

Savannah River Site

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

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September 29, 2003

Mr. Jeff Allison, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
Aiken, S.C. 29808

Subject: Requested Action Concerning U. S. Senate Bill 1424

Dear Mr. Allison:

As you are aware, the Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Committee on Appropriations, has introduced legislative language under Senate Bill 1424 that would change characterization requirements for transuranic (TRU) waste destined for disposal at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). It should come as no surprise to you that we unanimously support Senate Bill 1424.

We have approved at least three major recommendations that addressed some of the overly restrictive requirements associated with TRU waste characterization. Each time we voiced our concerns that these unnecessary requirements increase the risk on SRS workers health and safety. We are pleased to see action being taken to try to eliminate these overly burdensome restrictions and applaud DOE for its letter commending the Committee on Appropriations for their action.

It appears that the proposed legislative language may receive some opposition. We request that you make our legislative delegation from both South Carolina and Georgia aware of our support for Senate Bill 1424. Many of us will provide individual letters of support to our respective Legislators but we also believe that they should be made aware of our collective voice on this matter. Your attention to our request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mr. Wade Waters
Chairman

cc: Pete Domenici, U.S. Senate
Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senate
Ernest Hollings, U.S. Senate
Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate
Zell Miller, U.S. Senate
Gresham Barrett, U.S. House of Representatives
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