

Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council

Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Gressette Building, Room 209, 1105 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Ben Rusche
Mr. Steve Byrne
Dr. Carolyn Hudson
Ms. Karen Patterson
Dr. David Peterson
Dr. Vincent Van Brunt
Mr. Claude Cross

Attendees:

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| Helen Belencan, DOE-SR | Ginger Dickert, WSRC |
| Mark Schmitz, URS Washington Div. | Sam Glenn, NNSA-SR |
| Fred Christensen, SRP-Retired | Doug Hintze, DOE-SR |
| Clif Webb, SRNS-SRS | Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR |
| Sherri R. Ross, DOE-SR | Leslie Miner, Sierra Club |
| Doug Dearolph, NNSA-SRS Office | Sharon Smith, DOE-SR |
| Steve McConnell, SRNS | Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC |
| Sam Bhattacharyya, SRNL | Amy Lawrence, S.C. Energy Office |
| Steve Nesbit, Duke Energy | Sarah Tholstrup, S.C. Energy Office |

Call to Order – Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ben Rusche, Chairman of the Nuclear Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Rusche welcomed Captain Claude Cross, the newest member of the council, and made some brief comments about Mr. Bill Mottel's service to the state. Captain Cross thanked the council for the welcome. Mr. Rusche then called for the approval of minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting, and they were unanimously approved with Ms. Karen Patterson's edits. Mr. Rusche thanked Ms. Amy Lawrence and Ms. Sarah Tholstrup for their help with the meeting, as Ms. Catherine Vanden Houten was unable to attend.

Remarks from Senior SRS Management

Mr. Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR

Mr. Patrick McGuire, filling in for Mr. Terry Spears, began his comments by introducing himself as the Assistant Manager for the Nuclear Materials Stabilization project at the Savannah River Site. Mr. McGuire provided updates on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management is going to use Recovery Act funds to accelerate progress in cleanup and decommissioning programs. This will provide near-term environmental cleanup jobs. This is not new work for SRS but new funds will speed things up. With regard to the budget, the department submitted its FY10 budget to Congress. While the budget is slightly less than the FY09 budget, with the addition of recovery act funds, there is plenty of funding to achieve the year's goals and accelerate future work. With regard to nuclear materials, SRS continues to safely and securely

consolidate plutonium. With regard to enriched uranium, the last container from the Y12 plant has been charged to dissolvers. The processing campaign began in February of 2008 and included 4.5 metric tons of 7.5 metric tons that will be processed through 2011. That will be part of 4.5 metric tons of low enriched uranium being sent to Tennessee to be used in TVA reactors for power generation. Mr. Rusche asked if the material is uniform and Mr. McGuire replied that the material from Y12 is fairly uniform and consistent, and that all materials received end up uniform and consistent.

In regard to liquid waste disposition activities, the liquid waste contract was awarded to Savannah River Remediation, LLC and the transition effort that began in early April is expected to be completed by July 1st.

One week ago SRS shipped their 1000th shipment of transuranic waste to the waste isolation pilot plant (WIPP). Another 1000 shipments will be completed in the next 30 months with Recovery Act funds. They are planning on unearthing and initiating a retrieval of the waste from Tru Pad 1.

The defense waste processing facility continues to vitrify liquid waste. So far this fiscal year it has vitrified 123 canisters of waste for a total of 2722 canisters that are all being safely stored in the glass waste storage buildings on site. SRS continues interim salt disposition processing and are approaching annual goals. The ARP/MCU process is operating very well with the month of May having a 50% increase in throughput over past months.

Someone asked how many drums are contained in a TRU waste shipment, and Mr. McGuire said it is twenty drums in each robust shipment container. Over 28,000 55-gallon drums have been shipped to date. Ms. Patterson noted a rumor that had come to her that ARP MCU is not able to meet its throughput. Mr. McGuire responded that Mr. Schmitz would address that comment in his presentation. Someone else asked about staffing levels, and Mr. McGuire replied that they are actively recruiting and that others will speak more about that. Mr. Rusche made some comments about the amount of waste being disposed of at WIPP.

Mr. Doug Dearolph, NNSA-SRSO

Mr. Doug Dearolph introduced himself as the manager of the DOE-SR National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) office. Mr. Dearolph mentioned that this is his second tour of duty with NNSA. Mr. Dearolph gave an update on the NNSA budget which is lower than the 2009 levels and actually restores them back to 2008. They would like more funding for Science Supporting the Science which would affect infrastructure capabilities. Tritium facilities continue to meet production requirements. The schedule for Tritium Producing Burnable Absorption Rods (TPBAR) irradiation continues to progress and as originally planned, a second Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reactor will likely be employed to increase the flexibility for future TPBAR irradiation requirements.

Mr. Mark Schmitz, WSRC

Mr. Mark Schmitz introduced himself as Deputy Associate Director of Nuclear and High Hazard Operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory on assignment to SRS. With regard to current operations of ARP/MCU, May was a very good month with 95,000 gallons of salt waste being processed. In 21 days of operation there have been no significant issues.

