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CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

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

July 26, 2005

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environmental Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Revised Modification Request to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for WIPP

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has a stakeholder interest in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) revised consolidated permit modification request. The SRS CAB is a non-partisan group of individual stakeholders from South Carolina and Georgia. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Board provides informed and timely recommendations on waste management, environmental restoration, and other activities affecting SRS.

The SRS CAB previously adopted Recommendation #164, which voiced the concerns the SRS CAB had with increased SRS worker exposure caused by opening containers to remove non-compliant items. Section 311 of Public Law 108-137 addresses many of our concerns. Implementation of Section 311 of Public Law 108-137 has the potential to save considerable taxpayer dollars without compromising the safety of SRS or WIPP operations, human health, or the environment. In addition, while SRS has very little remote handled waste, the SRS CAB understands the benefit that the DOE complex can receive by having WIPP dispose of this waste stream.

Therefore, the SRS CAB supports incorporation of (1) Implementation of Section 311 of Public Law 108-137 and (2) Authorization for remote-handled transuranic mixed waste into the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. You received a similar letter in support of these items from the Waste Management (WM) Committee (a committee of the full board) before the July 5, 2005 public comment deadline. Since the full SRS CAB did not meet until July 26, 2005, we were unable to meet the official public comment period. However, for the record, we respectfully request that you include this letter in addition to the WM Committee letter of June 28.

Sincerely,



Ms. Jean L. Sulc
Chairman