

## Savannah River Site

# CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

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

### Chairperson

Wade Waters  
308 Pinewood Drive  
Pooler, Ga. 31322

### Vice Chairperson

Jean Sulc  
24 Harbor River Circle  
St. Helena Island, S.C. 29920

### Members

Meryl Alalof  
Donna Antonucci  
Jennifer Barrington  
Leon Chavous  
Ann Dalton  
Gerald Devitt  
Mary Drye  
Melyvn Galin  
Perry Holcomb  
William Lawless  
William Lawrence  
Wendell Lyon  
Darryl Nettles  
Harold Rahn  
Dorene Richardson  
Lola Richardson  
Murray Riley  
DeAnne Smoak  
William Voegel  
Carolyn Williams  
Gloria Williams-Way  
William Willoughby

### Ex-Officio Members

#### DOE

Alice Doswell  
Charlie Anderson

#### EPA

Robert Pope  
Dawn Taylor

#### SCDHEC

Keith Collinsworth  
Myra Reece

#### State of Georgia

James Sanders

July 30, 2003

The Honorable Spencer Abraham, Secretary  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

As you are probably aware, the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is a non-partisan group of individual stakeholders from South Carolina and Georgia. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act the CAB provides informed and timely recommendations on waste management, environmental restoration, and other activities affecting SRS to the Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

In 2003, the CAB identified the treatment of salt waste as one of the top ten issues facing the SRS. The CAB believes the processing and disposal of salt waste from the high level waste (HLW) system is key to the accelerated cleanup strategy. The Waste Management (WM) Committee is tasked with following this issue and is deeply concerned, along with the CAB, about the recent U.S. District Court decision invalidating the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) provision.

We agree with the statement of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Ms. Jessie Hill Roberson, to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation that this ruling jeopardizes the Department's ability to provide safe, cost-efficient, and risk-based treatment and disposal of certain wastes. Specific to the SRS, this ruling has major impacts on HLW tank closures, tank space management, the types and volumes of waste classified as HLW, and the vitrified disposal of HLW through the DWPF process.


In addition, the ruling increases the risk and cost of continued HLW storage. Furthermore, Mr. David Wilson, the Assistant Chief for the Bureau of Land and Waste Management at the SCDHEC, testified to the same Subcommittee, that the HLW storage activity at SRS presents the single most potentially hazardous condition to the environment and the people of South Carolina.


The CAB and the WM Committee fully expect DOE to immediately address this increased risk to the environment and the people of South Carolina. We desire a path forward that continues to accelerate the HLW program at SRS. To accomplish this objective, we request that DOE appeal and/or seek legislative relief from this ruling. No action and/or capitulation are unacceptable.

Letter to Secretary Spencer Abraham  
July 30, 2003  
Page 2

We request a formal response on the Department's proposed action on or before September 22, 2003. We will continue to monitor the progress toward accelerating cleanup and reducing risks at SRS and will continue to issue appropriate recommendations to help achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Wade Waters  
CAB Chairperson  
308 Pinewood Drive  
Pooler, GA 31322

  
Mr. William Willoughby, P.E.  
WM Committee Chairman  
506 Killington Court  
Columbia, S.C. 29212

Distribution:

Robert Card, DOE Under Secretary  
Jessie Hill Roberson, DOE Assistant Secretary for EM  
Sandra Waisley, DOE HQ  
Jeff Allison, DOE-SR  
Alice Doswell, DOE-SR  
David Wilson, SCDHEC  
Keith Collinsworth, SCDHEC  
Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senate  
Ernest Hollings, U.S. Senate  
Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate  
Zell Miller, U.S. Senate  
Pete Domenici, U.S. Senate  
Gresham Barrett, U.S. House of Representatives  
Joe Wilson, U.S. House of Representatives  
Max Burns, U.S. House of Representatives  
Charlie Norwood, U.S. House of Representatives  
Mark Sanford, SC Governor  
Sonny Perdue, GA Governor