

Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Seeking New Members

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board recently announced opportunities for the public to apply for membership to the CAB. Although new members won't be seated until January, interested citizens should submit applications and reference letters to the Administrative Committee by September 16, 2005, to be considered for 2006 candidate selection.

The mission of the SRS CAB is to provide informed and timely recommendations to the Department of Energy, EPA, and SCDHEC concerning decisions that affect SRS in areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities. These are not paid positions, but travel expenses are covered. No expertise is required, just an interest in learning more about environmental management decisions that impact SRS, the CSRA and down river communities.

Board membership is open to citizens of Georgia and South Carolina. The Board needs candidates to fill several stakeholder categories, including minority, academia, business, environmental activist, labor and the general public. The Board's bylaws require that the Board have 12 females, 8 African Americans, and approximately equal participation between the two states and counties directly surrounding the site versus those down river.

To learn more about CAB and its important role with the Savannah River Site, please visit www.srs.gov (Click on Outreach) or contact: Dawn Haygood, SRS Citizens Advisory Board, Building 742-A, Room 190, Aiken, SC 29808, 803.725.9668, 1.800.249.8155, dawn.haygood@srs.gov.



The SRS Citizens Advisory Board is made up of citizens from across South Carolina and Georgia. Board members serve 2-year terms and may serve a maximum of three terms.

Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

- Disposition of Scrap Metals Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0327)

This PEIS will evaluate alternatives for disposition of DOE scrap metals that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The notice of intent (NOI) for this PEIS was issued on July 12, 2001. A public scoping meeting was held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, South Carolina. The draft PEIS has not been issued, and the schedule is uncertain.

- Supplemental PEIS on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (DOE/EIS-0236-S2)

This PEIS will evaluate alternative sites (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada Test Site, Pantex Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and Savannah River Site) for a Modern Pit Facility, to provide the capability to manufacture plutonium pits for the United States nuclear weapons stockpile. This PEIS will be followed by a site-specific EIS to address the impacts of construction and operation of the Modern Pit Facility at the selected site. The NOI for this PEIS was issued on September 23, 2002. A local public scoping meeting was held on October 29, 2002, in North Augusta, SC. Information regarding the draft PEIS can be found at 68 FR 33487, June 4, 2003. The draft PEIS may be viewed electronically at www.mpfais.com. The final supplemental PEIS has been delayed due to Congressional concerns about timing and scope of project.

- West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Waste Management EIS (DOE/EIS-0337)

DOE's proposed action (and preferred alternative) is to ship radioactive wastes that are either currently in storage on the WVDP site, or that will be generated from WVDP operations over the next ten years, to offsite disposal locations, and to continue managing its onsite waste storage tanks. The potential environmental consequences of the proposed action are evaluated in the final EIS, including impacts to workers and the public from waste transportation and waste management. The final EIS also ana-

lyzes an alternative under which certain wastes would be shipped to interim offsite storage locations including SRS prior to disposal. The preferred alternative does not involve SRS. The final PEIS was issued in January 2004 and may be viewed electronically at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/eis/eis0337/index.html>. The ROD was published in June 2005. This NEPA review has been completed and updates regarding this action will not appear in future bulletins.

- Safeguards and Security Upgrades for Storage of Plutonium Materials at SRS (DOE/EA-1538)

Several actions must be taken to provide adequate safeguards and security for plutonium materials currently stored at SRS. In light of the 2004 Design Basis Threat guidance, DOE has decided to co-locate the missions of K-Area Material Storage project and an F-Area building by modifying K-Area facilities to include functions that were previously proposed for F-Area. Actions would include deinventory of a building in F-Area and transfer of the inventory to a K-Area facility. In addition the Container Surveillance and Stabilization Capability (CSSC) project would be constructed and operated in K-Area rather than F-Area, and interim (prior to operation of CSSC) surveillance capability would also be located in K-Area rather than F-Area. Physical security upgrades would be provide for K-Area, and the Advanced Tactical Training Area would be modified to allow training of protective force personnel in new weapons and tactics. DOE plans to issue the draft EA in October 2005.

