

Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board
Waste Disposition Subcommittee Meeting Summary
November 17, 2008

SSAB Committee Members Present: Lee Blackburn
Larry Parker
Lorry Swain
Shirley Bandy
Gene Brushart

DOE Representatives: Dave Kozlowski
Melda Rafferty

DOE-Related Employees Present: Bill Franz, LPP
Sandy Childers, LPP
Eric Roberts, EHI

Executive Committee Present: Dick Snyder
Val Francis

Support Staff: Kate Timmons, EHI

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Committee Chair

The committee decided to postpone selecting a committee chair.

Waste Disposition Binders

Kozlowski discussed conceptual design information provided to the board. The DOE is in the initial planning period for the disposal of the waste materials on plant site.

The committee discussed the impact of an accelerated cleanup on the Piketon community. An accelerated cleanup would potentially create new job and grow the local economy. Consideration also was given to the understanding that an increase in jobs would put a greater emphasis on reindustrialization in the future to maintain those jobs once cleanup was complete.. It was noted that it is difficult to bring industries to the area and suggested that a feasibility study be conducted to determine what would be a practical fit within the community. Kozlowski emphasized the scope of the committee and defined it as waste disposal from the D&D projects, poly-bottles, etc.

Subject experts were introduced and will be available to the committee for information and project updates.

Work Plan

X-326 Building Uranium Poly-Bottle Treatment and Disposition

The committee had concerns regarding uranium stored in the poly-bottles. DOE is reviewing proposals from the industries interested in specific poly-bottles. The containers require evaluation; many are recoverable; others cannot be recovered and will require disposal. The bottles will be shipped to either the Nevada Test Site or Energy Solutions for storage. A concrete-like solution will encapsulate the materials, which would seal the containers to prevent leakage. On-site waste treatment and stabilization will be required by the State of Ohio prior to off-site shipping. Information will be shared with the committee as it comes available.

Excess Materials Disposition

LPP will gather and comprise a list of the excess materials that can be reused or recycled at the site, excluding contaminated materials. LPP will work with the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) to determine what can be reused.

Kozlowski indicated that there would be leasing issues tied to the recycling of the excess materials, such as who is responsible for the items. The committee raised the issue of the moratorium and how it may affect the disposition of certain materials. DOE stopped the recycling of materials back to commercial use in 2000 to ensure that contaminated materials do not make their way to the public. It is still in process of sorting and LATA/Parallax will be disposing of the materials as soon as they become available. Kozlowski indicated that there is a market for copper and that Paducah is looking at ways to recover nickel for recycling, which could affect the process for the Portsmouth site.

Lube Oil and Pyranol Disposition

Some of the lube oil and pyranol work has been done. The committee inquired about the project status, issues and concerns. The characterization has been sent to the state that is handling this part of the project. The DOE is expecting a letter back from the undisclosed facility for approval to begin sending additional materials. The committee will be informed about the name of the company when higher volumes of materials are shipped. Shipments will continue at the current facility prior to the shutdown until the contract is finalized with the new company. Currently, the processing is one year behind schedule due to difficulties at the processing plant. Once the contract is awarded, it will take about one year to begin processing.

Kozlowski stated that lube oil is one of the higher fire risks inside the gaseous diffusion building and disposing it safely and effectively will eliminate a waste and a hazard. A concern arose with regards to the classification of the oils found, and Rafferty said that the oils are characterized before they are packaged and the workers at the incinerator's aware of the hazards. If all goes according to plan, this material will be gone in one year.

Small Cylinder Disposition Phase II

A portion of the small cylinder disposition phase was completed in July. The cylinders that are left hold larger quantities and must undergo safety analysis. Some will be sent to United States Enrichment Corporation for uranium recovery. All of the radio-nuclei must be identified prior to being sent off for disposal including trace amounts of other materials. It is expected that the disposal of small cylinders will be completed within the next fiscal year.

X-345 Building Laboratory Equipment Removal

Rafferty confirmed that all of the equipment in the X-345 Building Laboratory has been contaminated. There is not a cost effective way to decontaminate the equipment for recycling as it was used to experiment on highly enriched uranium. The equipment in this building will be packaged and sent off to either the Nevada Test Site or Energy Solutions. The electrical will also be dismantled and sent off as well. No contamination has been found under the slab.

Concerns/Issues

Committee members expressed concerns about the decision making process and Roberts referred back to the November Board meeting when the board recommended that the decision making process be the same for both board and committees.

Action Items

1. Rafferty will prepare a presentation on poly-bottle, small cylinder, moratorium, and lube oil and pyranol.
2. Details of the pyranol shipping contract will be provided as tit becomes available.
3. Explore the possibility of sending a couple of board members to the Nevada Test Site.