



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

October 20, 1999
North Augusta Community Center
North Augusta, SC

CAB Members

Bill Lawless*
Kathryn May*
Karen Patterson*
Maria Reichmanis*
Murray Riley

Stakeholders

Lee Poe
Mike French
Bill McDonell
Ethan Brown

DOE/Contractors

George Mishra, DOE
Bill Taylor, DOE
Maxcine Miles, DOE
Jim DeMass, DOE
Howard Gnann, DOE
Larry Ling, DOE
Kim Johnson, BSRI
Don Toddings, BSRI

*Denotes Subcommittee Member

Paul Huber, BSRI

Ron Campbell, WSRC

Gerry Stejskal, WSRC

Kelly Way, WSRC

Mike Griffith, WSRC

Steve Piccolo, WSRC

Mary Flora, WSRC

Sonny Goldston, WSRC

Helen Villasor, WSRC

Regulators

SCDHEC, None

EPA, None

Bill Lawless opened the meeting with introductions and making the following announcements:

- an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed alternative to the second high level waste canister storage facility
- the Notice of Intent on the National Study on Long-Term Stewardship Activities and Issues has been published in the October 6, 1999 issue of the *Federal Register*
- the draft SRS Strategic Plan that was scheduled for public comment on October 15 has slipped about three weeks

Pending Recommendation(s) Review: In order to provide a better tracking system, a new procedure to evaluate and disposition pending CAB recommendations has been implemented at the ER&WM Subcommittee meetings. Motion managers (CAB members who originally presented the draft motions before the board) will be responsible for performing individual recommendation reviews. Four

recommendations, agency responses, and an evaluation performed by CAB Member Wade Waters were reviewed.

Issues: Clarification on recommendation status definitions is as follows:

- Pending -The recommendation has been submitted and agency received, but responses have not yet been accepted.
- Open - Responses have been accepted, but the action(s) is not complete.
- Closed - The action(s) in the recommendations has been completed; or the CAB has decided to no longer track the recommendation.

On Recommendation 81, High Level Waste, determine if recommendation was addressed to agencies other than DOE. On Recommendation 77, DOE-SR to communicate with Carlsbad to obtain letter so that recommendation can be moved to the open position; Carlsbad office is designated to contact EPA.

Actions: The following recommendations and responses were discussed with the path forward determined as noted:

- Recommendation No. 95, Contractor Replacement – keep as pending.
- Recommendation No. 89, SRS Technology Integration - it was agreed that the CAB should continue to talk with the three agencies as they decide what technologies are selected. Change status to open.
- Recommendation No. 81, High Level Waste Salt Disposition Alternatives – move this recommendation to the open position.
- Recommendation No. 77, WIPP RCRA Permit Part B – because an agency response is still pending, this recommendation should be kept as pending. Solid Waste Division personnel are interacting with DOE-SR to obtain a status letter requested by the CAB from Carlsbad.

Public Involvement staff to prepare overhead slide defining recommendation status categories to use at future ER&WM Subcommittee meetings.

Schedule Review: Helen Villasor provided a review of the upcoming schedule for the ER&WM Subcommittee, including agenda items for meetings scheduled for October 28, 1999 at the Ramada Plaza in Augusta, GA, and on November 2, 1999 at the Aiken Federal Building in Aiken, SC. Ms. Villasor noted that the November 15, 1999 meeting in Charleston, SC would be to review the draft motions going before the full Board on November 16, 1999. Maria Reichmanis will chair the November 15 ER&WM Subcommittee meeting. Bill Lawless noted that all preliminary draft motions must be ready to send to CAB members for review by November 3, 1999.

In-Tank Precipitation (ITP)/Tank Closure Update: Steve Piccolo provided an update on the replacement ITP near-term events including the completion of the scope of work for R&D and risk review, and noted that recommendations are due out the week of October 25, 1999. The final National Academy of Sciences (NAS) letter is due April 2000; however, the interim report was issued on October 20, 1999. The Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) report is due the week of October 25, 1999 and the Independent Project Evaluation Team (Joel Case) is due to SRS in November. Open technical issues for Ion Exchange is cesium absorption, and foaming for solvent extraction. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected within three to four weeks and the Record of Decision, which is due in April, probably will not list a preferred alternative. The possibility of providing a link on the CAB homepage to the NAS homepage is currently under investigation so that the public can view the NAS Report on the Internet. It should be decided by November 3, 1999, if the ITP Focus Group should draft a motion or letter for the November Board meeting asking DOE to keep the CAB informed on its progress, or provide a briefing to the full Board at the November 16, 1999 meeting.

The ITP Focus Group (FG) led by Ethan Brown, which had met earlier in the day agreed to:

- look at the DEIS to determine if a motion could be drafted for the CAB in December
- educate the public on salt process issues and interaction
- evaluate both the NAS and the WSRC reports
- consider whether to submit a draft motion on the ITP FG progress for the CAB by November 3, 1999

Larry Ling reported that the Tank Closure EIS is still at DOE-HQ. Public meetings are scheduled for November. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review has been completed at the staff level and it is now with the Commissioners; however, the NRC determination does not include how SRS will close the tanks. The vitrified high level waste is currently stored in the Glass Waste Storage Building (GWSB). A conceptual design for the second building is being developed this year with a construction start in Fiscal Year 2002 and facility startup in Fiscal Year 2005. Some of the alternatives to a second GWSB under discussion include using dry storage casks with depleted uranium as shielding material. An EA is being prepared to review the options.

Issues: When the Tank Closure EIS is issued, receive review comments from the ITP FG to determine the CAB's position.

Actions: When the Tank Closure EIS is issued, unless new information surfaces unexpectedly, the CAB may take the position that since no new information has come forward to contradict the EA, SRS should start closing Tank 19.

Environmental Management Integration (EMI), Program Area Integration Teams (PAIT), Transuranic (TRU) Waste Treatment and Storage, and Low-Level Waste/Mixed Low Level Waste (LLW/MLLW):

Sonny Goldston provided an update on EMI activities. A history of the PAITs was presented, with a focus on the TRU and MLLW/LLW PAITs. Discussion on the integration structure included the role of the Integration Executive Committee (IEC). The TRU PAIT short list for detailed analyses consists of consolidating small quantity TRU sites; developing a strategy for transporting large or bulk waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); pursuing alternate technologies to support enhanced characterization; and disposal of nondefense TRU waste. Future TRU issues include re-engineering the WIPP Program, addressing state of the art non-destructive assay/non-destructive examination technologies and developing a plan for other alpha bearing materials such as U233. The MLLW/LLW PAIT analyses consist of maximizing use of existing DOE operating facilities for MLLW treatment; identifying DOE complex-wide MLLW requiring treatment and treatment facilities that are underutilized as well as commercial alternatives; and exploring which waste streams would be suited through the Solid Waste System Plan analyses. Mr. Goldston also addressed the issue of "orphan waste," which includes sealed cesium source (6350 curies w/lead shielding); 28,000 cubic feet of tritium contaminated debris; iodine-129 contaminated ion exchange resin and carbon filter media; and carbon-14 reactor deionizers.

Issues: U233 may not meet the TRU definition. The subcommittee needs more information on the TRU re-engineering effort, TRU waste criticality evaluations and controls, and the impacts of Ship to WIPP. Decision required on what waste meets the RCRA Permit criteria. State equity considerations including open discussions with regulators. In order to manage "orphan" as well as all wastes, the MLLW/LLW Records of Decision (RODs) have to be issued soon. The shipment of waste from SRS has been stopped since the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement has been issued.

Actions: Solid Waste personnel to return on December 14, 1999 to provide an update on U233, the TRU re-engineering program, WIPP RCRA Permit, impacts of Ship to WIPP and TRU criticality issues. ER&WM Subcommittee to consider a motion to include regulators to discuss state equity issues. The CAB may recommend that the RODs be released quickly by DOE-HQ.

