

# The Board Beat

Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board  
Fall 2012, Newsletter



Several CAB members watch a demonstration during a recent tour of Savannah River National Laboratory functions in the Hydrogen Center in Jackson, SC. Photo by SRNS

**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 U.S. 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. To all the CAB members who submitted ideas and articles for the newsletter, to all the presenters and managers who make Full Board and Committee meetings meaningful, to the Board's agency liaisons, and to the Department of Energy (DOE) for continued support, as we, the members of the SRS CAB, serve this very important role for DOE and our communities.

The *Board Beat* is published semiannually by the SRS CAB, with publications in October/November and May. It is distributed primarily by email. Content is provided by Board members and the CAB Support Team. To subscribe to the *Board Beat*, submit a request, with your name and email address, to [srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

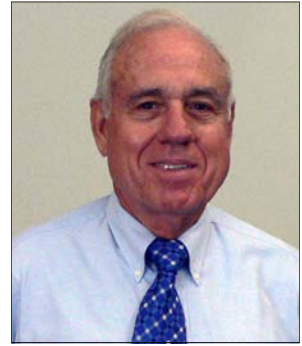
If you're interested in learning more about what we do, or think you would like to apply for membership, please check out our website at: <http://cab.srs.gov> or "like" us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB](https://www.facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB)

Contact us at 803-952-7884 (800-249-8155) or via email at [srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

## Message from the Chair-Dr. Donald N. Bridges

As we near the end of this year, I want to commend the members of the Citizens Advisory Board for being such a committed, involved group. We started the year with eight new members after having added another group of eight members just the year before. With that relative degree of inexperience we have done remarkably well. We have adopted 13 new recommendations so far this year with still additional recommendations "in the hopper" for consideration in the near future.

Where is all this leading? Certainly we are focused on an efficient, timely clean-up of the Site. A summary of many of our major actions this year includes the following:



Dr. Donald N. Bridges  
CAB Chair

- Encouraged and supported more expeditious actions for waste tank closures.
- Pressed DOE for decisions on disposition of Spent Nuclear Fuel and encouraged processing of Spent Nuclear Fuel in H-canyon.
- Recommended a study to assess feasibility of disposing of SRS waste canisters in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.
- Asked for actions to indicate some distinct movement on removing SRS canisters from SRS, including a shipping facility and shipping containers for the SRS canisters.
- Supported the Site's strategic initiatives and the Asset Revitalization Initiative, including more CAB involvement.
- Recommended a study to document the Site's outstanding record on safety, low radiation exposure to workers and off site communities, and minimal environmental impact which would allow future generations to benefit from real experience from Site operations.
- Encouraged continued support for adequately funding essential regulatory oversight of the Site's ongoing programs.
- Supported funding and emphasis on timely processing of the Site's Liquid High Level Waste, particularly the Salt Waste Processing Facility.
- Encouraged the Site to place more emphasis on the cleanup of the former plutonium processing facility, Building 235-F.
- Asked the Site to compile an active list of environmental and cleanup related documents to assist the CAB and the public in understanding the scope, nature, and schedule of various ongoing reviews.

I think this represents a pretty thoughtful listing of activities that DOE-Environmental Management could most effectively focus on in the near term.

As we close out this year, I also want to mention that after this year we will be losing two very strong, reliable, and contributing members from the CAB- Stan Howard and Sarah Watson. Stan has had leadership positions in the Nuclear Materials and Waste Management Committees and has been a mainstay in many of their actions for the past 6 years. Sarah Watson has been a member of the Administrative and Outreach Committee for many years, and has served as chairperson of that committee in earlier years. Both of these members are "salt of the earth" workers who will be dearly missed. We thank both of you for your dedicated service

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DN Bridges", with a stylized flourish at the end.



Interested in  
Joining the SRS CAB?

## The SRS CAB is always looking for new members to join the Board!

Do you live in an area affected by cleanup activities at SRS? Would you be interested in learning about SRS and working as a team to talk to DOE and 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 CAB for the 2013-2015 term.

Please fill out an application at

<http://cab.srs.gov>

You can email us at:

[srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

Or you can give us a call at :

**803-952-7884 or (800-249-8155)**



As a CAB member, one of these seats could be yours at CAB Full Board Meetings. Join us and have a seat!



"Like" the CAB  
on Facebook!

[facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB](https://facebook.com/SavannahRiverSiteCAB)



*SRS CAB Member, George Snyder, Nets Two Applicants during the CAB's Annual Membership Drive*



The SRS CAB members were challenged to help seek new applicants during the 2012 membership campaign. CAB member George Snyder rose to the challenge. George has been a CAB member for two years, and after discussing the CAB with friends and acquaintances, he encouraged two new applicants to apply to the CAB. Please join us in thanking George for his successful outreach efforts! The Department of Energy, and the SRS CAB Support Team, appreciates his willingness to reach out to his community to encourage other citizens to consider serving on the CAB.

Thank you, George!

The challenge is on for other CAB members !



## The SRS CAB is "Going Green!"

Please help the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) "Go Green" by sending us your email address to add to our CAB database. By receiving email notifications, rather than paper notifications, you will be reducing the CAB's environmental footprint, and helping to save a tree!

Just send us your name, email address and the mailing address currently in our database to:

[srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

Not currently on the CAB's distribution? Send us your email address and we will add you to our list of community citizens that receive routine updates on the CAB to include newsletters, CAB Recommendations, DOE Responses, and more.





## The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board says "Farewell" to Six Members



Stan Howard  
Windsor, SC

Stan Howard joined the CAB in 2007, where he jumped right in to serve on the Waste Management and Nuclear Materials Committees. Throughout his tenure on the Board, Mr. Howard has shown a great interest in nuclear materials and waste management, and has served as Vice Chair for both committees. He has maintained a stellar attendance record, for committee and Full Board meetings, and has participated in outreach events. He is retiring from the CAB due to having served the six-year term limit.



Sarah Watson  
Irwin, SC

Sarah Watson joined the CAB in 2007. From 2008 to 2010, Mrs. Watson served on the Waste Management Committee and was the Chair of the Administrative and Outreach Committee. In 2011, she served on the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee and was the Co-Vice Chair of the Administrative and Outreach Committee. Most recently, Mrs. Watson served on both the Administrative and Outreach Committee and Strategic and Legacy Management Committee. Ms. Watson has been a true champion of social media, and has assisted with several outreach projects. She is retiring from the CAB due to having served the six-year term limit.



Gerald Wadley  
Beaufort, SC

Gerald Wadley joined the CAB in 2009. During his first year on the Board, Mr. Wadley worked with the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee and subsequently was elected as the Chair of that committee. Mr. Wadley was also on the Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee in 2010 and was elected as the committee's Vice Chair in 2011. Most recently, Mr. Wadley was elected Vice Chair of the CAB, but retired from the Board in 2012 for personal reasons.



Mary Davis  
Blackville, SC

Mary Davis joined the Board in 2011, and has served on the Administrative and Outreach Committee and the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee. She opted to not reapply to the Board after her first two-year term due to personal reasons, but hopes to be able to get involved with CAB activities when she has more available time.



Paul Shieh  
Graniteville, SC

Paul Shieh joined the Board in 2012, and served on the Nuclear Materials Committee. When he joined the CAB, Dr. Shieh stated he had an interest in small modular reactors, especially for local application. After serving half of his first term, Dr. Shieh had to resign from the Board due to health reasons.



Travis Johnson  
Aiken, SC

Travis Johnson joined the Board in 2011, and served on the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee and the Administrative and Outreach Committee. He opted to not reapply to the Board after his first two-year term due to personal reasons, but hopes to be able to join the Board again in a few years.



# SRS CAB Tours in 2012



CAB members exit the tour bus, eager to see Site facilities.



Several CAB members look on with interest at a Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) demonstration.



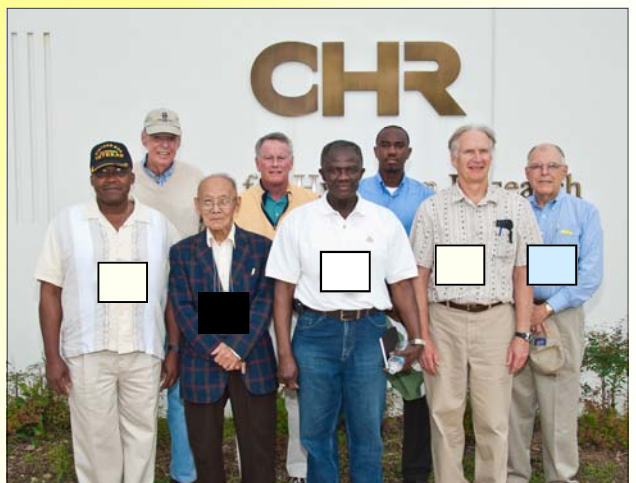
While touring the H-Canyon facility, CAB members get a Site-wide view.



CAB members view the SRNL facilities, housed in the Center for Hydrogen Research.



Mr. Pat McGuire, DOE-SR, helps CAB member Dr. Rose Hayes with her safety helmet during a Site tour.



At the end of Center for Hydrogen Research tour, CAB members take a moment to pose for a photo.





The H-Canyon facility is an impressive structure, and has been the subject of many CAB Recommendations in 2011 and 2012.



CAB members listen on as they view a mock H-Canyon cell during a recent tour.

## SRS Curation Facility Provides Artifacts with a Home

*Excerpt from news release originally published at [www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov)*



Millions of artifacts will be stored in the new SRS Curation Facility.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), working with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in August 2012 opening the Savannah River Site Curation Facility and also fulfilled a commitment to preserve decades of culture, accomplishments and history associated with life at SRS.

The SRS Curation Facility will be used to preserve and protect historic Cold War and archeological artifacts. Though not a museum, the facility features special security, fire protection capabilities and equipment to environmentally control interior temperatures and humidity. The Curation Facility has an artifact loan program designed to aid various museums with exhibit materials relative to the operational history of the site.



The Curation Facility houses several unique and interesting artifacts from SRS' earlier days.

The newly-renovated 27,000 square-foot building previously served as a warehouse for the SRS M Area, where materials were machined prior to use in the reactors that produced materials for nuclear weapons. Most of the old M Area buildings have been removed under the Site's environmental clean-up program.

The 315-M warehouse was scheduled for demolition. Under the SRS asset revitalization concept, the Curation Facility and Cold War Historical Program found a much-needed home.

The SRS CAB has shown great interest in the Archaeology and Cold War History programs here at SRS, so this Curation Facility was highly anticipated by all.

## SRS CAB Hosts An Outreach Event in Evans, Georgia

On May 19, 2012, CAB members Ed Burke, Stan Howard, and Ed Sturcken, met with members of the CAB Support Team at the annual Rotary Club Yard Sale in Evans, GA, to encourage citizens to apply for membership to the CAB. The outreach event was called "Have a Cookie with the CAB," and took place from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. CAB members passed out free cookies, information about the CAB, newsletters, brochures, applications, and more. Mr. Burke, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Sturcken took time out of their Saturday to inform the community of what the CAB is currently addressing, and answered questions. This event was very successful, resulting in more than 50 email addresses to be added to the CAB's public distribution, and two applicants for membership!



