

# SOUTH CAROLINA NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL

## NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

July 19, 2001, 9:30 AM

Rainbow Rooms, Building 703-41A

Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina

Members present: Mr. Steve Byrne, Dr. Carolyn Hudson, Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, Representative Charles Sharpe, Mr. Ben Rusche, Dr. James Navratil, Ms. Kate Billing, and Dr. Vincent Van Brunt.

Staff: Patricia Tangney

Absent Member: Senator Greg Ryberg

I – III.

The second meeting of the SC Nuclear Advisory Council was held on Thursday, July 19, 2001, at 9:30 AM, in Rainbow Rooms, Building 703-41A, Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina. Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a motion to approve today's agenda. Representative Charles Sharpe made the motion, with a second by Mr. Ben Rusche. The motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Stucker then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 26, 2001. Representative Sharpe made the motion, with a second by Mr. Ben Rusche. The motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Stucker announced that the Nuclear Advisory Council has established a web site and encouraged everyone to visit the site for updated information on the Council.

Mr. Charlie Hansen, Deputy Manager for the Savannah River Site greeted everyone and gave the opening remarks for the Savannah River Site presentation.

IV.

### **Discussion of SRS Issues:**

- Implementation of SRS Long Range Comprehensive Plan, including: Challenges & Opportunities; Fiscal Requirements
- Integration of EM and DP Missions at SRS, including: Status of Plutonium Disposition Projects
- Environmental Safety & Testing, including: Transportation Impacts
- SRS HLW/TRU Waste Disposal Requirements, including: Anticipated volumes of HLW and TRU Wastes requiring Disposal; Available Capacities planned WHIP and Yucca Mt. Facilities

A panel composed of representatives from Savannah River Site, SC Governor's Office and SC

Department of Health & Environmental Control addressed these issues. Representing the Savannah River Site: Mr. Jon Pescosolido; representing the Governor's Office: Mr. Hank Stallworth; and representing the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control: Mr. David Wilson. Upon completion of these presentations, a detailed discussion followed. Mr. Rusche, along with Dr. Van Brunt and Mr. Byrne expressed concerns about the SALT processing project. A detailed discussion followed and there was a motion made by Dr. Vincent Van Brunt, seconded by Mr. Ben Rusche, for a subcommittee to examine this project and collect all pertinent information relative to this process. A report and recommendation will be made to the Council on their findings. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Navratil raised questions the following questions for discussion: How much more groundwater needs to be treated? Where does low-level waste go and are disposal sites in jeopardy? Can the Savannah River Site generate their own electricity? Dr. Stucker wanted to know if the Savannah River Site received any waste, and Mr. Sauls responded that waste is received from the Navy. There was a discussion regarding waste that is shipped to the site as well as expressions of concern on this matter on behalf of the Governor. Mr. Charles Hansen addressed the issue of the generation of electricity and stated that there has been no indication from Congress that this should be the direction of the site. He also indicated that reactors at the site are not capable of generating electricity and they would have to rebuilt to produce energy. Dr. Stucker said that the Council will address this issue in more detail at the October meeting.

There was then discussion on the availability of tank space relative to Tritium and Plutonium balances. Officials for the site indication that there is not a need for additional tanks at this time, and they went on to say that they are currently working toward putting existing tanks to rest. The Council discussed the number of canisters that are stored on the site and Mr. Rusche urged the Council to consider an initiative with the state of Nevada to have them moved out of the state. The Council discussed the importance South Carolina's constant effort to have the canisters moved from the state. They also held a detailed discussion on the issue of Plutonium disposal.

The long term commitments of the Savannah River Site were then addressed and Mr. Rusche asked if there was a report that the Council members could receive on the commitments. Chairman Stucker stated that he would be responsible for drafting a letter from the Governor requesting this report.

V.

Mr. Ernie Chaput, representing the Economic Development Partnership, addressed the Council. He talked about their concerns of the uncertain disposition of Plutonium and wanted to talk about the facilities plans for disposition. He also expressed that Partnership is concerned about the funding of new tanks and the actual tank farms. In addition to these concerns they feel that the SALT processing alternative has not received adequate funding. Mr. Chaput also expressed that they see the site as job opportunities for the State of South Carolina and envision a concept of the site as an Energy Park for the production of energy and nuclear reactors.

Mr. Don Monidi, representing the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, addressed the Council. Mr. Monidi voiced his opinions on the selection of the meeting site and his views regarding press coverage. He also expressed personal concerns about the leakage of the tanks and pit production.

Mr. Ed Burgess, representing the SC Department of Commerce, addressed the Council and gave brief remarks on behalf of the Department and the State of South Carolina's investment opportunities within the Savannah River Site. Dr. Stucker took a moment to address a few of the meeting logistics issues and he also apologized for the meeting notice not being full published as he intended.

VI.

A motion was made by Chairman Stucker to delay shipment plans for the site until the plans can be addressed in more detail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rusche, with discussion following. It was stated that the plans should be identified in a clear, written form that the policies be incorporated to Congress and include an agreement with Congress. Mr. Navratil stated that an agreement with Yucca Mountain could also be included as a part of this

agreement. Dr. Van Brunt wanted to make sure that the plan should not be an adversary, but used to encourage the Department of Energy. The motion delay shipment plans pending a detailed review was approved unanimously.

VII.

Chairman Stucker announced that the focus of the next meeting will be nuclear power. There was discussion on meeting at the VC Summer Station in Jenkinsville, South Carolina as well as visiting other facilities. The Council discussed a visit to Oconee County as well as the Westinghouse Plant in Columbia. Chairman Stucker announced the meeting date will be October 18, 2001, and meeting logistics will be discussed and planned in the interim.

Mr. Navratil raised a question to DHEC officials about the drinking water in Simpsonville, and the Council briefly discussed other drinking water problems and available resources to address these issues throughout the state.

Chairman Stucker said that the Council may need to meet more than once a quarter as they progress. He said that the workgroups will meeting and relay information to other Council members in the interim. He then thanked the officials at the Savannah River Site for hosting the meeting, and said that after lunch, the Council would be participating in a site tour.

Dr. Stucker declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,