

**Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
Thursday, September 10, 2009**

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

Council Members in Attendance:

Captain Claude Cross
Dr. Carolyn Hudson
Ms. Karen Patterson
Dr. David Peterson
Dr. Vincent Van Brunt
Rep. Tom Young

Attendees:

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| Emile Bernard, SRS-CAB | Chris Gentile, SRNS |
| Amy Bolin, Duke Energy | Allen Gunter, DOE-SR |
| Scott Cannon, NNSA-SRSO | Sue King, MOX Services |
| Eric Chissard, MOX Services | Eric McCartney, Progress Energy |
| Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth | Rick McLeod, SRS-CRO |
| Thomas B. Cochran, NRDC | Joe Ortaldo, SRS-CAB |
| Doug Dearolph, NNSA-SRSO | Billy Routh, MG&C Consulting |
| James DeMass, DOE-SR | Sheron Smith, DOE-SR |
| Ginger Dickert, | Zack Smith, DOE-SR |
| Carl Everett, DOE-SR | Catherine Vanden Houten, SC Energy Office |
| Jim French, SRR | Shelly Wilson, SC DHEC |

Call to Order – Approval of Minutes

Mr. Karen Patterson opened the meeting by announcing that Chairman Ben Rusche had asked her to chair today's meeting, as he was still recuperating from recent surgery. Ms. Patterson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Patterson then called for the approval of minutes from the June 2009 meeting, and they were unanimously approved.

Remarks from Senior SRS Management

Mr. Zack Smith, DOE-SR

Mr. Zack Smith, DOE's federal project director for the Salt Waste Processing Facility, explained that he was asked to represent Mr. Jeff Allison, who could not be in attendance today. He gave a brief overview of the recent activities and accomplishments at the site.

He explained that ARRA stimulus funds are funding the deactivation and decommissioning work at P & R reactors. These will be the first in situ deactivations and decommissionings of reactors for DOE. The completion of that task is expected by 2011.

He also mentioned other ARRA-funded environmental restoration work that is ongoing in other areas at the site and is estimated for completion in 2010.

TRU waste activities are proceeding well, with packaging and shipments to WIPP. The 1,000th shipment of waste to WIPP took place this summer, with more than 1000 additional shipments planned.

In summary, there were 1,900 jobs associated with the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds – either created or preserved. The site overall received \$1.6 billion. \$1.29 billion of that went to SRNS-related work, primarily related to deactivation and decommissioning activities. \$200 billion went to SRR that will cover some of the tank farm system upgrades and will facilitate the eventual feed of waste material from the tank farms to the salt waste processing facility.

He pointed out that additional funding is currently outstanding but is expected to be released to the site. He concluded that good progress is being made and that more achievements, including jobs preserved or created, will be forthcoming in the 2010-11 timeframe.

He also introduced the contractor that has been selected for the liquid waste contract: Savannah River Remediation (SRR). He explained that Jim French, President of SRR will provide an update later in the meeting.

Mr. Smith distributed copies of the *EM Update* newsletter (a publication of DOE's Office of Environmental Management), that summarizes the achievements of the Salt Waste Processing Facility and other projects on the site.

Dr. Vincent Van Brunt asked about what type of environmental remediation issues had been encountered in D area. Mr. Smith explained that while he could not report on the specifics, the bulk of the facilities have all been taken down with the exception of the powerhouse, which will be turned over to the Army. He acknowledged that at that site, it is primarily old legacy material.

Ms. Karen Patterson asked that Mr. Smith convey a message back to Mr. Jeff Allison. She explained that they have been told previously that the budget was dismal and that after the ARRA funds are spent, the budget is in even worse shape than previously. However, there is still a great deal of cleanup that needs to take place at the Site. Ms. Patterson expressed her concern on behalf of the Nuclear Advisory Council that there be sufficient funding to do the necessary clean-up work. In light of a recent audit, which was reported in the newspapers as not very positive, she pointed out that there is concern about the recent management changes

both in DOE and in SRNS. She also explained that at the most recent Citizen's Advisory Board meeting, Ms. Patterson had requested that DOE present some of these details to the Nuclear Advisory Council. Specifically, she suggested that DOE report at the next Council meeting what specific issues the audit identified, how DOE is resolving those issues and the metrics by which success will be measured.

