

**Agenda for DNFSB’s Public Meeting and Hearing on the
Status of the Savannah River Site (SRS)**

Location: Virtual

July 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING – MORNING SESSION – 2.75 Hours

Goal:

- Gather information on how Department of Energy (DOE) – Savannah River (DOE-SR) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Savannah River Field Office (SRFO) are approaching having to work in a constrained environment for an extended period.

Part 1: DOE-SR: Environmental Management (EM) Operations and Site Programs
1.5 hours

Objective:

Discuss DOE-SR lessons learned and best practices for how to minimize nuclear safety impacts after working in a constrained environment for an extended period. Discuss ongoing challenges and plans for transitioning back to a less-constrained work environment. The areas of focus will include DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) policy and guidance related to personnel-centric areas (e.g., training and qualifications, control room operations, and telework), emergency preparedness and response, and DOE-SR oversight.

Schedule:

9:30 a.m.	Chair’s Opening Remarks	Chair Connery
9:40 a.m.	Board Member Remarks	Board Members
9:50 a.m.	Introduce Panel	Chair Connery
9:55 a.m.	Opening Remarks/Overview of DOE-SR Response Panel	
	Focused Panel Discussion	
10:10 a.m.	Topic 1: DOE Policy and Guidance for Federal Workforce and Contractors	
10:20 a.m.	Topic 2: Emergency Preparedness and Response	
10:45 a.m.	Topic 3: DOE-SR Oversight during Constrained Environment	
11:00 a.m.	Break	

Part 1 Panelists:

- Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management (William I. White (Acting)), supported by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance (Greg Sosson)
- Manager, Savannah River Operations Office (Michael D. Budney)

Part 2: NNSA Savannah River Field Office Operations

1 hour

Objective:

Discuss NNSA SRFO lessons learned and best practices for how to minimize nuclear safety impacts after working in a constrained environment for an extended period. Discuss ongoing challenges and plans for transitioning back to a less-constrained work environment. The areas of focus will include NNSA policy and guidance related to personnel-centric areas (e.g., training and qualifications, control room operations, and telework), emergency preparedness and response, and NNSA SRFO oversight.

Schedule:

11:15 a.m.	Chair's Opening Remarks	Chair Connery
11:20 a.m.	Board Member Remarks	Board Members
11:30 a.m.	Introduce Panel	Chair Connery
11:35 a.m.	Opening Remarks/Overview of SRFO Response	Panel
	Focused Panel Discussion	
11:45 a.m.	Topic 1: NNSA Policy and Guidance for Federal Workforce and Contractors	
11:55 a.m.	Topic 2: Emergency Preparedness and Response	
12:05 p.m.	Topic 3: NNSA SRFO Oversight during Constrained Environment	
12:15 p.m.	Final Remarks	Chair Connery

Part 2 Panelists:

- Under Secretary for Nuclear Security & Administrator, NNSA (Charles P. Verdon (Acting)), supported by the Associate Administrator for Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations (James McConnell)
- Savannah River Field Office Manager (Jason A. Armstrong)

PUBLIC HEARING – AFTERNOON SESSION – 3.25 Hours

Goal:

- Gather information and discuss Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration actions that could impact the safety posture of defense nuclear operations at the Savannah River Site.

Part 1: Safety Posture of the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) Facilities

1.25 hours

Objective:

Discuss the SRTE safety basis, completed improvements, and ongoing and planned actions to address the high radiological dose consequences to the workers for several accident scenarios. In particular, the Board will focus on the ongoing actions at the SRTE that DOE cited as a basis to not accept Board Recommendation 2019-2, *Safety of the Savannah River Tritium Facilities*.

Schedule:

1:15 p.m.	Chair’s Opening Remarks	Chair Connery
1:25 p.m.	Board Member Remarks	Board Members
1:35 p.m.	Introduce Panel	Chair Connery
1:40 p.m.	Overview	Technical Director
1:50 p.m.	Panel Discussion	
2:30 p.m.	Break	

Part 1 Panelists:

- Under Secretary for Nuclear Security & Administrator, NNSA (Charles P. Verdon (Acting)), supported by the Associate Administrator for Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations (James McConnell)
- Savannah River Field Office Manager (Jason A. Armstrong)
- Manager, Savannah River Operations Office (Michael D. Budney)

Part 2: Federal Oversight and Technical Staffing Needs

0.75 hour

Objective:

Particular attention will be paid to the adequacy of current Office of Environmental Management and NNSA staffing to conduct oversight missions. This will include discussions of shortages in both facility representative positions for existing facilities and engineering positions responsible for reviewing safety bases and performing safety system oversight, and the approach of delegating inherently federal functions to the contractor as a substitute for federal oversight.

This will also include discussions of future technical staffing needs as new site missions ramp up (e.g., Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility operations and Surplus Plutonium Disposition).

Schedule:

2:45 p.m.	Introduce Panel	Chair Connery
2:50 p.m.	Panel Discussion	
3:30 p.m.	Break	

Part 2 Panelists:

- Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management (William I. White (Acting)), supported by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance (Greg Sosson)
- Manager, Savannah River Operations Office (Michael D. Budney)
- Under Secretary for Nuclear Security & Administrator, NNSA (Charles P. Verdon (Acting)), supported by the Associate Administrator for Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations (James McConnell)
- Savannah River Field Office Manager (Jason A. Armstrong)

Part 3: Public Comments and Wrap-up

0.83 hour

3:40 p.m.	Public Comment Period	
4:25 p.m.	Chair's Closing Remarks	Chair Connery
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn	