



**Environmental Management &
Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 6 p.m.
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Committee Members Present

Dale Bignell
Alfreda Cook
Carmen DeLong
Bob Hatcher, Co-Chair
Dave Hemelright
Bruce Hicks
Jennifer Kasten
Dick Ketelle
David Martin
Fay Martin
Donald Mei

Absent

Jimmy Bell
Donna Campbell
Susan Gawarecki
Gracie Hall
Steve Kenworthy
Roger Macklin
Gloria Mei
Lance Mezga
Norman Mulvenon
Bob Olson
Belinda Price
Julia Riley
Lorene Sigal
Ellen Smith
Ray Smith
Wanda Smith
Corkie Staley, Co-Chair

Others Present

Dave Adler, Department of Energy (DOE)
Steven Clemmons, DOE
Holly Clancy, UCOR/RSI
Jeff Crane, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Carl Froede, EPA
Matt Frost, Alliant
Sid Garland, UCOR/RSI
Dan Goode, U.S. Geological Survey (via telephone hookup)
Spencer Gross, SSAB staff
Steve Haase, UCOR/RSI
John Kubarewicz, UCOR/RSI
Roger Petrie, Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation
Jamie Raymer, Alliant
Lynn Sims, UCOR/RSI

Discussion of Long-term Groundwater Strategy Development Document

At the November 13 ORSSAB meeting, Dan Goode, U.S. Geological Survey, reported on a series of groundwater workshops and the resulting document. Mr. Goode acted as a liaison for the board and the committee to the workshops, which were conducted by representatives of DOE, EPA, and TDEC to determine a strategy for addressing groundwater issues on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).

The groundwater strategy document (DOE/OR/01-2628&D1) included a number of recommendations:

- DOE should pursue additional baseline funding for an ORR Groundwater Program
- An off-site groundwater quality assessment project should be conducted in the FY 2014-2016 timeframe.

- Known groundwater plumes should be ranked to help determine long-term remediation strategies for the ORR.

As liaison for the board and the committee, Mr. Goode made a number of suggestions for recommendations the board could make on the strategy document. His suggestions were (Attachment 1):

- ORSSAB could consider recommending that DOE proceed with an off-site groundwater quality assessment project
- ORSSAB could consider recommending that DOE secure additional baseline funding for interpretive analysis, including modeling, to obtain maximum benefit of monitoring data and other information
- ORSSAB could consider recommending that DOE broaden the technical support team beyond site contractors to include academic and government experts, akin to the scientific groundwater program at Oak Ridge prior to 1993. Such an approach seems to be underway with respect to mercury at ORR.
- ORSSAB could consider recommending that DOE adopt the plume rankings for management of site-wide groundwater remediation
- ORSSAB could consider recommending that DOE collect, review, and archive records associated with hydrofracture disposal to support long-term stewardship.

Mr. Hatcher said the purpose of this meeting was to consider Mr. Goode's suggestions and determine if the committee should group his suggestions into one recommendation or make individual recommendations.

Regarding the ranking of the plumes, Ms. DeLong said she would like to have a better understanding of the basis of the toxicity scales. She said she could not support recommending adoption of the plume rankings without understanding the basis for the rankings. Ms. Sims said Appendix H of the strategy document explains the scoring for the rankings. She said it's based on a standard hazard ranking system, and she provided some details of the scoring.

Mr. Bignell asked if there is information regarding potential exposures and risk. Ms. Sims reiterated that the scoring is based on a modified hazard ranking system that would include exposure and risk.

Mr. Hicks asked if there was an understanding of contaminants of concern. Mr. Hatcher said the ranking system is general and not specific to any particular contaminant.

Mr. Hatcher suggested that any recommendation on archiving hydrofracture records be set aside until the committee heard a briefing from Steve Stow on the topic. At the November 13 ORSSAB meeting, Mr. Goode said many records on the hydrofracture projects in Melton Valley are not properly archived. At that meeting Mr. Stow said there are many records on hydrofracture stored in the history room at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Ms. Kasten agreed that there are much data available on hydrofracture and how it was done. Mr. Stow is available to brief the committee at its January meeting.

Mr. Hemelright said of the five suggested recommendations, four are specific and one is more general. He thought the committee could move forward to consider a recommendation on the off-site groundwater quality assessment project.