Status of K-Area Reactor Seepage Basin Units and P-Area Bingham Pump Outage Pits (Reference: Plug-In RODs/Approved Standardized Corrective Action Design (ASCAD)): Focusing on principal threat source material, Paul Huber discussed a sub-unit (basin) and showed typical contamination pathways. In applying a Plug-In Remedy, stabilization with a low-permeability soil cover system, Mr. Huber indicated how the infiltration is reduced to prevent migration to the groundwater. The planned schedule Mr. Huber cited was the K-Area Reactor Seepage Basin, the unit selected to go first, which had a September start. Mr. Huber also showed several photographs of grouting techniques used at the Old F-Area Seepage Basin and L-Area Oil and Chemical Basin and noted the integrity and stabilization of the grout being used in the remediation process. When asked about the difference between Plug-In RODs and ASCAD, Mr. Huber said they were basically the same processes; however, R-Area Reactor Seepage Basin will fall out of ASCAD because it has a groundwater inclusion associated with it.

Issues: Will institutional controls and deed restriction mechanisms be in place when needed? Do Plug-In RODs and ASCAD address the surrounding groundwater?

Actions: Groundwater in the reactor areas will be treated separately to ensure safety. Provide an update to the subcommittee on November 2, 1999 on the Integrator Operable Units and again in the winter on the Plug-In Rods and ASCAD since more work will have been accomplished by then. Depending upon the number of draft motions for the November Board meeting, perhaps invite Paul Huber to make this same presentation, since the latest version of technical evaluation report for K-Reactor Seepage Basin is scheduled to go back to the regulators around November 16, 1999.

Response to Public Comment on the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) Southwest Plume (Recommendation Nos. 75 & 87): Lee Poe, member of the ORWBG Focus Group (FG), addressed two CAB recommendations 75, "Interim Corrective Measures Southwest Plume from the ORWBG" and 87, "Proposed Permit Modifications Mixed Waste Management Facility at SRS". With regard to Recommendation 75, Mr. Poe said that DOE's response dated February 25, 1999 indicated that they would be providing requested information over the next several ER&WM Subcommittee meetings. However, Mr. Poe said that there had been no response from DOE at all. (On September 29, 1999, an apology was offered that, in error, the site did not report back formally to the ER&WM Subcommittee; but, it was noted that the requested information was provided via presentations to the ORWBG FG). DOE then issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1302) in August 1999 that did not contain the interim actions recommended by the FG.

A response was received from SC DHEC, but Mr. Poe said that its responses were too general and no specifics were provided to show that the three agencies (DOE, EPA, and SC DHEC) were cooperating to solve the CAB's concern about the ORWBG, i.e., they did not respond to CAB issues but restated instead why SC DHEC took action. Further, Mr. Poe indicated that to date, no response had been received from EPA. On Recommendation 87, Mr. Poe said that five recommendations were included and DOE responded on June 7, 1999 that all comments would be considered as it discusses the final condition of the permit modification with SCDHEC. Mr. Poe said that this was probably the only applicable DOE response. SC DHEC responded on October 5, 1999 to each of the five recommendations; however, the ORWBG FG co-chairs formally wrote that they disagreed with SC DHEC's response. There was no response from EPA; however, Mr. Poe concluded that no response from EPA was required. To ensure that commitments will be met, Mr. Poe noted that the FG would ask to be briefed on the Corrective Action Plan.

Issues: ER&WM Subcommittee should consider what action to take when the comments requested from the three agencies are not responsive. Specifically, the ORWBG FG said it did not receive all of the information it requested. Determine if the CAB supports the ORWBG FG co-chairs' letter dated October 18, 1999 to Mr. John Litton of SC DHEC.

Actions: If the public or FG is not satisfied with the information they receive from the three agencies, they should consider another motion to follow up on the original motion. Additionally, WSRC Public Involvement staff will track all recommendations to ensure that appropriate follow-up is provided. FG to

follow the Interim Action closely as part of the RCRA Permit. Examine the possibility of drafting a motion on the principles in the Litton letter, point of treatment to what degree, purpose, period of time and institutional controls, or having a conference to discuss the issues since the interim action could spread the plume. Forward Mr. Poe's comments to the motion manager for Recommendations 75 and 87 in order to make a determination about the motion status.

Public Comments: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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