



# March 1998 Meeting Minutes

**SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

**March 24, 1998 8:30 a.m.**

**Holiday Inn Oceanfront**

**Folly Beach, S.C.**

## Members Present

Bill Adams	Jimmy Mackey	<i>Ex-Officio Representatives</i>
Tom Costikyan	JoAnn Nestor	Frank McCoy
Bill Donaldson	Lane Parker	Ann Ragan
Mary Elfner	Karen Patterson	Myra Reece
Ken Goad	Deborah Simone	John Stockwell (alternate)
Brendolyn Jenkins	P.K. Smith	
Bill Lawless	Ed Tant	
Ann Loadholt	Beaurine Wilkins	
Becky Witter		

Members absent were Arthur Belge, Thelonious Jones and Kathryn May. Currently, there are five Board vacancies. The Department of Energy (DOE) Designated Federal Official present was Gerri Flemming. J. Walter Joseph of Aiken, S.C. served as the Facilitator.

The meeting was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

## Key Decisions Made by the Board

The Board requested the three agencies resolve issues and agree on a preferred alternative and method of disposing of contaminated soils and vegetation at the Savannah River Laboratory (SRL) Seepage Basins by April 15, 1998 and review the decisions with the CAB by May 1, 1998.

The Board adopted a unanimous recommendation that SRS take the lead in developing a market across the DOE complex for free release or beneficial reuse products. The motion also recommends the processing of one excess reactor heat exchanger to obtain information to refine the business process and optimize the handling of all excess heat exchangers.

The Board recommended that the three agencies arrive at a decision on the implementation of composite analyses and performance assessments at SRS regarding CERCLA-generated waste to

assure public protection by June 15, 1998, and present this decision to the Board at its July 1998 meeting

The Board recommended less extensive remediation at the F Area Retention Basin than the preferred remedial alternative currently proposed.

The Board asked DOE to extend the public comment period for Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure strategy documents until May 22, 1998.

The Board re-elected all current incumbents for additional two-year terms and elected seven new members.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The January 1998 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Agency Update**

John Stockwell of the Environmental Protection Agency congratulated the Board on its progressiveness and directly attributed its success to diversity. He stated Camilla Warren was not in attendance because she was with the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Frank McCoy, Acting Deputy Manager of DOE-SR presented ongoing activities at SRS (see attached slide). He also reported that 35 million gallons of groundwater had been cleaned up in the TNX area seven months ahead of schedule, meeting one of Secretary Pena's commitments to the President. Mr. McCoy also presented letters of appreciation to outgoing Board members JoAnn Nestor and Deborah Simone.

Ann Ragan reported that South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is working with a State and Tribal Working Group on various issues including the Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure strategies, disposition maps, intersite waste transport, stewardship and end states. This working group offers many tribal and cultural resources, she said. Ms. Ragan also responded to questions from Bill Lawless regarding a fact sheet about fish initiated by EPA and SCDHEC at EPA's encouragement. Mr. Lawless provided comments on the fact sheet and requested comments from other Board members as well. He invited Outreach Subcommittee members to join his next subcommittee meeting to discuss the fact sheet.

### **Public Comments**

Todd Crawford, New Ellenton residentBR> Mr. Crawford urged the Board and Agencies to keep focused on the purpose of environmental regulations, which is to protect the health and the environment. He stated there is a great deal of arguing about reports and details rather than getting the job done.

### **Wade Waters, Pooler, Ga.**

Mr. Waters stated he has been following a project called RiverCare 2000, which has caused a

great deal of interest since it focuses on streams and waterways. He stated that he looked forward to hearing more about it and promised to keep the CAB informed.

The following membership candidates introduced themselves: Arnetta Duncan, Barbara Murphy, Raymond Storey, and Howard Dawson.

Judith Bradbury, Pacific Northwest Laboratories

Ms. Bradbury introduced herself and Christi Branch of Pacific Northwest Laboratories. They were observing the meeting and interviewing Board members in an attempt to provide a more qualitative assessment for this years Site Specific Advisory Board evaluation.

