

## **Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board**

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### **Recommendation #246**

#### **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Surplus Plutonium Disposition at SRS**

##### **Background**

On March 28, 2007, the Department of Energy (DOE) published a notice in the Federal Register announcing that it will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed plutonium disposition capabilities at the Savannah River Site (SRS). DOE has previously studied alternative technologies for stabilizing plutonium at SRS and will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that identifies a plutonium vitrification facility and use of H-Canyon as the preferred alternatives for surplus plutonium not planned for conversion to Mixed-Oxide Fuel.

This Supplemental EIS, which DOE will prepare, builds on DOE's current proposed approach for plutonium disposition at SRS. Through the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX) project, the proposed Plutonium Vitrification Facility, and operations of H-Canyon, DOE has identified a proposed path for plutonium materials currently located at SRS. This Supplemental EIS will also evaluate the proposed disposition of plutonium materials that may be brought to SRS for consolidated storage from Hanford in Washington, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Evaluation of potential consolidation of these materials will be subject to a separate environmental analysis.

DOE held a public meeting on April 17, 2007, in Aiken, SC, and on April 19, 2007, in Columbia, SC, to solicit comments to assist in identifying environmental issues and in determining the appropriate scope of the SEIS. DOE will accept comments for 60 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register (May 29, 2007). Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable (Ref. 1).

##### **Comments**

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has voiced its support for the rapid disposition of stored plutonium across the DOE-Complex (Ref. 2) and believes that SRS has unique assets and operational experiences relative to plutonium handling and vitrification (Ref. 3). However, the SRS CAB has been concerned about the disposition of plutonium waste at SRS for some time (Ref. 4). The SRS CAB's primary comment centers on the need to address the waste streams that each plutonium facility will generate.

## **Recommendation**

The SRS CAB recommends that DOE include the following analysis in the Supplemental EIS for Surplus Plutonium Disposition at the SRS:

1. The volume, type and constituents of each waste stream being generated by the disposition facilities.
2. The possible treatment options for each waste stream.
3. The preferred and selected treatment options for each waste stream.
4. The basis or reason for the selection of each identified treatment option.

## **References**

1. Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Surplus Plutonium Disposition at the Savannah River Site (DOE/EIS-0283), Federal Register at 72 FR 14543, March 28, 2007.
2. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 213 (adopted May 24, 2005), "Proposed Plutonium Vitrification Facility at SRS".
3. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 243 (adopted January 23, 2007), "Plutonium Vitrification Facility Update".
4. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 179 (adopted November 18, 2003), "Inspector General Waste Solidification Building Report".

## **Agency Responses**

[Department of Energy-SR](#)