CAB members Stan Howard and Ed Burke spent several hours handing out CAB information and speaking to the public.



CAB member Ed Sturcken speaks to an interested citizen about what the CAB does and how she can apply for membership.

## CAB Vice Chair Harold Simon Attends an Environmental Justice Workshop

*By the SRS CAB Support Team, as reported by CAB Member, Harold Simon*



**Harold Simon, CAB**

On August 15-17, 2012, CAB Vice Chair Harold Simon, attended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Environmental Justice Conference. This year's conference was held in Atlanta, GA where approximately 200 people learned how to identify health issues in their communities, promote environmental sustainability, and develop creative solutions. As reported by Mr. Simon, the goals of the conference were to develop tangible solutions, educate the public, and provide networking opportunities for environmental justice leaders and organizations for communities with environmental justice concerns.

Over the two-day conference, there were several workshops and sessions offered to attendees. Mr. Simon described the workshop "Building Blocks to Sustainability and Environmental Justice" as one where seventeen principles of Environmental Justice were discussed. Also, he stated "Environmental Justice Communities Organizing Around Nuclear Power Plants" discussed funding and environmental monitoring.

According to Mr. Simon, in order to become advocates for our community, we must be patient, actively listen when communicating with others, and focus on the message citizens are conveying. Next, we must research and present each issue to the responsible individuals. Mr. Simon said the highlight of this year's conference were the testimonies provided by leaders from impacted communities. These leaders shared their best recovery methods, success stories, and their own individual environmental concerns. Mr. Simon reported the conference provided valuable information on how to help communities avoid the dangers of environmental contamination.



## SRS Celebrates Closure of Two Additional Radioactive Waste Tanks

*News release originally published on [www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov)*



**Senior DOE Officials and SC Congressional Leadership Gather to Commemorate Another Historic Cleanup Milestone.**

On Oct. 1, Under Secretary of Energy Thomas D'Agostino joined U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), senior officials from DOE, SRR, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and hundreds of Liquid Waste Program employees to celebrate the operational closure of two Cold War era hazardous waste tanks at SRS. Successful closure of SRS Tanks 18 and 19 signifies the most substantial environmental risk reduction achievement for the State of South Carolina since 1997 when DOE closed Tanks 17 and 20, the first for SRS and the Nation.

Calling it a historic day, Under Secretary D'Agostino congratulated SRS employees for accomplishing the tank closure milestone safely and ahead of schedule. "The historical significance of this Site can never be duplicated and will always be remembered. Supporting efforts to win the Cold War was part of the SRS legacy, and helped define our nation," said D'Agostino. "DOE and this nation thank you for the years of dedicated efforts it took to get us to where we are today."

You have performed your work safely and admirably, and I am proud to share this important day with you."

Bulk grouting of Tanks 18 and 19 began last April. The process involved over 3.3 million gallons of specially formulated cement grout delivered by 2,080 cement trucks and poured into the tanks. The pouring and closure were completed three months ahead of the December 31 regulatory deadline and with no job injuries or accidents. "This is a great milestone for the Site and DOE. Eight years ago, I authored a provision in the U.S. Senate permitting DOE to clean and close 40 one million gallon tanks at the Site. The measure passed by a single vote, and was later signed into law by President Bush. The first two tanks are now clean and will be permanently closed. It was a decision that was good for our environment and good for the taxpayer, saving billions. Today we celebrate a significant accomplishment and one that was a long time in the making," said Senator Graham.

"Closing waste tanks 18 and 19 under the 3116 provision has provided SRS a roadmap for safely expediting future tank closures and meeting our risk reduction commitments," said Dr. Moody, DOE-SR Manager. "For this, we owe tremendous gratitude to Senator Graham for his tireless efforts, and to our regulators, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Environmental Protection Agency, for their partnership in support of the Department's cleanup goals."

The SRS CAB has discussed the waste tanks and tank closures during its committee and Full Board meetings, and is happy about the progress being made in this area at SRS.

## The CAB Support Team Welcomes Changes in 2012



**From left: Ashley Whitaker, SRS CAB Administrator, James Tanner, Meeting Coordinator, and Jesslyn Anderson, Committee Information Coordinator.**

The SRS CAB Support Team is now employed by a different contractor, NOVA Corporation, but the team's support to the SRS CAB has not diminished.

Ashley Whitaker, previously of V3 Technical Services, has assumed the position of the CAB Administrator. James Tanner, also previously of V3 Technical Services, remains as the Meeting Coordinator. The team welcomes one new member, Jesslyn Anderson, who has been brought on to work as the Committee Information Coordinator. The SRS Support Team will continue to provide the same level of quality services for the CAB. If you have any questions, please give them a call at 803-952-9219.

## The SRS Heritage Foundation Keeps Site Memories Alive

Written by the SRS CAB Support Team



Walt Joseph, Heritage Foundation, speaks with the CAB about the mission and future of the Heritage Foundation.

Recently, the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) had the opportunity to learn about the SRS Heritage Foundation, an organization committed to preserving and interpreting the history of Savannah River Site. Walt Joseph, Executive Director of the Heritage Foundation, presented at the July 2012 Full Board meeting in Augusta, GA. Mr. Joseph detailed for the CAB the origins of the Heritage Foundation and where they are today.

The Heritage Foundation began as a committee of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) in 2003, an organization that was dedicated to consulting with DOE on issues of historic preservation. It soon became apparent that the historic preservation efforts of the Heritage Foundation were too large for a committee and in 2005, the SRS Heritage Foundation was organized. By the end

of that year, the management of SRS granted permission for Building 742-A, on-site, to be used as offices and a visitor center; however, this offer was contingent upon the Foundation's ability to maintain the building themselves. The Foundation has been unable to maintain the steady stream of funds necessary to take possession of the facility. According to Mr. Joseph, "the likelihood of federal funding for this facility is unlikely" given the current political climate.

In 2007, DOE gave permission for the Heritage Foundation to begin planning for a walking trail in Ellenton, one of the towns displaced during the construction of SRS. The Foundation currently has a site use permit for the walking trail and educational materials are being produced in conjunction with the Savannah River Archeological Project. They are expecting a lease agreement with DOE by the end of 2012; this agreement will allow the Heritage Foundation to begin hosting walking tours on the old streets of Ellenton.

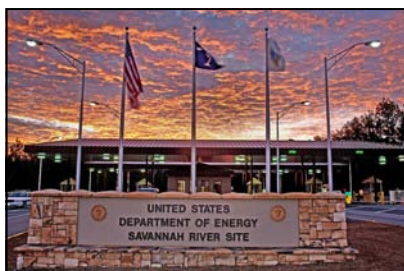
One of the most successful projects to date of the Heritage Foundation has been the production of the film "Displaced." The 90-minute film tells the story of the people and towns that were moved to make room for the Savannah River Plant (now SRS). When the video premiered in 2009, more than 1,200 people turned out for the occasion. Since that time the Foundation has developed teaching packets and distributed them to area schools. The response to "Displaced" has been so overwhelming that teachers have been asking for more copies of the video.

The Heritage Foundation is now planning a new film on the origins of the Savannah River Site and its early years, as well as a new office location in the heart of downtown Aiken. Additionally, the Foundation is working with the current leadership at SRS to obtain space for a Heritage Foundation museum and visitor's park in the expansion to the "Research Park" located just outside of the Site's boundary. This museum would hold exhibits on the history of SRS and feature a virtual tour of the inside of a nuclear reactor. Mr. Joseph stated that the Heritage Foundation has been eager over the years to have CAB backing and pledged that they "would be worthy of [the CAB's] continued support".

**To find out more about the SRS Heritage Foundation: [www.srsheritage.org](http://www.srsheritage.org) or call 803-226-0116.**

## DOE's SRS Continues Exemplary Environmental Performance

Article submitted by Kellie Sanderik, [www.ndreport.com](http://www.ndreport.com)



SRS barricade at sunrise.

*Photo from SRS flickr photostream*

The U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site maintained its record of environmental excellence during 2011—a year which site operations continued to result in minimal impact to the offsite public. Data on the site's performance are contained in the SRS Environmental Report for 2011, which has been posted on <http://www.srs.gov>.

SRS environmental reports have been produced for more than 50 years. Copies are distributed to government officials, universities, public libraries, civic groups, news media, SRS employees and various interested individuals, including the SRS Citizens Advisory Board.

“The report speaks for itself and confirms the Savannah River Site's continual commitment to environmental compliance, safety, and health best practices,” said David Moody, DOE's Manager for the Savannah River Operations Office. “Reflected in the report is the fact that the Site's radioactive and chemical discharges to air and water were again below regulatory standards for environmental protection and public health protection during 2011. It also shows that the Site's air and water quality met appropriate standards, and the radiation dose caused by SRS discharges was lower than natural background doses or safety-based dose standards.”

A key element in each year's environmental report is a calculation of estimated radiation dose to a hypothetical “maximally exposed individual.” (The “maximally exposed individual” would be someone living at the SRS boundary 365 days per year; consuming milk, meat, and vegetables produced at that location; and consuming both untreated water and large amounts of fish from the Savannah River.)

The calculated radiation dose to such an individual for 2011 is 0.21 millirem. (A millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure.) The portion of this dose figure directly comparable to last years' reported dose (0.11 mrem) is 9 percent higher at 0.12 mrem. Beginning in 2011, dose related to potential irrigation pathways was included in this reported figure, which increased the overall reported dose to 0.21 mrem. This dose is 0.21 percent of the 100-millirem-per-year U.S. Department of Energy standard. By contrast, natural background radiation averages about 310 millirem per year to persons in the United States.

The environmental report includes graphics-depicted historical trends in site air and water monitoring that reflects the continuing reduction in releases as older facilities have been removed from service, and newer, more modern operations have come online. The report also documents SRS compliance with key environmental regulations that range from air and water protection to endangered species and historic preservation.

SRS personnel conduct extensive environmental monitoring within a 2,000 square-mile network extending 25 miles from SRS, with some monitoring performed as far as 100 miles from the site. This area includes neighboring cities, towns, and counties in South Carolina and Georgia. Thousands of samples of air, rainwater, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, food products, wildlife, soil, sediment and vegetation are collected by SRS and state authorities, and are analyzed for the presence of radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants.

The site environmental report can be accessed electronically at:  
**<http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>**



## Take a look: SRS CAB Full Board Meetings



CAB members Louie Chavis and Rose Hayes listen to a presentation and take notes.



Jennifer Hughes, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, speaks to the CAB.



Deputy Designated Federal Official, Terry Spears (Left), answers questions at a CAB Full Board meeting while Rob Pope, of the Environmental Protection Agency, looks on.



