



## **SRS Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Environmental Remediation Committee**

#### **Meeting Summary**

November 13, 2000  
North Augusta Community Center  
North Augusta, SC

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#### **CAB Members**

Maria Reichmanis\*  
Sallie Connah\*  
Perry Holcomb\*  
Kathryn May\*  
Murray Riley\*  
William Lawrence\*

#### **Stakeholders**

##### **Regulators**

Charles Gorman, SCDHEC  
Kim McSwain, EPA-4  
Ken Feely, EPA-4  
Julie Corkran, EPA-4

#### **DOE/Contractors**

Paul Sauerborn, WSRC  
Ron Beul, BSRI  
Tom Treger, DOE  
Vernon Osteen, WSRC  
Don Gordon, WSRC  
Tom Rehder, WSRC

**\* Members of the ER Committee**

**Note: Beaurine Wilkins and Jimmy Mackey of the ER Committee were unable to attend.**

**Introduction: Maria Reichmanis introduced herself and then asked for introductions.**

**Schedule Review: Paul Sauerborn reviewed the schedule noting topics to be reviewed through the end of calendar year 2000, and requested any suggested addition.**

**Recommendation 93 (Annual Update on pre- and post-Suspension Comparison of Documents): Tom Rehder presented the update on Recommendation 93 titled Federal Facility Agreement Modification Feasibility Study Scoping and Primary Document Quality, for Brian Hennessey who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Rehder stated that the Recommendation sited four elements as follows:**

1. Ensure suspension does not reoccur.
2. Provide CAB with a list of items that caused the suspension and actions taken to resolve.
3. Restart any suspended work on these 11 waste units as soon as possible.
4. Provide an annual update on pre- and post-suspension comparison on documents that go beyond the revision 1 stage.

Mr. Rehder noted that one through three SRS responded to in September 1999 and that four is the purpose of this presentation. Mr. Rehder also stated that the suspension lasted from July through September of 1999, and was chosen by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4, and the Department of Energy – Savannah River Site to fix programmatic problems, rather than to continue to submit documents that did not meet expectations. A chart showing the percentage of revisions by the number of document revisions demonstrated conclusively that the number of post-suspension

revision percentages declined significantly and should continue to improve. Mr. Rehder stated that even with the suspension of work on the 11 projects, that SRS, EPA and SCDHEC are meeting and achieving Record of Decision sooner because of improved scoping and problem identification.

The units that have accelerated because of the work done during the suspension are:

- Ford Building Seepage Basin
- L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit, Rubble Pile, and Gas Cylinder Disposal Facility
- R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin
- Central Shops Sludge Lagoon

Maria Reichmanis was appreciative of the update and will be considering the need to receive additional updates in the future as required by the Recommendation. Ms. Corkran noted that from an EPA perspective all agencies worked together in order to claim this success. Ms. Corkran also noted the working groups on this issue were not managers, but the people directly involved in the process. Murray Riley stated that he was in strong agreement that the use of the people directly involved in the work as the participants on the project was an excellent way to address this complex issue.

**Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing (Update):** Don Gordon presented toxicity testing challenges at SRS wastewater outfalls. Mr. Gordon stated that he was here to provide an update on costs associated with toxicity testing per Recommendation 123, which covers:

- Success of alternate organism (*Daphnia ambigua*).
- Commercial availability of a new organism.
- Cost of toxicity testing investigations.
- Regulatory standardization of new organism.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the alternate species could be successfully cultured in soft synthetic waters and is as sensitive as the previous species. In addition, he stated that the *Daphnia ambigua* is being cultured by the ETT Laboratory as well as Shealy Laboratory, both in South Carolina. At present there are no other laboratories culturing this organism. Mr. Gordon stated that commercial availability would not become an issue until EPA approves the alternate organism.

Mr. Gordon gave the following costs associated with Toxicity Testing Investigation:

- The cost of conducting the Alternate Species Toxicity Testing was \$180,000.
- The cost of Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIE) on outfall effluents for which toxicants were identified was \$215,000, and for those toxicants identified was \$90,000.
- The costs of the TIE on Outfall A-11 effluent where the toxicity testing failures were due to low hardness of the water and not toxicant was \$100,000.

In Summary, Mr. Gordon stated the following:

- *Daphnia ambigua* is considered to be a suitable alternative species for toxicity testing in soft water environments based on SRS research.
- Alternative organism commercially available.
- The overall cost for investigations into toxicity testing failures due to inadequacies of test method has been \$100,000.

- EPA approval has not been obtained, and expectation is later due to other work priority.

**SC Water Quality Standards-Regulation Changes Motion:** Little discussion ensued and the motion was approved to be sent forward for the CAB full board consideration and possible approval.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments. Ms. Reichmanis thanked the attendees, and the meeting was adjourned.

*For copies of meeting handouts call 1-800-249-8155.*