



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dr. Gregg Murray, Chairperson
Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board
P. O. Box A
Building 730-B, Room 3121
Aiken, SC 29808

Dear Dr. Murray:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 369 – Install Designated Evaporator at Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), Findings Response

Thank you for your October 26, 2020, letter regarding the reduction of liquid waste returned to H and F tank farms. Specifically,

“The CAB recommends that DOE conduct a study of the benefits of installing a separate designated evaporator, or equally effective and cost-efficient alternative technology, at the DWPF to support the reduction of liquid generated at DWPF so that the volume of liquid returned back to the tank farms is reduced.”

The Department of Energy - Savannah River (DOE-SR) accepted your recommendation, per a response provided via letter number 369 dated December 7, 2020. The Liquid Waste contractor completed an analysis in 2021 which was reviewed by DOE for options to install an evaporator to reduce the impacts of DWPF recycle upon the tank farm. Based upon the findings and conclusions, we have determined that installation of a new evaporator or system would incur a significant cost without a corresponding level of benefit. The current evaporator system can sufficiently handle the material being returned to the tank farm in addition to utilizing the recycle waste to dissolve saltcake in support of forming salt batches for feed to Salt Waste Processing Facility. We will schedule a presentation to illustrate our conclusions based upon the technical approaches we explored in the near future.

DOE-SR remains committed to fulfilling the mission of the Liquid Waste Disposition Program in a safe and responsible manner. As we continue to work through our processes, DOE-SR will engage the CAB with our proposed path forward. As always, we welcome input from the public as we continue to work on cleanup and waste disposition activities at Savannah River Site.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Budney
Manager Savannah River Operations Office