



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee**

#### **Meeting Record**

September 28, 1998  
Sheraton Augusta Hotel  
Augusta, GA

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The SRS CAB ER&WM subcommittee met on September 28, 1998, at the Sheraton Augusta Hotel in Augusta, GA. Bill Lawless opened the meeting with introductions. CAB members present included ER&WM subcommittee Co-Chairs Bill Lawless and Kathryn May and CAB members Karen Patterson, Brendolyn Jenkins, and Wade Waters. Todd Crawford, Technical Advisor for the CAB was in attendance. Pantex CAB members included Bruce Campbell, Galen Boothe, and John Blakely. Bill Pardue represented the Oak Ridge Office (ORO) CAB. Attendees from EPA, Region 4 included Julie Corkran and Jeff Crane. Mihir Mehta attended for SCDHEC. Attending from DOE-SR were Cynthia Anderson, Brian Hennessey, Dale Ormond, Jim McCullough, and John Reynolds. DOE-ORO attendees included Marianne Heiskell. Chuck Powers attended from the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). WSRC/BSRI/BNFL attendees included Welford T. (Sonny) Goldston, Mary Flora, Paul Huber, Gerry Stejskal, Elmer Wilhite, Phil Crotwell, Sandy Carroll, Steve Piccolo, Kelly Way, Chuck Spencer, Paul Sauerborn, and Helen Villasor. Public attendees included Lee Poe and Trish McCracken. Gerri Flemming attended as the Associate Designated Deputy Federal Official (ADDFO).

There were no public comments during the first public comment period.

Bill Lawless proceeded with a review of the draft motions under consideration for the full Board meeting on September 29, 1998. Draft motions discussed include: DOE Draft Order 435.1, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) Carolina (Rainbow) Bay, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-Generated Waste, and the Savannah River Laboratory (SRL) Seepage Basins. Mr. Lawless suggested that if any comments were to be made on the motions they may be offered before, during or after the motion reviews.

On the DOE Draft Order 435.1 draft motion, a comment on Paragraph S-3 was made on the use of Performance Assessments (PA) and Composite Analysis (CA) to assess the risk of low-level waste and to set Waste Acceptance Criteria. It was agreed to include the fate and transport models (differences, similarities, accuracy's, scenario assumptions, etc.) in the draft motion to show confidence between DOE and its regulators by having them address the models being used for the PA, CA, and CERCLA risk analyses.

The attendees reviewed the Rainbow Bay draft motion next and a few minor editorial comments were provided for clarification. Bill Lawless said that the purpose of the motion was not to address funding for the project, but to recommend that the successful work on the project continue.

Karen Patterson then read the CERCLA-Generated Waste draft motion paragraph by paragraph so that comments could be provided along the way. It was agreed that comments made by the EPA Region 4 be included to clarify that since 1995, the three agencies, DOE-SR, EPA Region 4, and SCDHEC, have had discussions about combining waste in the context of a soils consolidation facility. Another modification was proposed to the draft motion which would include that no evidence has been provided by EPA and

SCDHEC that external regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of SRS waste disposal in Utah will be more protective than the current DOE waste regulation policies. Bill Lawless commended EPA Region 4 for taking a very positive position on the CERCLA- Generated Waste draft motion which will make it possible for the CAB to move past the CERCLA-Generated Waste problem.

The last draft motion discussed was the SRL Seepage Basin. A recommendation was made to clarify a portion of Paragraph 2 by replacing the "slit trenches of SRS's Low Level Waste Disposal Facility (LLWDF) in E-Area (a DOE-regulated waste disposal facility on the SRS" with "the central part of SRS". It was also noted that under Recommendation 1, the preferred alternative should be corrected to read that SRS enact the preferred alternative of shipping the contaminated soils to Utah and "backfilling to the original grade" instead of "capping the basins". The subcommittee also agreed to strike Recommendations 2 and 3 from the draft motion.

Lee Poe then provided a brief review of the In-Tank Precipitation (ITP - Salt Disposition) Focus Group's work to date. Mr. Poe explained that the working group has prepared a draft report outlining its findings and conclusions, which Mr. Poe plans to present to the subcommittee in October and to the full CAB at its November 17, 1998 meeting.

Mr. Poe reviewed how the group came into being. In January 1998, it was determined that the ITP process at the Savannah River Site could not safely continue as it was. At the end of April, Howard Gnann (DOE) spoke to the ER&WM subcommittee and suggested that a stakeholder review group be formed to study the process and offer recommendations. The ER&WM subcommittee established a Salt Disposition Focus Group with Mr. Poe as the group's lead. The team has met over the summer and prepared a report that is currently in the process of being reviewed by WSRC for technical accuracy.

At the meetings, the group reviewed the process used by the Salt Disposition Systems Engineering Team to reach the final four possible ITP alternatives, and they studied the four alternatives in depth. The group spent September reaching a consensus on the information they had gathered and preparing the report.

Mr. Poe emphasized the excellent cooperation by WSRC and DOE, and disclosed that he will distribute copies of the draft report as soon as it is verified for technical accuracy. He plans to issue the report to Howard Gnann, DOE, Steve Piccolo, WSRC, and Bill Lawless and Kathryn May, ER&WM Subcommittee Co-Chairs. Copies of the final report will also be available by contacting the WSRC Public Involvement support staff at 1-800-249-8155. Mr. Poe plans for the document to be completed in early October and presented to the full CAB in November. He noted that WSRC will present its final recommendation to DOE in late October.

On behalf of the ER&WM Subcommittee, Bill Lawless extended congratulations to Mr. Poe and the members of the ITP Focus Group for their outstanding commitment to work with DOE and WSRC in order to provide stakeholder interest and input to the SRS ITP process. Mr. Lawless noted that he has had an opportunity to review the draft document, and it is his impression that the ITP Process technical review and report are "terrific."

During the final public comment period, Mr. Lee Poe recommended that some level of simplicity be considered when developing draft motions. Mr. Poe noted that some of the draft motions are very complex technically and almost require a "trust-me" acceptance by the CAB members. One of Mr. Poe's suggestions to simplify draft motion preparation is to eliminate the background information in the draft motions. Karen Patterson explained that while Mr. Poe's concern is a valid one, it is still crucial to provide background information in draft motions since "it often sets the stage for what the motion is attempting to accomplish."

Referencing the CERCLA-Generated Waste and SRL Seepage Basins draft motions, and the mention of sending contaminated soils to Utah, Galen Boothe of the Pantex CAB presented the final public comment of the evening. Mr. Boothe told the attendees that there could be a possibility that if a whole train is not

full, the cars containing the contaminated soils may be put on a railroad siding and left there (days, weeks, or even months) until a full train can be assembled before proceeding to Utah. Bill Lawless noted that it was his belief that apparently cost was the driver in the decision to send the contaminated soils to Utah rather than the protection of health and safety of the public.

Bill Lawless closed the meeting at 8:30 p.m. For copies of the meeting handouts, including the draft motions, please call 1-800-249-8155.

*Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.*