Want more Information on any SRS NEPA Issues?

For more information on any SRS NEPA issue
call the SRS NEPA Hotline at 1-800-881-7292
or E-mail at nepa@srs.gov

Citizen Advisory Board Recommendations

Recommendation 217 - Additional TRU Waste Shipments from Mound

The CAB supports an agreement between SRS and Mound where SRS makes four shipments to WIPP for every one shipment received from Mound. SRS shipments should be of equal volumetric quantities to incoming Mound shipments. However, for any additional TRU shipments to SRS including new shipments from Mound, the CAB recommends that:

- 1) DOE assure that SRS send four shipments of TRU waste from SRS to WIPP for every one shipment of Mound waste received at SRS.
- 2) DOE notify the CAB if it considers sending any additional TRU waste from other DOE sites to SRS, including any new shipments from Mound, and allow time for the CAB to evaluate the need for additional equity considerations.
- 3) DOE could expect such considerations before additional TRU waste from other DOE sites are received at SRS to include:
 - WIPP certification equipment is fully operational;
 - Assurances that SRS TRU waste shipments to WIPP do not get delayed by other DOE sites;
 - Acceleration of available shipping containers for non-drummed (TRUPACT III) and high-activity drum (Arrowpak) TRU waste; and
 - Provide a disposition path for all SRS TRU waste, particularly waste with no defined final disposition.

Recommendation 218 -Hanford Limited Plutonium (Pu) Disposition Mission

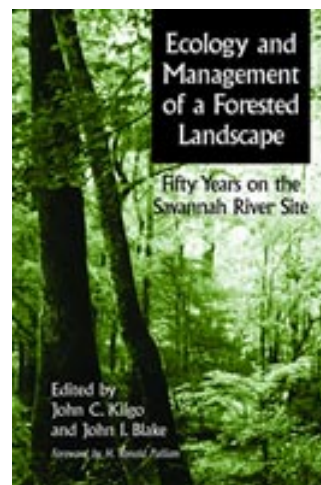
The SRS CAB has long recognized the Pu processing capabilities of SRS and the benefits of such to the DOE complex. The SRS CAB has been and continues to be supportive of processing small amounts of Pu at SRS, especially when existing SRS facilities can be used, it provides national benefit, and does not negatively impact the SRS budget. They recommend that DOE utilize the SRS HB-Line to dissolve and process twelve drums of Hanford Pu and report the status to the SRS CAB as soon as it's known, whether the material will be purified and converted for programmatic need or transferred to a sludge batch for immobilization in DWPF. They also recommended that DOE notify the SRS CAB before shipping any other quantities of plutonium to SRS from other DOE sites, except samples, standards and research related materials.

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Please call 1-800-249-8155 to find out more or visit the website at www.srs.gov, click on outreach.

New Book Published on SRS Natural Resources

The comprehensive history of research and management of the biotic communities and native species at SRS is presented in a new book, entitled "Ecology and Management of a Forested Landscape: Fifty Years on the Savannah River Site." This book tells the story of the 50-year period after the federal government acquired the land and moved the residents from the site. Human impacts have continued, primarily associated with the nuclear reactors and the support facilities; but, these impacts were largely localized. The vast majority of the site has suffered relatively minor human impacts in the ensuing half century. Edited by Drs. John Kilgo and John Blake of the USDA Forest Service-Savannah River, the book's seven chapters (encompassing 32 sections) were authored by 42 environmental professionals from the USDA Forest Service, WSRC, SREL, and various universities. As a result of the work documented in the 479-page book, the SRS is one of the best studied and managed environmental research sites in North America. This book will serve as both a baseline document and valuable reference for use in environmental work at SRS for years to come. Copies can be ordered from local book dealers or directly from the publisher, Island Press, Washington, DC, at islandpress.org.



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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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