



SRS Citizens Advisory Board Environmental Remediation & Waste Management Subcommittee

**Meeting Record,
January 16, 1996
Augusta, Ga.**

The ER & WM Subcommittee of the SRS CAB met on Tuesday, January 16, 1996 at the Partridge Inn at 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee members present included Bill Lawless, Subcommittee Co-Chair, and Anne Brown. Walt Joseph, the CAB facilitator, also attended. Craig Marriner, Leigh Ann Williams and Keith Collinsworth attended from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). SRS representatives included Thomas Johnson, Jr., Bob Aylward, Coleman Miles, Brian Hennessey, Dennis Ryan, Jack Mayer, Mary Flora, and Anne Roe. Members of the public attending included Bob Newman, Craig McMullin, Lincoln Mitchell, Gerald DeVitt and Lee Poe. Bill Craig and Eugene Rollins attended from Halliburton NUS. Virginia Gardner of DOE-SR attended as the Associate Deputy Designated Federal Official (ADDFO).

Dr. Lawless welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Thomas Johnson, DOE-SR, who had given a presentation on the Three Rivers Waste Management Center (planned for development and construction in 1996), at the December 5th meeting, returned to present additional information on the site selection process and to address questions which had been raised at the December meeting. Mr. Johnson explained in detail the site selection process and the criteria which were considered and evaluated in the selection process. A copy of the matrix listing the criteria and the scores (the higher the score the better choice the site is for a particular criteria), are included in the attachments along with a map showing the location of the seven sites considered. Mr. Johnson explained that the methodology and areas of analyses (geology and soils, surface hydrology, etc.) utilized by Three Rivers during the regional landfill site selection process essentially mirrored that utilized by WSRC during its screening for a candidate landfill site on SRS. He also noted that the most important criteria for the site selection process is the hydrogeologic data. This information is vital to SCDHEC in obtaining a positive site suitability determination. A summary site selection report was provided as an attachment to the December meeting record. The group that reviewed/rated each of the SRS sites was composed of representatives from DOE, WSRC, Three Rivers Authority, and the engineering design company, Piedmont-Olsen-Hensley.

Mr. Johnson discussed the process involved in the determination that an Environmental Assessment was the best approach to evaluate the proposed landfill. Mr. Johnson explained the State also concurred with the decision and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which

was issued on December 23,1995. Mr. Johnson also provided copies of the EA and the FONSI decision letter to those who were interested in receiving copies. Several questions were raised concerning how the project fit in with the CAB recommendations for future use, disposal of hazardous materials, and the long term impacts of the project. It was decided to hold a special meeting in February dedicated solely to the Three Rivers Authority project to address all ER&WM Subcommittee concerns. Concerns should be provided to either Dr. Lawless or Mr. Johnson prior to the meeting to facilitate closure. The meeting is tentatively set for February 12th at SRS.

Coleman Miles presented a focused feasibility scoping on interim remedial actions for the H-Area Retention Basin. Mr. Miles explained the basin had operated from 1955 to 1972 and received water from the separations process. The basin is located in an industrial zone. Currently the basin is open and contains water, with heavy vegetative growth and significant soil contamination. The H Area Retention Basin is ranked as the 4th most hazardous site (in terms of health threat) at SRS. Mr. Miles explained that the goals of the interim remedial action were to eliminate the impacts of surface contamination to workers and wildlife and remove the potential for impact to the groundwater. The four alternatives and their respective costs which were discussed were:

OPTION COST RISK REDUCTION

- no action \$150,000 none
- containment (capping) \$300,000 medium to high
- in situ treatment (stabilization) \$3,400,000 high
- off unit disposal (excavate and dispose) \$42,800,000 high

The costs are based on a volume of 10,000 cubic yards of soil to be covered, stabilized, or removed and shipped offsite to a facility such as the Nevada Test Site(\$40/cu ft) or to place in the E-Area vaults (\$38/cu ft) at the SRS.

Mr. Miles explained that in order to prepare the H-Area Retention basin for future corrective action there was a time critical removal action planned to remove vegetation at the site to protect the safety of the workers. Another near term action being considered for the unit will be its use as a demonstration site for a Viscous Barrier technology. The decision on whether or not to demonstrate the viscous barrier technology at the H-Area Retention basin will be made in February. The installation of this material would protect the groundwater until the unit is remediated.

The use of a proposed Soils Consolidation Facility (White Paper published) was mentioned as an alternative in treating these kinds of sites and in expediting this type cleanup at the site. Questions included the validity of the pre SCORE method for ranking sites, disposal methods for vegetation, and pathways to groundwater.

Dr. Lawless discussed the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS), prepared by DOE-HQ. This document examines the environmental impacts of managing radioactive and hazardous wastes at DOE sites throughout the United States.

Five types of waste are analyzed:

- low-level mixed waste (LLMW),
- low-level waste (LLW)
- transuranic waste (TRU)
- high-level waste (HLW)
- hazardous waste (HW)

Dr. Lawless said he was preparing comments on the WM-PEIS which cover TRU waste disposal, the need to identify what the de minimus level is for constituents, and the need to examine what similar industries are doing and put the information in perspective (i.e. compare with other industries). The draft motion was not available for review due to delay in CRESP completing compilation of the comments.

Dr. Lawless also discussed the material he had received regarding specifications for Independent Scientific Peer Reviews.

Dr. Lawless thanked the members of the public for coming and invited them to suggest topics for future meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Attachments: Meeting Presentation Handouts are available by calling the CAB toll-free number at 1-800-249-8155.