Mr. Doug Dearolph, NNSA-SRSO

Mr. Doug Dearolph introduced himself as the manager of the DOE-SR National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) office. He briefly explained some of the areas of focus for his office, including the defense programs missions, specifically the tritium missions and the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF), the MOX programs and non-proliferation. He explained that more details about many of these activities would be provided by subsequent speakers, including Chris Gentile about the tritium operations, Scott Cannon about the PDCF, and Eric Chassard regarding the MOX services.

Mr. Chris Gentile, SRNS

Mr. Chris Gentile provided a brief overview of the tritium activities at the site, explaining that they make new tritium and recycle old tritium. He also explained that they have a strong emphasis on ensuring that their activities are successful, carrying out surveillance work and passing on that information to the Savannah River National Laboratory to ensure that the stockpile is safe. He provided some information on the tritium extraction facility and process. Mr. Gentile then briefly summarized some of the accomplishments, pointing out that over the past 51 consecutive years they have never missed a shipment. He also pointed out their strong safety record and explained that there have been no contamination cases in the last 10 years.

Speaking about SRS as a whole, he also briefly summarized some developments resulting from the ARRA funding, explaining that approximately 1,200 new jobs were created and about 800 jobs have been retained. He also pointed out some other expected results of ARRA-funded activities, including that the active footprint will be decreased by around 40 percent and approximately 100 facilities or structures will be deactivated and decommissioned.

Liquid Waste Contract

Mr. Jim French, SRR

Mr. Jim French, President and Project Manager of Savannah River Remediation, provided an overview of their activities. He explained that on July 1, 2009, they became the contractor for the liquid waste operations. He provided an overview of their operations, the SRR team and their product lines. He explained the various aspects of the work they are involved in, including interim salt waste processing, sludge processing and tank closure. Mr. French showed a powerpoint presentation that provided details of many of these activities. *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>.*

SRS Biomass Facility

Mr. James DeMaas, DOE-SR

Mr. DeMaas, Project Manager with the Infrastructure Support and Oversight Division, provided a report on the new biomass cogeneration facility. He explained that this new facility will supply the site with a reliable source of steam. He pointed out that this new facility replaces a powerhouse that was over 55 years old and whose condition and reliability were rapidly deteriorating. He also explained that an additional impetus for this project were several federal mandates that require federal agencies to conserve energy. Mr. DeMaas went on to explain that this project is being conducted through a performance contract with Ameresco, that it is estimated to result in significant emissions reductions and will require substantially less water to be drawn from the Savannah River. Mr. DeMass made a powerpoint presentation that provided additional details about this project. *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. Eric Chassard, Executive VP of MOX Services

Mr. Eric Chassard, Executive Vice president of Shaw AREVA MOX Services, LLC, provided an overview of progress on the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility. He explained that the project is 36% complete overall and that the building construction continues on schedule. He also pointed out the strong safety record, with 1 million continuous safe work hours without a lost time accident. Mr. Chassard made a powerpoint presentation that provided additional details about this project. *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>.

Pit Disassembly & Conversion Facility Update

Scott Cannon, NNSA-SRSO

Mr. Scott Cannon, with the National Nuclear Security Administration, reported on the status of the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF). He began by providing an overview of the PDCF infrastructure as well as the program and project status. He reported on two baseline alternatives that had been identified for evaluation, a stand-alone facility constructed adjacent to the MOX facility or incorporating the PDCF processes into K-Reactor, with other plutonium-handling processes, explained various aspects of those alternatives and explained the resulting recommendation, which is to construct PDCF processes in K-Reactor. Mr. Cannon also reviewed the nuclear materials disposition process and explained how the PDCF fits into that process. Mr. Cannon made a powerpoint presentation that provided additional details about this project. *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>.