### **Environmental Remediation & Waste Management (ER&WM) Subcommittee**

#### **SRL Seepage Basins**

Subcommittee Chair Bill Lawless introduced Paul Huber of Bechtel-SR to provide an update on remedial activities at the SRL Seepage Basins (see attached presentation). Mr. Huber discussed the historical background of the basins, contaminant migration, radiological risk and the remedial alternatives available. The preferred alternative is removal of one foot of contaminated soils from two of the four basins, with disposal in the SRS Solid Waste Disposal facility, installation of a backfill cover and minimal institutional controls. **Bill Lawless read the subcommittee motion requesting that the three agencies resolve issues and agree on a preferred alternative and method of disposing of contaminated soils and vegetation by April 15, 1998 and review the decisions with the CAB by May 1, 1998.** If necessary, the ER&WM Subcommittee will make further motions on the decision on May 19. Lane Parker moved the board accept the motion and Mary Elfner seconded. The motion was adopted with 14 members in favor, two opposed and one abstention. Lane Parker abstained to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest as a labor union representative.

#### **Beneficial Reuse Program**

Bill Boettinger of Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) presented an overview of the SRS Beneficial Reuse Program (see attached). The objective of this program is to take SRS radioactive scrap metal and either free release the metal or turn it into usable products instead of eventually disposing of it as waste. Mr. Boettinger discussed various products produced with radioactive scrap metal (RSM), such as boxes, open lid drums, and shielding bricks. He provided cost comparisons for RSM drums and standard metal drums and discussed future activities of the program. There is great potential for reusing 93 slightly contaminated heat exchangers at SRS, however to obtain real cost data, SRS must begin by processing one exchanger, he said. He summarized by stating that the technical feasibility of the program had been demonstrated and beneficial reuse avoids disposal costs, however there is a need to consider avoided disposal costs in making recycle decision and a need to develop a DOE market for beneficial reuse products.

**Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's motion regarding the Beneficial Reuse Program (see attached). It recommends that SRS take the lead in the DOE complex to develop a market across the DOE complex for free release or beneficial reuse products. The motion also recommends the processing of one excess reactor heat exchanger to obtain information to refine the business process and optimize the handling all excess heat exchangers. Karen**

**Patterson moved the Board accept the subcommittee's motion and Lane Parker seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board.**

### **Composite Analysis – Low Level Waste Disposal Facility**

Sonny Goldston and Jim Cook of WSRC presented the next ER&WM Subcommittee topic, composite analysis for low level radioactive waste disposal (see attached presentations). A composite analysis (CA) is a modeling study that uses known or estimated inventories from known and potential areas of residual contamination to calculate total doses to hypothetical individuals and populations at times in the future. This is very similar to a performance assessment (PA), which is a modeling study that focuses on the long-term behavior of a single disposal facility. Both, PA and CA, must be approved in order to dispose of waste. This is DOE-regulated and assures that low level waste disposal, in combination with other sources, will not compromise future radiological protection of the public. Mr. Cook discussed radiological protection standards, radioactive sources considered in a composite analysis, potential sources considered, methodology and screening criteria. He then summarized the conclusions of a CA for the Low Level Waste Disposal facility submitted to DOE-HQ for review and approval in September 1997. Currently undergoing independent scientific peer review, this analysis concluded that the peak dose (1.8 mrem/year) is less than the DOE limit of 1000 mrem/year and dose constraint of 30 mrem/year. Active waste disposal facilities do not significantly contribute to calculated dose and inactive shallow land disposal units are the major contributors to calculated dose. It was also determined that only a few radionuclides account for almost all of the calculated dose.

If the independent panel review of the composite analysis process is successful, CAs could establish priorities for future cleanup activities at SRS and guide future land use decisions. **Bill Lawless read the subcommittee's motion that recommends the three agencies arrive at a decision on the implementation of CAs and PAs at SRS regarding CERCLA-generated waste to assure public protection by June 15, 1998 and present this decision to the Board at its July 1998 meeting (see attached).** The motion recommends that CAs be included as a basis for preparation of SRS Future Use Plans and that a CA for each of the major industrial areas at SRS where radioactive materials have been used or stored be conducted and coordinated with groundwater and surface water analyses and models currently being produced for the major watersheds at SRS. JoAnn Nestor moved the Board accept this recommendation and Beurine Wilkins seconded. **The Board adopted the motion with 15 members in favor and one abstention** by Mary Elfner, who stated this was a complicated land use modeling decision for which she needs further information.

### **F Area Retention Basin**

The F Area Retention Basin was the next topic of discussion. Ed McNamee, Bechtel-SR project manager provided a overview including the history of the basin, contaminants of concern (human health and groundwater migration), and a comparison of remedial alternatives for the soils, groundwater and pipelines associated with the retention basin. He then presented the preferred alternatives proposed. For the basin itself, the preferred remedial alternative is institutional controls, grouting and a low permeability cover. No action is the preferred alternative for groundwater since it is being monitored and managed under other controls. The preferred alternative for the associated process sewerlines is institutional controls, pipeline grouting and

soil excavation and disposition with basin soils. There was concern expressed over the no action alternative for groundwater, stating that more monitoring is needed to protect the environment. Groundwater monitoring for the waste unit will continue due to its location in F Area.

**Karen Patterson read the subcommittee's motion regarding the F Area Retention Basin (see attached). The motion recommends less extensive remediation than currently proposed.** The motion recommends a low-permeability cap for the basin, limited groundwater monitoring and grouting of the inside of the pipeline. These changes would reduce the total remediation costs by about \$1 million. The motion also encourages the three agencies to expeditiously implement the Plug-in-ROD approach to reduce future paperwork costs since the extensive analyses and documentation for the F Area Retention Basin and associated pipeline probably cost as much or more than the planned remediation.

**Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the motion and JoAnn Nestor seconded. The motion was adopted with ten members in favor, four opposed and two abstentions.** P.K. Smith abstained due to lack of information and Lane Parker abstained due to any perceived conflict of interest as a labor representative.

### **Risk Management & Future Use (RM&FU) Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair P.K. Smith introduced Don Scott of DOE who gave a presentation on Accelerating Cleanup- Paths to Closure (ACP) (see attached). Mr. Scott stated that both the National and the Savannah River ACP had been released on March 2 for a 60-day public comment period. These documents are to be used as planning documents and key communication tools, he said. Only in the last six years has DOE systematically defined the scope and life-cycle costs of its environmental challenge. The ACP documents represent the latest evolution of the step-by-step work plan to tackle this challenge. Mr. Scott discussed highlights from the Savannah River ACP, which reflects completion of all cleanup work by 2038. Estimated cleanup cost is \$46.3 billion, he said.

P.K. Smith read a subcommittee motion requesting an extension of the public comment period to May 22, 1998. Bill Lawless moved the Board accept the motion and Becky Witter seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

### **Environmental Management (EM) Integration**

David Wilson of SCDHEC discussed an upcoming meeting of the National Governor's Association to address equitable complex-wide issues regarding cleanup and waste management. A task force has been formed to look at issues such as the role SRS should play in handling spent nuclear fuel and the role of the Consolidated Incineration Facility within the DOE complex. He stated the real issue is the gap in funding needed to meet the goals.

Mr. Wilson said there is discussion about reopening talks regarding previously agreed upon milestones, however most states aren't interested in relaxing milestones.

Doug Tonkay of DOE-Headquarters provided an update of EM Integration Activities. He discussed the new integration culture motivated by the need to operate more efficiently in light of budget constraints; the benefits of complex-wide integration; the need for consensus building and approaches to work toward consensus. Mr. Tonkay described how EM integration is linked to the Accelerating Cleanup strategy and gave an overview of integration efforts. Efforts over the past year have focused on developing complex-wide "baseline data" to support planning and budgeting decisions. Efforts are now focused on aligning science and technology investments for maximum impact and further defining transportation needs on a complex-wide basis. DOE is also evaluating the recommendations of an independent EM contractor integration team. He discussed several of the recommendations made in the contractor report and also discussed more recent efforts to integrate nuclear materials management as well.

Board members expressed frustration with integration efforts and the need to develop a path forward. Karen Patterson suggested DOE begin working on one issue at a time, with well-focused doable targets. She offered to develop a white paper regarding the SRS CAB position on environmental integration efforts. One Board member commented that this may be the time to put aside state rights and "give in a little for the national good." Mr. Tonkay discussed upcoming stakeholder workshops planned for the summer to help gain an understanding of stakeholder values and hopefully direct DOE in a path forward.