CAB member Bill Rhoten talks to George Wingard, of the Savannah River Archaeological Program, about the "Dave Pot," an historical artifact that was found on SRS and restored.



CAB member Tom Barnes reviews his notes, while CAB member Parson addresses the Full Board.



Dr. Gene Rhodes, Director of the Savannah River Ecology Lab, speaks to the CAB about the lab's programs and missions.

## Notes from the October 2012 EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting in D.C

Donald Bridges, chair of the SRS CAB, and Vice Chair Harold Simon attended the Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs' Meeting at the DOE Forrestal Building in Washington, DC on October 2 and 3. This meeting was a gathering of the chairs and vice-chairs of each of the eight SSABs and featured an update on the EM program by Davie Huizenga, Senior Advisor.

During the meeting, each SSAB chair provided respective topics, activities, and achievements specific to their local board. On behalf of the SRS CAB, Chair Bridges presented the three "major issues" at SRS, as perceived by the CAB: (1.) the Salt Waste Processing Facility, (2.) the receipt of Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel and the long-term storage of existing inventories with no known or approved disposition pathways, and (3.) the movement of nuclear waste from SRS. He listed three major accomplishments as: CAB support for SRS, CAB outreach, and the CAB's online meeting success.

The meeting attendees also received a briefing from Christine Gelles, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, on current waste disposition strategies. A round table discussion was held on October 3 that gave the chairs a chance to openly discuss best practices on chairing a board.

The meeting concluded with the chairs developing four proposed recommendations to present to DOE-EM. These recommendations cover topics such as waste disposition at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), separating defense waste disposition from commercial waste disposition, continuation of funding for technological research, and incentivizing material recycling efforts amongst DOE and DOE contractors. Each chair will present the recommendations from this meeting at their respective board meetings for approval to sign the recommendations on behalf of their CABs.



EM SSAB Chairs and DOE fellowships by taking in a baseball game after a long day of meetings.

## SRNS Pours Millions of Gallons of Cement-Like Grout to Close Part of SRS's C Reactor

Originally published on [www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov)



More than 2,800,000 gallons of cement-like grout were poured in the disassembly basin in the C Reactor building, completing decommissioning of the basin.

SRNS recently saw the last of more than 1,700 cement trucks pull away from the Site's C Reactor building after filling a huge, below-ground opening, similar to a series of interconnected swimming pools of various sizes, known as a disassembly basin. More than 2,800,000 gallons of cement-like grout were poured into the huge, obstacle-filled space.

For decades, this once water-filled basin was used to cut and temporarily store irradiated reactor fuel elements, prior to shipment to one of two onsite chemical separations facilities. This defense production reactor ran from 1955 to 1985 and played an integral role towards producing plutonium for nuclear weapons during our nation's Cold War with the Soviet Union.

"Over two million gallons of water had to be evaporated using special equipment to create the space for the grout," said Chris Bergren, Manager, Area Completion Projects. "Due to C Reactor's historical status, the rest of the building will not be filled with grout. Our goal is to safely eliminate a potential source of contamination while fully preserving the historical integrity of the building as a whole."

At peak operations, SRS maintained five production reactors, beginning in the 1950s. The last, K Reactor, was permanently shut down in 1992, though parts of the facility are still used as a safe and secure storage center for U.S. plutonium. Both P and R Reactors have been fully grouted and permanently sealed. L Reactor continues to have an important mission, storing all SRS used fuel in its modernized and highly maintained basin.

P and R Reactors were the first large-scale production reactors to have been in situ decommissioned in the DOE complex and have set the precedent for other SRS reactors and hardened facilities.

"Successfully completing this task at the former C Reactor facility is yet another example of our long-range plan to safely decommission and sometimes demolish, SRS buildings that are no longer needed," said Dr. David Moody, Manager, DOE-Savannah River Operations Office. Though SRS has many enduring missions, Moody noted that to date, the footprint of the Site has effectively been reduced by 85 percent in size.

C-Area has been listed on the SRS CAB's Work Plan for several years, so the Board appreciates all progress being made in this area.

## CAB Recommendations

### 286-289

**The CAB has been busy developing and submitting many recommendations to the Department of Energy. Here are the first four....**

#### **Recommendation 286:**

##### Yucca Mountain as Interim Storage Site

Adopted: May 22, 2012 /Nuclear Materials Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

1. Accept the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation to establish one or more interim storage sites for U.S. high-level nuclear wastes.
2. Designate Yucca Mountain as one potential interim storage site for U.S. high level nuclear waste.
3. Request funding for the completion of Yucca Mountain as an interim storage site.
4. Develop and publicize an action plan for opening Yucca Mountain to receive interim storage radioactive waste.

#### **Recommendation 287:**

##### Disposition Planning & Dry Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel

Adopted: May 22, 2012/ Nuclear Materials Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

1. Continue to disposition all research reactor spent nuclear fuel stored in L-Basin using the H-Canyon and considering the highly enriched uranium which can be utilized by the private nuclear power industry.
2. Assess the status of Spent Nuclear Fuel disposition planning and advise the CAB when disposition plans can be developed for both SNF presently at SRS and the remaining SNF yet to be received.
3. Assess the feasibility of SNF dry storage and advise the CAB which if any of the SNF should be placed in dry storage with an emphasis on SNF slated to remain at SRS in an extended storage configuration.

#### **Recommendation 288:**

##### CAB Involvement in the Enterprise SRS 2011 Strategic Initiatives

Adopted: May 22, 2012/Strategic and Legacy Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

1. Prepare and present to the CAB at scheduled Board Meetings and issues-based Committee Meetings as appropriate, comprehensive information on the concept, status and schedule of each of the 2011 Strategic Initiatives, with the exception of those where National Nuclear Security Administration has leadership responsibility.
2. Ensure that EM's prime missions at SRS are not compromised as efforts are focused on the strategic initiatives.
3. Consider carefully CAB recommendations on all aspects of EM's plans and efforts to fulfill the strategic initiatives, particularly should the CAB feel they are not in the best interest of, or can better serve, the stakeholders/citizens.

#### **Recommendation 289:**

##### Operating History, Safety, and Environmental Studies Assessment

Adopted: May 22, 2012/Strategic and Legacy Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Assess existing studies and reports to determine:
  - What is the impact of the low levels of radiation exposure to Site workers over the Site's 40-year production period; including Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics data on SRS worker compensation cases by year, beginning with the opening of the site and ending with the most current available data?
  - What is the impact of the low levels of off-site radiation to the surrounding communities?
  - What is the impact of other environmental hazards to the areas away from the Site?
2. Determine if any additional studies would be necessary to provide any additional useful information.
3. Develop a summary report which will list and summarize results and findings from the necessary supporting data.
4. Provide a list of definitive statements on the impacts of Site operations.
5. Involve other external parties in the preparation of such a summary report and the review of underlying supporting data.

*Detailed CAB Recommendations & DOE Responses can be found online at [cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov), or you can call the SRS CAB Support Team at 803-952-9219 for copies.*



## CAB Recommendations

### 290-293

**...And here's four more recommendations!**

#### **Recommendation 290:**

##### Assess Feasibility of Disposition of SRS Canisters to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

Adopted: May 22, 2012/Waste Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that:

1. DOE assess the viability of using WIPP as a disposition site for canisters such as those at SRS.
2. SRS assess which, if any, of the canisters at SRS would be acceptable for disposition at WIPP.
3. If WIPP is found to be acceptable, DOE evaluate the feasibility of making shipments of canisters to WIPP in lieu of building a third canister storage building.
4. If WIPP is found to be acceptable, DOE develop in the broadest sense a schedule for removal of the canisters from SRS.

#### **Recommendation 291:**

##### Development of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Canisters & Research Reactor SNF Shipping Facility & Shipping Cask

Adopted: July 24, 2012/Nuclear Materials Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE commence plans and actions to remove the DWPF canisters and research reactor spent nuclear fuel from SRS to include:

1. Development of shipping containers for the DWPF canisters and research reactor spent nuclear fuel for off-site shipment to a repository.
2. Construction of a facility for handling and preparing both the DWPF canisters and spent nuclear fuel for shipment off-site for disposition.
3. Advising the CAB when such actions can be budgeted for and funded.
4. Explain the process for the DWPF canisters and research reactor spent nuclear fuel to be accepted and moved to the WIPP facility.

#### **Recommendation 292:**

##### SRS Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI)

Adopted: July 24, 2012 /Strategic and Legacy Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

1. Provide to the SRS CAB a progress update in the 2nd half of 2012 addressing the 8 assignments accepted to further develop the ARI.
2. Share and explain how ARI recommendations will be implemented with the SRS CAB as early as practical.
3. Establish a mechanism to consider input from the CAB relative to reuse and utilization of existing EM facilities consistent with the interests of the Asset Revitalization Initiative.

#### **Recommendation 293:**

##### Remedial Actions and Clean-up of Building 235-F

Adopted: September 25, 2012/Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE reassess plans for cleanup of 235-F and place more emphasis on clean-up of the building. Specifically, it is requested that DOE:

1. Identify and implement plans for short term measures that could reduce the hazards identified in the Safety Board's Recommendation 2012-1.
2. Reassess the plans for decontamination and decommissioning of 235-F with more emphasis placed on earlier decontamination and decommissioning of 235-F.
3. Advise the CAB of other measures that could be taken to address concerns addressed in the Safety Board's Recommendation 2012-1.
4. Advise the CAB, no later than the January 2013 CAB meeting of the cost and timeline of implementing the Safety Board's Recommendation 2012-1 and how other projects will be impacted by the implementation of said Recommendation.

**And yes, five more CAB Recommendations, for a total of 13 recommendations within six months!**

**Recommendation 294:**

Development of Environmental Review Roadmap and Document Listing

Adopted: September 25, 2012/Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

1. Develop a periodic report, with input from the CAB and the regulators as to the format, content and frequency that provides an overview of upcoming environmental reviews and provides relevant information on the particulars of each review process.
2. Develop a list of upcoming environmental reports and information soon to be issued that would be of interest to the public at large.
3. Assess if the information developed above could be used as a tool to inform the public at large.
4. Review the report on an annual basis, in conjunction with the CAB, and determine if any changes need to be made to maintain its usefulness.
5. We would ask that this would be easily accessible on the SRS website with minimal acronyms.

**Recommendation 295:**

Implementation of Spent Nuclear Fuel Exchange Program with Idaho

Adopted: September 25, 2012/ Nuclear Materials Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommended that DOE:

1. Conduct an economic study to determine the feasibility of reinstituting the Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Exchange Program with Idaho to include:
  - a. Evaluating both the upfront and overall costs of transportation and processing in H-Canyon vs. extended storage and disposition of SNF by some other means.
  - b. Assessing other challenges such as gaining political approval, capital funding for needed shipping facilities and containers, etc.
2. Re-examine the economy of processing SNF through H-Canyon considering that additional HEU will be recovered and made available for reuse by the commercial power industry.
3. Re-examine the advantage of having all SNF processed at SRS and not held for extended storage at SRS.
4. Provide the information developed from this study to HQ and attempt to have this information factored into the HQ evaluation of processing SNF as a disposition option for SNF.

**Recommendation 296:**

Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Processing Credit for H-Canyon Operations

Adopted: September 25, 2012/Strategic and Legacy Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Reevaluate the desirability and economics of processing of SNF in H-Canyon considering that revenue generated could be used to offset increased operating costs.
2. Present such an option to HQ and strongly represent the schedule improvements, the saved storage costs, and the potential improved health and safety impacts.
3. Make an appeal to HQ to allow increased cost of H-Canyon full operations be funded in part by the revenues generated from the recovered uranium sales.

**Recommendation 297:**

Concern the Salt Waste Processing Facility will not Open According to the Schedule of Liquid Waste System Plan Rev. 17

Adopted: September 25, 2012/Waste Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Inform the CAB of any issues that could delay the startup of SWPF in accordance with Liquid Waste System Plan Rev. 17 and the agreements with the state of South Carolina
2. Include all funding required to meet the October 2015 deadline for SWPF construction, DWPF and HLW tank closure in its FY 2013, 2014, and 2015 budget requests.

**Recommendation 298:**

Trial Disposition Program for SRS High Level Waste Canisters

Adopted: September 25, 2012/Waste Management Committee

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

1. Plan and execute a program for the ultimate disposition of the SRS canisters to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.
2. Use this program as a pilot for the overall DOE national nuclear waste disposition program to address such issues as:
  - a. Consent based siting issues
  - b. Shipping container and transportation issues.

## Improved Saltstone Facilities Restart Operations

*Excerpt originally published by Savannah River Remediation*

The Saltstone Facilities at the Savannah River Site (SRS) have restarted operations following a nine-month planned improvement outage. The facilities process and dispose of decontaminated salt solution, reducing the risk of potential contamination in the environment. Improvements to the facilities are expected to provide a new and more reliable system to process larger amounts of decontaminated salt solution needed for future tank closure operations, according to Steve Wilkerson, Savannah River Remediation (SRR) Waste Treatment Manager.

“We expect the Saltstone Facilities to be even more robust as we position the Site for continued success in closing waste tanks,” Wilkerson said. “The improvements will support a 24/7 work schedule, which will be necessary when the Salt Waste Processing Facility begins operations.”

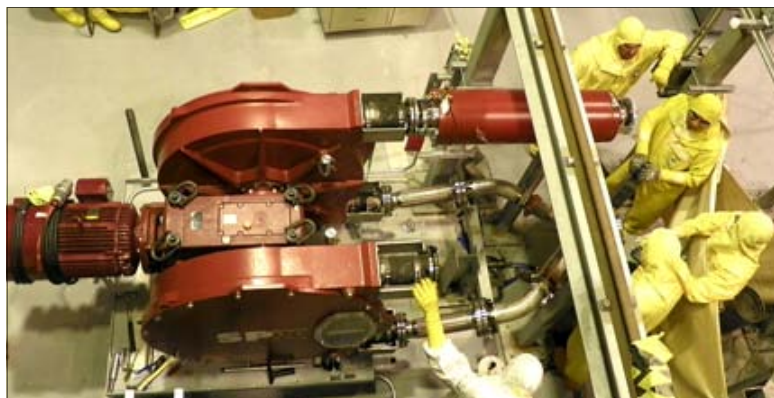
The improvement outage, called Enhanced Low Activity Waste Disposal (ELAWD), began in December 2011, and culminated a year when the facility processed nearly 1.5 million gallons of waste. Since beginning operations in June 1990, Saltstone has processed over 10 million gallons of low-level salt waste. For fiscal year 2012, which ends this month, the improved facilities will process more than 800,000 gallons of salt waste. Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office, said Saltstone must operate reliably.

“DOE’s ultimate priority is to operationally close our tank farm system and reduce risk. The Saltstone operations are a critical component of DOE achieving that mission,” Spears said. “The liquid waste program employees are demonstrating real progress in the safe removal and permanent disposition of the low-activity salt waste.”

Saltstone facilities will experience less downtime between runs because system improvements were made to eliminate the buildup and solidification of grout inside the system, something that cause the facilities to be in an outage for four to six weeks, according to Dave Olson, SRR President and Project Manager.

“In the past between runs, we would experience blockage in the process lines due to grout solidifying in the system,” Olson said. “The new reliability improvements are expected to eliminate any unnecessary downtime and will support the liquid waste operations long-term salt processing goals, which in turn will support our tank closure initiative.”

The SRS CAB has named the Salt Waste Processing Facility as one of its major items of interest at Savannah River Site.



**Savannah River Remediation employees install new equipment in the Saltstone Process.** *Picture provided by SRR.*



## The Inner Workings of the CAB: Committees and What They Do\*

\*Current chairs shown. There will be a committee chair election held in January 2013.



**Kathe Golden**  
A&O Chair

### Administrative & Outreach ( A&O) Committee

The Administrative & Outreach Committee advises the CAB on questions or concerns that arise from the Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Processes, oversees the election of CAB Chairs, and performs outreach duties. This committee also provides input to the Department of Energy during the Board's annual membership campaign, and helps implement the CAB Mentor Program, which helps ease new CAB members into Board membership.

