduction-Spare Equipment and Spare Parts

- 1) Describe how projected life expectations are determined and then utilized in the development of a list of spare equipment and spare parts.
- 2) Describe how the spare equipment and/or spare parts program is or is not consistent with shorter life history scenarios.
- 3) Identify areas of significant risk reduction and explain how these risk reductions relate to the spare equipment and spare parts budget.
- 4) For existing operations, identify areas where equipment life histories are being "pushed" because of operating rates or more extreme operating conditions. (For example: Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) melter and off-gas system, Saltstone production equipment and sludge batch preparation equipment.)
- 5) For Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), provide the strategy that will be used to determine equipment life and spare parts inventory.

DOE Response:

DOE would be delighted to respond to the CAB by providing a comprehensive briefing on the Liquid Waste/spare parts strategy and how the process is implemented.

Doug Bumgardner, SRR, and Graham Sillito, Parsons, presented this briefing on April 26, 2011, during a Waste Management Committee Meeting. The presentation can be found at the CAB's website under "presentations" at : <http://cab.srs.gov>

Biomass Cogeneration Facility to Make a Big Impact at SRS

Written from a Full Board presentation given by Jim Demass, DOE-SR

For nearly 60 years, Savannah River Site has been relying on a coal fueled power plant in D-Area for its electrical and steam needs. However, that plant is rapidly deteriorating and the renovation costs to make it conform to new laws are staggering. This December, the brand new biomass cogeneration facility goes online and will revolutionize the way SRS powers the site.

Biomass cogeneration plants burn the wood waste from logging, manufacturing, and construction to generate both electricity and steam. These types of facilities have emissions that are much cleaner than coal fired plants and rely on a fuel source that is renewable and sustainable.

The biomass cogeneration plant at SRS will be the largest federal owned facility of its kind. Built and operated by Ameresco, the facility boasts two boilers that will generate 120,000 pounds per hour of steam and run a 20 megawatt turbine. Additionally, two smaller heating plants in K and L areas are being built; each one will produce 10,500 pounds per hour of steam. All of that steam is used at SRS to reduce the volume of and transport waste, control nuclear ventilation systems, operate turbines, and a few other functions.

At the January Full Board meeting, Jim Demass noted that these three plants will burn a combined 322,000 tons of fuel per year; while the majority of that is wood waste, up to 30 percent of the fuel burned may be other bio-derived fuels, such as shredded tires. Because Ameresco will not get paid unless they produce the required amount of steam the boilers are being outfitted with full sized fuel oil burners as backups. According to Mr. Demass, “if we do run into problems with our feed system for the biomass we can instantly switch over to fuel oil” with no lost time in steam production.

Switching from coal to biomass has many benefits to SRS and to the environment. It is anticipated that once the facilities go online, SRS will see a savings of \$34 million per year. Particulate matter emissions will be reduced by more than 400 tons per year; additionally, nitrous oxide emissions will be reduced by more than 2,500 tons per year and sulfur dioxide by 3,500 tons per year. Another 100,000 tons of green house gas emissions will also be reduced. Of great benefit to those living downstream of SRS is the effects the biomass plant will have on the Savannah River; the plant will require 1.4 billion gallons per year less than the previous coal plant used.



An aerial view of the Biomass Cogeneration Facility at SRS.

Ways to Make an Impact on Your Community and the Environment

By: Tabitha Barrett, CAB Member



Tabitha Barrett, CAB

One of the biggest issues we face today is preserving our natural resources. The Obama Administration has made efforts with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to invest more than \$80 billion in:

- Generation of renewable energy sources
- Expanding manufacturing capacity for clean energy technology
- Advancing vehicle and fuel technologies
- Building a bigger, better smarter electric grid

Saving the environment should be a project where everyone gets involved to save our endangered species, restore the rainforest, clean up our irrigation systems, reduce carbon emissions and become responsible citizens.

Here are a few ways to get involved in your community:

- Know your Representatives. They are your voice to represent your views and opinions of what happens in your community.
- Contribute an article to your local paper. This will capture the attention of stakeholders (those who seek an interest for political or social gain, as well as interested parties).
- Contact your local Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to ascertain their involvement and projects related to environmental issues.
- Visit the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) site at www.em.doe.gov to learn about their role in the recovery and clean-up efforts.
- Organize a small environmental group which could consist of people you know. This could make a difference, even if just shared by word-of-mouth, and will determine who obtains this valuable information that can be shared with others. If the right person knows about your goals, this raises awareness. Awareness is a valuable resource to raise the consciousness of others.

Besides organizing and being a responsible member in your community, there are a few things you can do at home to become an environmentally-conscious individual, such as:

- Buy fluorescent light bulbs.
- Use recyclable shopping bags instead of plastic.
- Utilize a reusable water container instead of buying bottled water.
- Walk or take the bus to reduce the use carbon monoxide from vehicles.
- Self discipline— take control of your actions! If you are not going to be a solution, don't be a problem.

I hope this article will inspire you to take steps towards preserving our aquatic and terrestrial environment. As a member of the SRS Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), I take much pride in our daily efforts to accomplishing our mission. In part, I hope this editorial will encourage you to actively take part in our mission as we attempt to recommend clean-up standards and environmental restoration, ways on handling materials on and off site, historic preservations and future plans for uses of the Savannah River Site to DOE.



SRS History & Activities Described for Low Country Civic Group

By: Dr. Jerry Wadley, CAB Member



Jerry Wadley, CAB

At 7:30 a.m., on February 17, 2011, Capt. George Dewhurst, USN (Ret), who serves as Activities Chairman, introduced Helen Belencan, DOE-SR, to 30 members of the Beaufort, SC Kiwanis Club.

The presentation was coordinated by Jerry Wadley, a member of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, who resides in Beaufort. The Kiwanis Club, via Capt. Dewhurst, had contacted Dr. Wadley in late 2010, and asked if a presentation describing the history and activities of the SRS could be arranged. Dr. Wadley approached the SRS CAB Support Team with the request, a date was agreed upon, and Ms. Belencan volunteered to speak at the meeting.

Ms. Belencan joined DOE-SR in 2003 and currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Manager for Infrastructure and Environmental Stewardship with the United States Department of Energy - Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR). She started the presentation with a geographic overview of the site, and detailed its development by the US Government, including relocation of the town of Ellenton through Site operation during the Cold War. She summarized the processes involved and the liquid and solid waste produced during SRS operation. An overview of the current state of the site was then presented including the amount of radioactive waste material being processed for storage and disposal.

Although a few of the Kiwanis Club members were knowledgeable about SRS and its current activities, most were not, and Ms. Belencan fielded a number of interesting questions following her talk. After her formal presentation, she was approached by a number of the attendees who expressed their gratitude and thanked her for her time and effort.

Since the Kiwanis meeting, two other civic groups from Beaufort have contacted Dr. Wadley with a request for a presentation on the history and current activities at SRS. Meeting schedules of these organizations are being evaluated in hopes of combining presentations in the area so as to minimize DOE travel costs. Presentations such as this are an excellent way to educate stakeholders and involve communities in the activities at SRS.

Want to Hear about SRS & the CAB at Your Next Meeting or Event?

How about inviting a member of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) to speak at your next event? The CAB members have formed a Speakers Bureau to talk about SRS and their involvement as CAB members.



The CAB is comprised of 25 public volunteers from the Georgia and South Carolina areas. They joined the Board to learn about SRS and its cleanup activities, including how it affects the surrounding areas. Part of the Board's mission is to educate communities surrounding SRS. This is why a CAB member would make a perfect addition to your meeting, event, or function.

To schedule a CAB member to speak at your event, please email the CAB Support Team at srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov, or give them a call at 803-952-7884 (800-249-8155).

Check out the CAB's website at : <http://cab.srs.gov>

Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

Key criteria for Board membership includes a time commitment and the willingness to study the issues and work toward clear, implementable recommendations.

To apply for membership to the Citizens Advisory Board, please call 1.800.249.8155, or visit the CAB website and complete an application at:

<http://cab.srs.gov>

Please call, mail, fax, or email your comments and suggestions to:

Gerri Flemming
Lead Federal Coordinator
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
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Building 730-B, Room 1184
Aiken, SC 29802
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You know to visit the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) website for updates, meeting schedules, presentations, recommendations, Board information, and more. Now, you can access the same great information, but with our shorter web address!

The new, shorter CAB website address is :

cab.srs.gov