

DEC 18 1995

Dr. Mildred McClain, Co-Chair
Savannah River Citizens Advisory Board
720 Maupas Avenue
Savannah, GA 31401

Mr. Bob Slay, Co-Chair
Savannah River Citizens Advisory Board
P. O. Box 192
Beech Island, SC 29842

Dear Dr. McClain and Mr. Slay:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB) Ninth Recommendation - Implementation of Phase I of the F- and H- Groundwater Remediation Project (Your letter, 10-3-95)

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation. We will work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), to fully implement its provisions.

The resolution of issues noted in part 1 of your recommendation will be presented to the CAB's Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee at its January 22, 1996, meeting and to CAB on January 23, 1996. Consistent with the existing provisions of the recently awarded contract for the F- and H-Areas groundwater remediation project, incentives for cost effective operations and secondary waste minimization will be implemented. The three agencies (Department of Energy, EPA, and SCDHEC) will strive to reach consensus on appropriate and achievable remediation goals for the entire F- and H-Areas groundwater remediation project.

Again, thank you for your recommendation. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or Tom Heenan at (803) 725-8074.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by
Mario P. Fiori*

Mario P. Fiori
Manager

PM&CD:GRF:ap

DB-96-019

cc:
Camilla Warren, EPA
Keith Collingsworth, SCDHEC

Recommendation No. 9

EPA and SCDHEC concur with most of the findings of the Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) Final Report and is pleased that the Department of Energy has already awarded the contract for a reverse-osmosis technology to treat the contaminated groundwaters of the F- and H-Areas. However, one deficiency we noted in the ISPR Final Report is the omission of an acknowledgement of the adverse effect these two areas have on Four Mile Creek and ultimately to the Savannah River. EPA and SCDHEC are committed to implementing these actions to reduce the environmental effects of these contaminated areas on surface streams and rivers.

Comment to Part 1

EPA and SCDHEC concur with this suggestion and will work together with DOE to resolve any outstanding issues of the ISPR Final Report.

Comment to Part 2

This aspect of the groundwater remediation project is controlled by the Department of Energy Savannah River Site and its contractors in meeting remedial objectives outlined in the SCDHEC issued permit.

Comment to Part 3

EPA and SCDHEC also concur with this proposal and will work together with DOE to address strategies for the implementation of Phase II of this corrective action.

The mission of the EPA and SCDHEC is to protect public health and the environment. EPA and SCDHEC are therefore committed to protecting potential drinking water sources, including both groundwater and surface water sources, and important ecosystems such as the wetland environment associated with the Savannah River and its tributaries from uncontrolled movement of hazardous substances. The contaminant plumes associated with the F- and H-Areas are, in fact, currently moving uncontrolled and are adversely affecting the surface waters of the Four Mile Creek. These waters then flow into the Savannah River Swamp wetlands and eventually into the Savannah River and could affect important ecosystems, fisheries and public drinking water sources for downstream residents. EPA and SCDHEC believe that the corrective actions at the F- and H-Area will reduce these environmental effects.

The SRS F & H Area groundwater plume drains into Four Mile Creek. The SCDHEC RCRA permit and EPA Records of Decision (RODs) require groundwater remediation to prevent additional contamination of Four Mile Creek.