

Minority Statement
On
EM Owned Plutonium Storage and Disposition at SRS

On September 23, 2003, the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) approved the “EM Owned Plutonium Storage and Disposition at SRS” recommendation presented by the Nuclear Materials Committee. The recommendation did not receive unanimous support from the SRS CAB for various reasons. While I agree with the principles behind the recommendation, I did not vote for its approval. Instead, I decided to submit a Minority Statement to voice my concerns.

I believe that the final decision of the ultimate location for the plutonium provides a tempting target to terrorists. Therefore, as part of this Minority Statement, I formally request that DOE:

1. Classify the decision on where to locate plutonium storage in all of its various forms;
2. Define and determine classes of plutonium-containing materials that can be converted to MOXable plutonium (materials that can be converted to MOX plutonium reduce the amount of plutonium potentially available to terrorists, thereby reducing the consolidated plutonium’s attractiveness to terrorists) and the facilities and schedules required for such treatment (as referenced in the National Research Council’s book *Managing DOE’s Nuclear Materials and Spent Nuclear Fuel*, pp. 3-4 and pp. 28-42, National Academic Press, 2003); and
3. Make a presentation to the Nuclear Materials Committee on plutonium safeguards and threats to its security. Since this topic is also linked to long-term site intrusion into disposed plutonium (SCIENCE Magazine’s “Plutonium Fields Forever”, Volume 300, 23 May 2003), I request that the presentation be presented in a joint meeting with the Waste Management Committee.