

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford
Oak Ridge

Idaho
Paducah

Nevada
Portsmouth

Northern New Mexico
Savannah River

February 27, 2013

Mr. David Huizenga
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) has noted with considerable interest and support that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has been remarkably successful in disposing of transuranic waste (TRU) throughout the Department of Energy (DOE) complex for approximately 10 years. The success of the TRU waste program is among DOE's most notable achievements during this time frame.

The EM SSAB is also aware that the mission of WIPP is being assessed for possible expansion to include disposal of some surplus plutonium from defense programs weapons production activities and certain other nuclear waste such as Greater-Than-Class-C Waste from Nuclear Regulatory Commission-related programs.

The success and activity of the WIPP program represents an opportunity for DOE to make still further progress in addressing some of DOE's legacy waste streams.

The EM SSAB encourages DOE to evaluate additional storage and disposal options for DOE legacy waste that could result from an expansion of the WIPP disposal mission.


For example, one specific test program that would support this concept involves shipment of a small number of Savannah River Site (SRS) Defense Waste Processing Facility Canisters from SRS to WIPP for storage and evaluation for disposal. Such a test program would permit DOE to evaluate significant issues in DOE's complex-wide high-level waste disposition program such as:

- Shipment container development issues
- Packaging and shipment/receipt issues for both the shipper and the receiver
- Other transportation issues
- Dealing with consent-based approvals


It is the intent of this test program to provide valuable input and to serve as a precursor for the DOE program for the disposal of DOE's high-level waste.



Willie Preacher, Chair
Idaho National Laboratory
Site EM Citizens Advisory
Board



Kathleen Bienenstein, Chair
Nevada SSAB



Carlos Valdez, Chair
Northern New Mexico
Citizens' Advisory Board



David Martin, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB



Ralph Young, Chair
Paducah Citizens
Advisory Board



William Henderson,
Chair
Portsmouth SSAB



Donald Bridges, Chair
Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 15, 2013

Dr. Donald Bridges, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Dr. Bridges:

Thank you for your February 27, 2013, letter recognizing the Department of Energy's (DOE) considerable success in disposing of transuranic waste (TRU) and your interest in expansion of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) mission. We are proud of having safely and effectively disposed of more than 85,000 cubic meters of TRU at WIPP since 1999.

DOE is committed to continue a strong stakeholder dialogue about these issues as we evaluate all the options for the treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of the Department's legacy waste. The Board's involvement in the review of options is of high importance and we will continue to share information about these efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Catherine Alexander, Office of Intergovernmental and Community Activities, at (202) 586-7711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "David Huizenga", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

David Huizenga
Senior Advisor
for Environmental Management

cc: Paul Seidler, EM-3
Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2