Progress Energy Nuclear Update

Eric McCartney, Vice President - RNT

Mr. Eric McCartney, Vice President with Progress Energy, provided an overview of the utility's involvement with nuclear power. He began his presentation with an overview of Progress Energy, its H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant and related issues. He pointed out that the Robinson Plant began its operations in 1971 and was the first nuclear power plant in the southeastern United States. In addition to providing details about the plant, its workforce strategy and its role in the community, he also discussed the larger trends affecting nuclear energy in both the state and the nation. Mr. McCartney made a powerpoint presentation that provided additional details about Progress Energy's nuclear operations. *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 with the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control (DHEC) provided an update on DHEC developments since the previous meeting of the Nuclear Advisory Council. She pointed out that the agency's budget has since sustained another cut of approximately 40 percent. The state portion of the agency's budget has not been this small since the early 1990s. She went on to point out that much of DHEC's oversight of federal facilities is funded through federal money; therefore, these responsibilities remain somewhat insulated from the budget cuts. Ms. Wilson further explained that they are increasing their staffing related to the oversight of Savannah River Site's ARRA activities.

Ms. Wilson also provided an update on an item reported at the previous meeting. She explained that DOE had put together a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement for long-term mercury storage, as the Savannah River Site is being considered as a national candidate site for this purpose. She reported that DHEC submitted comments on this issue to DOE in late August. She offered to provide copies of those comments to anyone interested. She explained that DHEC concluded that the Savannah River Site would not be a prime site for long-term mercury storage due to the huge burden of legacy waste and nuclear materials already present at the site. These materials need to be dispositioned and addressed before any new materials are brought to the site for management.

She also briefly addressed the issue of tank closures, reviewed the various roles of Nuclear Regulatory Commission, DHEC and others in the process, and discussed lessons learned and review timeframes. She explained how efficiency in the tank closure review process has been improved and timeframes have been tightened.

Public Comments

Ms. Patterson then opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Thomas Cochran introduced himself as senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the former director of their nuclear program. He explained that he had met with DOE and contractors at the site and had toured the facilities and reviewed some of their data. He explained that they have set up a good report that summarizes tank inventories on a six-month basis. Mr. Cochran then stated that since tank space is freed up, more attention should be focused on minimizing the amount of Cesium left at the Site rather than the speed of closing the tanks. He closed by offering that NRDC would be available to assist on some of these issues.

Mr. Tom Clements, Friends of the Earth, mentioned that he had accompanied Mr. Cochran on a tour of the site and expressed his appreciation that DOE is being open and transparent about the tank issues and others issues. He also spoke briefly about the tritium issue. He explained that in the DOE FY2010 budget, tritium production was indicated at three reactors. Mr. Clements expressed concerns that tritium needs be determined after the Obama administration's nuclear review is complete. He explained that this review is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year or by January 2010; that review may result in a better idea of how much is tritium is needed.

Mr. Clements also commented on the issue of the commercial AP 1000 reactor which SCE&G is proposing to construct at V.C. Summer in Jenkinsville, SC. He explained that there is now no review schedule for final certification of the reactor. Mr. Clement's organization, Friends of the Earth, intends to follow up with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about that issue. He also pointed out that Friends of the Earth has filed an appeal with the South Carolina Supreme Court against the Public Service Commission decision to allow the two new nuclear reactors at V.C. Summer to be approved.

Mr. Clements concluded by mentioning the MOX issue, and expressing concern that there are no reactors to use MOX fuels. He explained various aspects of this issue and concluded that the Tennessee Valley Authority's expression of interest may not be sufficient, given the various mitigating issues.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Patterson thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting.