

Savannah River Site

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A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board

April 16, 2002

Ms. Jessie H. Roberson
Asst. Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. Roberson:

The Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) conducted a Groundwater Workshop in Augusta, GA from January 31 - February 2, 2002. Over 100 participants including representatives from all nine SSABs, State and local regulators and interested stakeholders, attended the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to improve stakeholder understanding of groundwater cleanup and technology issues; to foster dialog among SSABs about common groundwater issues and concerns; and to provide joint recommendations toward resolution of those concerns.

The results of this workshop are a listing of statements related to ground water. These statements were developed and agreed to by the participants attending the workshop. They reflect the consensus opinion of the group. These statements were then taken back to each of the SSABs where they received further endorsement.

I am transmitting these statements to you on behalf of all of the Chairs of the nine SSABs across the country. As you know, members of the SSABs serve on a voluntary basis as active and concerned citizens. A tremendous amount of effort was put forth to develop and endorse these statements, and they reflect the cross-cutting views of the Boards. We strongly encourage the Department of Energy to consider these statements and to provide a response to the SSABs chairs at their next scheduled meeting.

Your consideration of these statements and on-going support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Wade Waters, Chair
SRS Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Tracy Mehan, Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA
James Woolford, EPA
Martha Crosland, EM 11
Greg Rudy, DOE-SR
Tom Heenan, DOE-SR
SSAB Chairs

SSAB GROUNDWATER WORKSHOP FINAL STATEMENTS

The nationwide Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) strongly believe that the cleanup and protection of ground water should be one of the highest priorities of the United States Department of Energy (DOE). Therefore, the SSABs recommend that DOE utilize the following statements as they formulate policy and actions related to ground water, and that they develop performance metrics to track their own and contractor efforts in this area.

Communication and Public Participation

Public awareness of DOE groundwater issues shall be a priority. DOE will work with SSABs and other stakeholders, including tribes, to create and implement communication and community participation activities that ensure public understanding of and participation in site-specific groundwater issues.

DOE, in its decision-making, shall incorporate stakeholder values in choosing appropriate solutions for groundwater issues. DOE and regulators shall establish accountability to stakeholders and tribes through full disclosure and measurable criteria developed with stakeholder and tribal involvement.

Regulatory/Decision Making

Effective and sustainable decision making requires that DOE and its regulators formally incorporate stakeholders, including tribal governments, into predecisional planning related to DOE groundwater issues. Such involvement should be substantive and measurable.

When a remedy decision is made that allows contamination to remain, agencies shall make explicit the rationale being used, including short- and long-term risks, costs, and benefits. Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) should not be viewed as a default remediation effort. Rather, MNA may be considered along with viable technology to determine an effective site-specific solution. The remedy decision shall include provisions for periodic independent review and assessment of effectiveness of the remedy.

Groundwater Technology and Research

DOE and regulators shall identify, evaluate, select, and apply best available technologies, incorporating lessons learned across the complex and elsewhere, for preventing and remediating groundwater contamination.

DOE and regulators shall pursue innovative technology for gathering data to develop and validate conceptual models, support decision-making, and confirm effectiveness of groundwater remediation.

SSAB GROUNDWATER WORKSHOP FINAL STATEMENTS

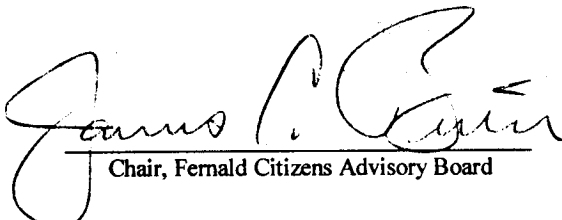
Stewardship of Groundwater


DOE shall establish and implement principles of good stewardship.

- Ensure long-term control of all existing and potential sources that may introduce contaminants to groundwater.
- Design all new operations to prevent adverse impacts to soil and groundwater.
- Fully disclose current and future groundwater and soil contamination in a timely manner.
- Ensure public access to complete information, now and throughout the period of stewardship.
- Fully integrate stewardship principles into an objective and comprehensive planning process that includes local, stakeholder, and tribal concerns.

Implementation of stewardship principles is an obligation that shall be fully funded.

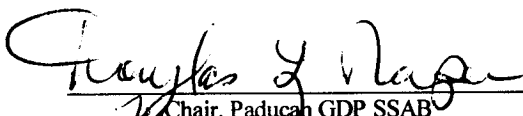

Chair, SRS Citizens Advisory Board


Chair, Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

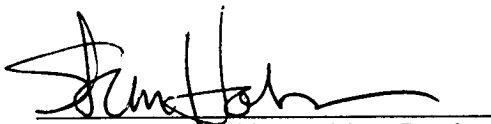

Chair, Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

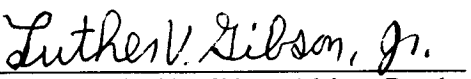

Chair, Hanford Advisory Board


Chair, Northern New Mexico CAB


Chair, Paducah GDP SSAB


Chair, NTS Citizens Advisory Board


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