### **Recommendation Review**

Walt Joseph provided a 1997 Tracking Report for CAB recommendations (see attached). Emphasis was on planning and budget, independent scientific peer reviews, transuranic waste and seepage basins. DOE-SR acceptance of recommendations remains high at approximately 75% while DOE-Headquarters generally accepts about half of the CAB recommendations. Twenty-three recommendations were provided in 1997 with a total of 51 recommendations addressing 203 specific issues made to date. Mr. Joseph identified several issues including no responses from SCDHEC or EPA since January 1997; no DOE-HQ responses on several recommendations; concern about equity issues; and a breakdown in communication on Recommendation 31 regarding follow-through by DOE. Bill Lawless commented that DOE and the CAB have institutionalized peer reviews, which no longer require Board initiation. He also commented that the communication breakdown with Recommendation 31 had yielded positive results.

### **Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Chair Tom Costikyan gave a brief subcommittee report stating they had received a progress report from Jean Ridley of DOE regarding end decision-making processes on materials coming to SRS. Several Environmental Impact Statements are due shortly regarding spent fuel management and disposition of surplus plutonium. The Subcommittee hoped to discuss the Draft EIS on Site Specific Surplus Plutonium Disposition in May along with the Non Proliferation Study from DOE-HQ. Mr. Costikyan also noted that environmental groups have expressed alarm over materials leaving Rocky Flats. He questioned why there would be alarm if they're interested in final closure of Rocky Flats.

## **Administrative Subcommittee Report**

The following members were elected to serve two-year terms:

Academia Position 1- Bill Lawless, Augusta, Ga.  
Academia Position 2- Lola Richardson, Augusta, Ga.  
Business Position 1 – Brendolyn Jenkins, Elko, S.C.  
Environmental Position 1 – Karen Patterson, Aiken, S.C.  
Environmental Position 2 – Ed Tant, North Charleston, S.C.  
Environmental Position 3 – Debra Hasan, Savannah, Ga.  
General Public Position 1 – Ann Loadholt, Barnwell, S.C.  
General Public Position 2 – Arthur Belge, Martinez, Ga.  
General Public Position 3 – Barbara Gordon, Augusta, Ga.  
General Public Position 4 – Maria Reichmanis, Aiken, S.C.  
General Public Position 5 – Barbara Murphy, Hilton Head, S.C.  
Labor Position 1- Wade Waters, Pooler, Ga.  
Public Official Position 1- William Ray, Beaufort, S.C.

## **Budget Report**

Ann Loadholt provided the quarterly budget report in the absence of Thelonious Jones (see attached).

## **Handouts**

SRS CAB Meeting Agenda, March 24, 1998  
What's Happening At SRS, Frank McCoy, DOE  
Draft Statement, Cs-137 and the DHEC Fish Advisory Fact Sheet for Savannah River, Bill Lawless  
SRL Seepage Basins Progress Report, Paul Huber, Bechtel  
Draft Motion 4-SRL Seepage Basins Remediation, Bill Lawless  
Beneficial Reuse Program, Bill Boettinger, March 24, 1998  
Draft CAB ER&WM Motion, SRS Beneficial Reuse Program, Bill Lawless  
Composite Analysis for Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal, Sonny Goldston, BNFL  
Radiological Composite Analysis for the General Separations Area, Jim Cook, WSRC  
Draft CAB ER&WM Motion, Composite Analysis, Bill Lawless  
SRS F Area Retention Basin, Ed McNamee, Bechtel  
Draft CAB ER&WM Motion, Remediation of F Area Retention Basin, Karen Patterson  
SR Operations Office Accelerating Cleanup-Paths to Closure, Don Scott, DOE  
Update on DOE/EM Integration Activities, Doug Tonkay, DOE-HQ  
Draft CAB RM&FU Motion, Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure, P.K. Smith  
Implementation of SRS CAB Recommendations, Walt Joseph  
SRS CAB Fiscal Year 1998 Budget Summary  
SRS CAB Recommendation Summary  
SRS CAB Public Involvement Calendar

Monthly National Environmental Policy Act Report  
Solid Waste Division 1997 Annual Report, SRS

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