



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Recommendation 180 Burning Paper Pellet Update

Background

On March 25, 2003, the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) adopted a recommendation requesting a concerted effort between SRS and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to allow source testing data when permitting the A-Area boilers to burn paper pellets as an alternate fuel source (Ref. 1). In September 2003, SRS received permission from DHEC to use the new fuel for one year to verify that the pelletized paper fuel will have a uniform consistency. Showing that the pelletized paper fuel is made from uniform materials that do not include materials that might cause unacceptable emissions will provide confidence that this fuel can become part of routine operations for SRS boilers (Ref. 2).

Comment

To begin the yearlong test, the facility produced over three tons of the pelletized fuel, mixed it with coal and loaded it into the hopper that feeds the boiler. First, SRS shreds recyclable paper products (office paper, cardboard, etc.), and then forms it into dense pellets. The pellets and the coal will then be fed together into the boilers. The SRS CAB is very pleased to see the cooperation between DHEC and SRS. The teamwork between DHEC and SRS has helped to demonstrate a very cost-effective alternative fuel source. While this a "win-win" situation and makes both economic and environmental sense, it has not become part of the routine operations at A-Area boilers. Furthermore, very little is being done to highlight the success of the project – DOE-HQ has very little information on the project; no standing ad exists in the SRS newspaper (SRS News); and a wider notice in the region should be considered to increase the regional effect of this new technology.

Recommendation

The SRS CAB recommends that:

1. DOE-SR ensures that DOE-HQ is aware of the project and the successful cooperation between SRS and DHEC.
2. DOE-SR disseminates press releases on the cost-effective alternative fuel source to local and national news outlets and ensures coverage in DOE-wide complex and local site news sources.
3. DOE-SR publishes an article(s) presently and when the test results are available about this project in a technical periodical(s) so that information on the technology can reach others who may have similar waste streams.

References

1. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 160 (adopted March 25, 2003), "Burning Paper Pellets in A-Area Boilers".
2. "SRS Begins Test of Paper As Alternative Fuel Source" News from The Savannah River Site, September 11, 2003.
3. Paper Pellets Update, presentation to the WM Committee by Howard Pope, October 16, 2003.

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#)