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SOUTH CAROLINA NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL

NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

October 16, 2002
10:00 AM, Room 209 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina

Members present: Mr. Steve Byrne, Dr. Carolyn Hudson, Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, Mr. Ben Rusche, Ms. Kate Billing, Dr. Vincent Van Brunt, Dr. James Navratil and Senator Greg Ryberg.
Staff: Patricia Tangney and D'Juana Wilson

The fifth meeting of the SC Nuclear Advisory Council convened on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, at 10:10 in Room 209 of the Gressette Building in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Ryberg made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr Ben Rusche, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Stucker then asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes of the April 25, 2002, meeting. Mr. Rusche made a motion to approve the minutes of this meeting, with a second from Senator Ryberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Stucker then stated that Mr. Bill Newberry, Director of the Radioactive Waste Disposal Program would address the Council on the Final Report on the Barnwell Extended Care Fund by the consultant, Bradburne, Briller & Johnson, LLC. He indicated that the Final Report was completed on August 6, 2002, and is available on the Program's web site at www.state.sc.us/energy/llrwdisposal.htm. Mr. Newberry explained that the Final Report contained an expanded discussion of the vulnerabilities of the trust fund as a state account. In addition to being subject to the appropriation process, the fund's status as a state account precluded its investment in longer-term securities that would earn higher interest rates over the extended care period. Mr. Newberry pointed out that a preface was added to the Report after the General Assembly transferred money from the account to the general fund. The preface provides tables that show the amount of annual appropriations that would be needed in order to replenish the fund with interest.

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Senator Ryberg raised a question about prior funds taken from this account and a discussion led regarding the letter sent to Governor Hodges after the April 2002 meeting followed. The Council decided that it would recommend that the Budget and Control Board prepare a proposal to set this account up as a trust fund, thereby affording it protection from the appropriations process in the General Assembly. Senator Ryberg moved that the Council send a letter to the Governor recommending that the Budget and Control seek legislation establishing the Extended Care Fund as a Trust Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ben Rusche and unanimously approved.

After this discussion, staff from the Savannah River Site and Westinghouse presented information on the Top-to-Bottom Review at SRS to the Council. These included discussion of how the review affected the disposition of high-level waste at the site and subsequent changes to the SRS Long Range Comprehensive Plan. Mr. John Pescosolido, Chief Financial Officer, Savannah River Site, began with his presentation on the Environmental Management (EM) Top-to-Bottom Review. Mr. Pescosolido spoke on the following topics:

- SRS Mission Transition
- SRS is a Long Term Mission Site
- National Perspective EM Status
- Top to Bottom Team Formed to Address EM Program Concerns
- Team Recommendations
- Top to Bottom Affect on SRS Comprehensive Plan
- SRS Site Integrated Schedule
- SRS Planning Hierarchy, and
- Basis for Proposed PPMP Approach

Senator Ryberg asked when shipments were expected for Yucca Mountain and Mr. Pescosolido said in 2010. Assuming that Yucca Mountain is on schedule, by 2025 all waste should be out of South Carolina, but that plans for a second storage facility at SRS would hold waste in case of a delay in shipments. Mr. Rusche asked about the EM budget and was told that 1/3 of the budget

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was for clean up and the other 2/3 of the budget is for monitoring. Mr. Rusche also wanted to know if Mr. Pescosolido represented NNSA, which is the National Nuclear Security Administration. Mr. Pescosolido responded by with an estimated time frame of about 2012 for NNSA becoming the managers of the site and further noted that they have seen the plan and are looking into transitioning into NNSA. Mr. Navratil wanted to know how experienced manpower is affected by this plan. Mr. Pescosolido said that there would be a 'remixing' of the workforce and by that, the overall costs of operating the site will decrease. Mr. Byrne asked for clarifications of certain acronyms that were used and also wanted to know about plans for shipments to Yucca Mountain if it is operational by 2010.

Mr. Bill Johnson, Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) Vice President for Nuclear Materials Management Division, then gave a presentation on accelerated clean-up initiatives resulting from the review. Mr. Charlie Anderson, Ms. Susan Anthony and Mr. Mike Johnson from WSRC joined Mr. Johnson at the podium to answer questions. Mr. Johnson spoke on the following topics:

- High Level Waste
- Nuclear Materials
- Solid Waste
- Environmental Restoration
- Security
- D&D and Long-Term Stewardship

After Mr. Johnson's presentation, Dr. Stucker asked Mr. David Wilson of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to give the Council his thoughts about the Top-to-Bottom Review and the long-range plan. Mr. Wilson told the Council that DHEC has sent a letter to the Department of Energy supporting the acceleration of clean-up, but stated that DHEC does have some about the process. First, he said that while accelerated clean-up initiatives do not change the volumes of waste that would be disposed on-site, they do leave more curies than

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originally stated in the Long-Range Comprehensive Plan. Secondly, South Carolina has joined Idaho and the state of Washington as a friend of the court in a lawsuit that challenges the procedures used by DOE in determining whether high-level waste can actually be classified as waste incidental to reprocessing, and therefore be disposed of on-site. Finally, DHEC is concerned about the lack of commitment from DOE for additional funding for clean-up should it be necessary, and their silence on whether or not money saved on accelerated clean-up would be re-invested in the site. DHEC feels that DOE should invite public comment on these issues.

Mr. Keith Collingsworth, also from DHEC, joined Mr. Wilson to answer questions and after further discussion, Dr. Stucker asked that Mr. Rusche serve as team leader for a workgroup consisting of himself, Dr. Vincent Van Brunt and Dr. Carolyn Hudson to study the three areas of concern outlined by DHEC, and to recommend a course of action for the Council. Dr. Stucker asked that the workgroup prepare its report within 30 days. Mr. Rusche stated that this was important work for the Council, and said he is pleased to be a part of the effort.

Chairman Stucker indicated that once Mr. Rusche's group had completed its work, he would ask another workgroup, headed up by Steve Byrne, to look at the issues related to possible energy production and other non-governmental applications of nuclear technology at SRS. Senator Ryberg expressed an interest in hearing about the Dominion Energy proposal for developing commercial nuclear power at SRS at the next meeting. Dr. Stucker said that the issue of safety and security of the nuclear facilities could also be addressed and asked Mr. Byrne to coordinate the efforts in having a presentation on this matter for the next meeting

Dr. Stucker said that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2003. Mr. Byrne said that Oconee Nuclear Station is still interested in hosting the Council for a meeting/tour and he will follow up with them on that matter.

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Chairman Stucker announced that although Representative Sharpe could not be present, he would like the record to reflect the Council's appreciation to him for his service on the Nuclear Advisory Council. This would have been his last meeting and Dr. Stucker wanted him to know how much his service has been appreciated. Also, this may be the last meeting for Senator Greg Ryberg, and just in case it is, Dr. Stucker thanked the Senator for his service to the Nuclear Advisory Council. Senator Ryberg indicated that if, in fact, he does not return to the Senate, he will be back with the Council due to the issues he has with the SRS.

A motion was made by Dr. Vincent Van Brunt 12:40 to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. James Navratil and unanimously approved.