The Savannah River Remediation Company (SRR) has a contract for six years with an additional two-year option. SRR is a URS-led team. The project manager and president for SRR will be Jim French. SRR will be responsible for the same liquid waste operations now covered by WSRC. The new contract will use new technologies to accomplish its goal of closing 22 of the 49 remaining waste tanks at SRS in 8 years. All remaining noncompliant tanks will be closed. There are only six remaining single-shell tanks; two of those have already been closed. Other work includes tripling bulk waste removal from tank farms and doubling certain throughputs. Transition activities are on schedule and jobs have been offered to all 1800 current employees. Ms. Patterson asked about whether tank 48 is on critical path or not. Mr. Schmitz answered that tank 41 and 48 are switching places so that tank 48 is coming off critical path. Ms. Karen Patterson asked that at the September meeting SRR will provide more detail about how this will all be done.

Dr. Samit Bhattacharyya, SRNS

Dr. Samit Bhattacharyya, the manager of SRNL, updated the Council on SRNS activities, in the absence of Chuck Munns. The ARRA funds span four major projects. He noted that SRNS takes the responsibility of fiscal transparency with ARRA funds and safety very seriously. Dr. Bhattacharyya talked about the 1200 jobs that have been hired for or redirected and the 3000 total jobs that will be needed. Most of the jobs will be given to local people. There are 382 new employees.

Savannah River National Laboratory

Dr. Samit Bhattacharyya, Director SRNL

Dr. Bhattacharyya gave a power point presentation update on the Savannah River National Laboratory. He explained current SRNL R&D portfolio elements, gave an overall summary of highlights since September of 2008, and outlined environmental program initiatives, national/homeland security initiatives, energy security initiatives, potential SRS energy park initiatives, other programs, SRNL infrastructure actions, significant honors/awards (2009). He stressed that support of state and federal political leadership will continue to be important. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Ms. Helen Belencan, DOE-SR

Ms. Helen Belencan gave a power point presentation about the SRS Recovery Act Footprint Reduction Project. She outlined the EM Recovery Act Program, \$6 billion in Recovery Act funding for DOE environmental cleanup, cleanup priorities, area closures, waste and material disposition, and accountability and transparency in regulatory agency involvement. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Doug Hintze, DOE-SR

Mr. Doug Hintze gave a power point presentation about the SRS Strategic Plan Update. He elaborated on the major concepts of the strategic plan, SRS vision, alignment with DOE strategic themes, basis for strategic planning, planning assumptions, and the next steps. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

Tank Closure Update

Ms. Sherri Ross

Ms. Sherrie Ross gave a power point presentation update on the Tank Closure Program at SRS. She gave an overview of the program and went into detail about progress made, tanks 18 and 19, a comparison of public dose risks, tanks 5 and 6, the path forward, bulk waste removal, SRS liquid waste tanks, commitments, the sand mantis, the process for decision making, and the F-Tank Farm all-pathways peak dose for 20,000 years. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

Plutonium Consolidation and Disposition

Mr. Patrick McGuire, DOE-SR

Mr. Patrick McGuire gave a power point presentation about surplus, non-pit plutonium consolidation and disposition at the Savannah River Site. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

NNSA Projects Update

Mr. Sam Glenn, NNSA-SRSO

Mr. Sam Glenn and his co-workers gave a power point presentation about the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility, Waste Solidification Building, and Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF). Their presentation included a project summary for the waste solidification building. They also gave a project performance summary, NRC assessment results, and facility location and status for the fuel fabrication facility. Finally, they spoke about the PDCF Project & Program Status, and PDCF Infrastructure. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

Duke Energy Programs Update

Mr. Steve Nesbit, Duke Energy Office

Mr. Steve Nesbit introduced himself as the Director of Nuclear Policy and Support for Duke Energy. He gave a summary of Duke's nuclear fleet. Mr. Nesbit gave a recap of operations in 2008. He talked about the planned new Lee Nuclear Station and gave reasons for it. Mr. Rusche made the comment that collaboration and cooperation in these matters is very important.

SCANA Programs Update

Mr. Steve Byrne, Senior Vice President, SCANA

Mr. Steve Byrne gave a power point presentation on the SCE&G Nuclear Update. He elaborated on the need for new generation, indicative busbar cost \$/MWH, generation mix by dispatch, proposed new nuclear facilities, and Chinese nuclear reactors. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website: <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.*

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Update

Ms. Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC

Ms. Shelly Wilson spoke about the effects of the economy on SCDHEC. Ten percent of environmental jobs at DHEC have been lost, and DHEC services are stressed as their budget has decreased from \$147 million to \$107 million. Fortunately, there will be eight new environmental jobs to deal with SRS. Ms.

Wilson suggested that clean-up and tank closing should be considered for stimulus money, and she spoke briefly about the draft environmental impact statements. *A copy of this presentation is available on the Nuclear Advisory Council webpage of the South Carolina Energy Office website:* <http://www.energy.sc.gov>.

Public Comments

Ms. Leslie Minard, Sierra Club

Ms. Leslie Minard of the Sierra Club agreed with Ms. Shelly Wilson and suggested that stimulus money should go toward waste clean-up, and she expressed fears of nuclear reprocessing as SC could become like Yucca Mountain. She also suggested that we should be looking at alternative ways to create more jobs in South Carolina including wind energy. Mr. Rusche thanked her for coming to speak to the council.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Rusche asked if there were any further comments or questions. Mr. Rusche adjourned the meeting after again thanking Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Tholstrup for their assistance with the meeting.