



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Nuclear Materials Committee

Meeting Summary

July 23, 2001
Holiday Inn Coliseum at USC
Columbia, SC

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) Nuclear Materials (NM) Committee held a meeting on Monday, July 23 to discuss a draft recommendation on the Yucca Mountain Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement.

CAB Members

Ken Goad*
Jean Sulc*
William Lawrence*
Brendolyn Jenkins*

DOE/Contractors

George Mishra, DOE-SR
Mike Dunsmuir, WSRC
Donna Martin, WSRC

Jean Sulc, CAB NM member, opened the meeting in absence of the NM chair. The draft recommendation on the Yucca Mountain Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact that Ms. Sulc developed was discussed. Sulc said she talked with several people at the Yucca Mountain site during her research. The supplement included new information such as potentially using DOE canisters to assist in thermal cooling, therefore allowing DOE material to be placed in the repository at an earlier date, and the possibility of having a surface aging area that will allow commercial fuel to be removed from commercial nuclear facilities at an earlier date.

According to Sulc, a surface aging area will benefit DOE in that although the fuel will not go directly into the repository, the commercial utilities will be satisfied with the removal of the fuel from facilities to free up storage room. As a result, DOE material could be placed in the repository without the need to for placement of commercial fuel.

Brendolyn Jenkins asked for someone to explain what the phrase "cooling down" entailed. Mike Dunsmuir, WSRC, said the commercial nuclear spent fuel must thermally cool down before it can be placed in the repository. DOE had planned to intersperse thermally cooler material with thermally hot material through the coordination of shipping schedules. He further explained that DOE material is not as thermally hot as commercial spent fuel. The first shipments of material from SRS are scheduled for 2010.

William Lawrence, CAB member, said he does not believe the repository will open due to lack of progress on the political end. Sulc stated that despite the political issues, the law requires that a national geologic repository be constructed. The SRS CAB's task, she added, is to ensure the repository will open.

A question was asked if Europe had a geologic repository. Sulc said many of the countries in Europe conduct reprocessing for spent fuel to reduce waste volume.

Another question was raised about the 70,000 MTHM design limit. Dunsmuir said he would take the action and provide the information to the committee.

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