Mr. Martin said perhaps the committee should get a handle on the available data and also suggest DOE bring in other outside sources. Mr. Bignell agreed about bringing in additional experts. He asked if the committee should see what other sites, such as Hanford, are doing. Mr. Hemelright said that would be a DOE function.

Mr. Crane reminded the committee that the groundwater strategy discussion was a result of the current long-term remediation strategy for the ORR to address groundwater last in the 2025 timeframe. There is concern about waiting so long to do something on groundwater and an off-site assessment was something that could be done earlier. Ms. Kasten noted that there isn't significant evidence of off-site migration. She said while there have been cases of cancer in the area there is no credible evidence how those patients were exposed to hazards.

Ms. Cook said any recommendation the board makes should be based on the groundwater document. She asked if the committee could come up with its own recommendations without studying the document. She didn't think so. She said the committee and board engaged Mr. Goode to summarize the document, and the committee could draft recommendations based on his input. She said it's not the committee's job to determine what problems are.

Mr. Hatcher said one of the main conclusions was there could be off-site migration of contaminants. Mr. Goode said the strategy team developed recommendations that DOE make changes in planning and take short-term actions on groundwater. He said there is concurrence among DOE, EPA, and TDEC to do a project, and the one selected was an off-site quality assessment. He said the committee and the board can support that or not. A second recommendation is to reinvigorate a science program to fill data gaps. He said the committee and the board can support that or not.

Mr. Hatcher said of the five suggested recommendations, the one on hydrofracture should be taken off the table until more is learned about available records.

He asked if the majority of the committee agreed to pursue a recommendation on an off-site quality assessment project. A majority of the committee agreed. Ms. Kasten volunteered to act as issue manager and Ms. DeLong agreed to be an assistant issue manager. They will provide a draft recommendation to the committee at its January 15 meeting.

Determine issue manager/member input on January's topic

The work plan topic for January is on the operation of the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility and the proposed new Environmental Management Disposal Facility. Ms. Cook will act as issue manager for that topic

Review DOE Response to Recommendation 217: Recommendation on Stewardship Point of Contact for the Oak Ridge Reservation

The committee reviewed the response to the Recommendation on a Stewardship Point of Contact for the ORR and agreed the response was adequate.

Review DOE response to Recommendation 218: Recommendation on Development of a Fact Sheet on Site Transition at Ongoing Mission Sites

Because the primary authors of the Recommendation on Development of a Fact Sheet on Site Transition at Ongoing Mission Sites were not present, Mr. Martin suggested the review of the recommendation response (Attachment 3) be tabled until the January meeting.

Recommendation from the Fall EM SSAB Chair's meeting – addition to the agenda

Mr. Hemelright said the committee had drafted earlier a recommendation on nickel. Since a similar recommendation was going to be discussed at the Fall EM SSAB Chairs' meeting he asked at an Executive Committee meeting that the recommendation be tabled until he could talk to representatives of Portsmouth and Paducah at the chairs' meeting. Those two sites had drafted a recommendation on recycling to be considered at the chairs' meeting.

Mr. Hemelright was unable to attend that meeting, but Mr. Hicks did attend and he noted that the discussion of the meeting noted that International Atomic Energy Agency standards on recycling

slightly contaminated metals was less restrictive than those of the United States. As a consequence other countries could send recycled metals to the U.S., but similarly contaminated metals in the U.S. couldn't be recycled.

Mr. Hemelright said he would circulate the chairs' recommendation on recycling to committee members for review. The recommendation would also come before the board for concurrence.

Review Action Items

Action Items

Open

1. Mr. Adler will craft a short narrative about what DOE is looking for in public comments on CERCLA documents. *Carryover from September meeting.*
2. Mr. Adler will make a recommendation on how to incorporate discussion of legacy waste and the east end organic compound plume at Y-12 into the EM/Stewardship Committee work plan. *Carryover from September meeting.*
3. Mr. Adler will provide the committee with a response to Mr. Martin's question about the disposition pathway for the three remaining waste streams not specified in DOE's response to Recommendation 215. *Carryover from September meeting.*
4. Ms. Kasten and Ms. DeLong will present a draft recommendation on a proposed groundwater quality assessment program for review at the January 15 meeting.
5. Mr. Hemelright will circulate an EM SSAB Chairs' recommendation on recycling to the committee.

Public Comment

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Attachments (3) are available through the ORSSAB office.