



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Citizens Advisory Board makes recommendations

The SRS CAB met Sept. 28-29 at the Sheraton in Augusta, Ga. The Board hosted guests from the Pantex and Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Boards. The following four recommendations and one resolution were adopted by the board:

A recommendation to provide sufficient funding in FY2000 for the technical programs needed to assure successful stabilization of Americium/Curium solutions; that funding for the new Plutonium Storage Project and the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility be protected; that sufficient funding be provided for high level waste tank supernate processing upgrades and that if funds are not available, Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR) make a strong effort to fit these items into the approved FY2000 funding level.

The Board provided general and specific comments on the DOE Order 435.1 regarding radioactive waste management.

The SRS CAB recommended that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) determine under what conditions they would approve disposal of Comprehensive Environmental Response,

Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) wastes that meet the appropriate waste acceptance criteria in an SRS-operated, DOE-regulated waste disposal facility, and particularly if they would approve disposing of CERCLA soils in the E Area trenches.

The Board recommended that SRS enact the preferred alternative of shipping contaminated soils from the SRL seepage basins to Utah and backfill to the original grade even though the CAB does not believe this is the most efficient, cost effective option. This recommendation was made for the following reasons: 1) Since the agencies have finally agreed on a remedial option, to ask for further reviews would delay closure and 2) The CAB has no reason to think that EPA Region IV would now consider disposal in the slit trenches an acceptable alternative even though there has been an affirmative determination in place since 1996 and other DOE facilities have been disposing of CERCLA waste in DOE-regulated facilities.

This meeting also generated a strong CAB endorsement of the Savannah River Ecology Lab Rainbow Bay in the form of the board's first resolution. The Board believes it is in the interest of the nation, SRS stakeholders and the advancement of science that this research continue.

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Public Meeting date changed

The public meeting scheduled for November 3 will now be held November 5, 3:00 p.m. at the Aiken County Public Library on requested RCRA modifications. Representatives from SRS will be available to answer questions.

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

- **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The final EIS was issued on August 28, 1998.

- **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The final EIS has been delayed until after the Secretary's decision on tritium production.

- **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The final EIS has been delayed until after the Secretary's decision on tritium production.

- **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. Planned RODs are HLW storage, fall 1998, LLW/LLMW, end 1998.

- **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The draft EIS is projected to be issued in November 1998.

- **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, Public meetings were held in August at various sites around the complex. The public comment period on the draft EIS closed Sept. 16, 1998.

- **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, The draft EA was issued to the states of S.C. and Ga. on Aug. 20, 1998. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected Oct. 1998.

- **A-01 Outfall Constructed Wetland Project (DOE/EA-1246)**, The predecisional draft EA was sent to the states of S.C. and Ga. for review and comment on March 18, 1998. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected Oct. 1998.

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