

### **Recommendation 327**

#### Follow-up on Savannah River Ecology Laboratory's Report "Technical Assessment of DOE Savannah River Site-Sponsored Radionuclide Monitoring Efforts in the Central Savannah River Area"

#### **Background**

In response to "Recommendation #317, Fund an Independent Environmental Monitoring Program in Georgia", adopted by the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board on January 17, 2014, the Department of Energy asked the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory to:

1. "Provide the Department of Energy with a recommendation on whether there is fact-based evidence to support the request for conducting additional radiological environmental monitoring in Georgia by the State of Georgia or SRS, and based on the results of this recommendation:
2. Provide the Department of Energy with a recommendation on the potential options that could be undertaken by the Department of Energy to address the concerns of the Citizens Advisory Board and the citizens of Georgia in regard to this issue."

The "Technical Assessment of DOE Savannah River Site-Sponsored Radionuclide Monitoring Efforts in the Central Savannah River Area" report was summarized by Dr. Olin E. Rhodes, Jr. at the Citizens Advisory Board's September 23, 2014, meeting and the full report is available online at [http://www.srel.uga.edu/docs/SREL\\_CAB\\_317.pdf](http://www.srel.uga.edu/docs/SREL_CAB_317.pdf).

The report states that:

1. The existing monitoring programs for radionuclide transfer into Georgia are sufficient to provide timely and accurate data for Georgia citizens, but goes on to say that there are several areas in which the monitoring programs could be improved either to provide more appropriate and comprehensive special coverage or to provide a greater degree of validation than currently exists.
2. The methodologies used by the Department of Energy and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for dose calculations are consistent and indicate that the expected doses to potential individuals are well below the 100 mrem/yr total set by the Department of Energy.
3. The information provided to citizens in Georgia and South Carolina is largely technical in nature and assumes they have the ability to interpret the data and draw conclusions regarding risk.

#### **Comments**

The report recommends specific actions that the Department of Energy should take or at least consider to improve areas of the monitoring program and to improve communication through public outreach. At this time the reaction of the Department of Energy to the recommendations contained in the report is unknown. Further, some of the recommendations would require action

by the Department of Energy in the future if environmental data change. For example, the report states that “additional sampling warranted only if significant increases in atmospheric deposition or, groundwater or surface water transport of radionuclides detected.”

### **Recommendations:**

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that the Department of Energy:

1. Give a presentation to the Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee that describes the Department of Energy’s actions that are planned or being implemented to meet the recommendations listed on pages 5-7 in the “Technical Assessment of DOE Savannah River Site-Sponsored Radionuclide Monitoring Efforts in the Central Savannah River Area” report.
2. Provide opportunities for the public to help implement the four actions suggested in the report to educate the public about radiological health risks.
  - a. Should be provided at the Citizens Advisory Board Combined Committee meeting as soon as practicable in 2015.
  - b. The Citizens Advisory Board should be asked to identify local community leaders who could work with the Department of Energy to implement the four actions referenced above.
  - c. The members of the public, who have expressed concern about radiological impacts from the Savannah River Site, should be identified and invited to participate in the development of a strategy to educate the public about radiological health risks.
3. Add a topic to the annual work plan of the Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee for 2015, and thereafter, that reviews the recommendations in the report and any new actions that the Department has taken in response to them.
4. Explore the possibility of establishing a task force to assist with public education on radiological health risks as allowed under Section 6.2 of the Citizens Advisory Board’s Standard Operating Procedures.
5. Make copies of the report available to the public at the Citizens Advisory Board’s meeting in 2015.