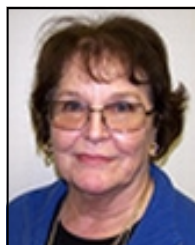
### Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation (FD&SR) Committee



**Marolyn Parson, CAB**  
FD&SR Chair

The Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee addresses the remediation of contaminated soil, groundwater, and surface water, as well as issues related to the Federal Facility Agreement, risk management and assessment, the regulatory process, and other cross-cutting issues pertaining to environmental restoration. This committee also follows deactivation and decommissioning actions taken to reduce risk and costs following the shut-down of excess industrial, radioactive, and nuclear facilities. Some topics addressed in 2012 include: the deactivation of building 235-F, environmental monitoring, public communications improvements in documents and on the web, and the Lower Three Runs clean-up approach.

### Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee



**Rose Hayes, CAB**  
NM Chair

The Nuclear Materials Committee was established to study issues involving nuclear materials that have an impact on present or future SRS activities. This committee addresses the consolidations, storage, and disposition issues related to the legacy materials that were once part of the nuclear weapons production cycle that are no longer needed for their original purpose, but are not considered waste. Some topics addressed in 2012 include: the receipt and storage of used nuclear fuel, plutonium, and other materials, plutonium disposition to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and the Blue Ribbon's Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

### Strategic & Legacy Management (S&LM) Committee



**Clinton Nangle, CAB**  
Acting S&LM Chair

The Strategic & Legacy Management Committee is involved in strategic issues relevant to the Environmental Management clean-up program at SRS, which includes performance assessments as well as long-term policy, planning, and cross-cutting issues related to other CAB committees. Specific areas of interest includes the development and deployment of technology, the DOE-SR budget decision-making process, future land use, and relevant national environmental policy. Some topics discussed in 2012 include: an Enterprise SRS update, information on the U.S. Army training at SRS, the Savannah River National Laboratory, and historic preservation.

### Waste Management (WM) Committee



**Ed Burke, CAB**  
WM Chair

The Waste Management Committee reviews the management, treatment, storage, and disposition of radioactive wastes, including transuranic waste, low-level waste, mixed low-level waste, and radioactive liquid waste. The principal goals of the committee are to see a trend of reduction in risk to the public, workers, and the environment posed by the above wastes, and to see an integrated and comprehensive systems approach used in weighing SRS waste management and disposition options. Some topics of interest in 2012 include: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant shipping, waste tank closures, and an overview of the Salt Waste Processing Program.

## DOE Goes "Green" with Virtual Paperless Meetings

In an effort to "go green," and save printing costs, DOE has started going virtually paperless at its meetings, effective July 2012. Instead of each CAB member having his or her own packet of printed information, DOE has supplied the Board with computer monitors to view presentations during meetings.

As always, the presentations are being shown on a big screen at the front of the room, and for now, the Support Team will still supply the public attendees with printed materials at the back of the room.

All presentations are uploaded to the CAB's website the day after the meeting. These presentations can be saved to personal computers, or printed, for review.



CAB members view the presentations on the new tabletop monitors.

The CAB's website can be found at:  
**[cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov).**

Check out the CAB's website for copies of CAB recommendations, committee overviews, the CAB Charter, member bios, and more!

Call the CAB Support Team at 803-952-7884 for more information!

## Attend a SRS CAB Full Board Meeting in 2013!

**Jan. 28-29:** The Double Tree  
2651 Perimeter Parkway  
Augusta, GA 30909

**March 25-26:** Westin Savannah  
1 Resort Drive  
Savannah, GA 31421

**May 20-21:** TBD  
Aiken, SC

**July 22-23:** TBD  
Augusta, GA

**Sept. 23-24:** TBD  
Aiken, SC

**Nov. 18-19:** TBD  
Augusta, GA

As meeting locations are finalized, the CAB Support Team will send out updated schedules.

This schedule is subject to change. If you have any questions, please call the SRS CAB Support Team at 803-952-9219.

**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:

**[cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)**

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

Gerri Flemming  
Lead Federal Coordinator  
SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Building 730-B, Room 1184  
Aiken, SC 29802

Phone: 1-800-249-8155  
Local: 803-952-7884  
Fax: 803-952-9228  
Email:  
[srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov](mailto:srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov)

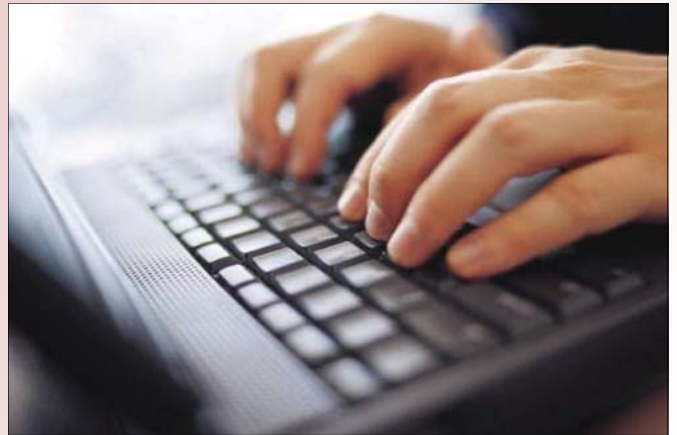


**Stay Informed With Live Meetings!**

*With live meetings, we can reach a larger audience.*

Live meetings are a viable option for you when coming in person to a meeting is not possible. Just go to the CAB's website, click on "Meeting Recordings," find the appropriate meeting date and join us.

CAB members: Encourage your friends and neighbors to view you and your committee in action!



**[cab.srs.gov](http://cab.srs.gov)**

Call us at 803-952-7884 (800-249-8155) for more information.

**CAB Online: Same Great Content, Easier Access**

We would love for you to visit the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) website for updates, meeting schedules and summaries, 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](http://cab.srs.gov)**



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