



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

JUL 30 2018

Mr. Gil Allensworth, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mr. Allensworth:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number #354 – Investigate Feasibility of Reclassifying Certain High-Level Waste to Enable Acceleration of Disposal and Reduction of Costs (Your letter, dated 1/23/2018)

Thank you for your recommendation regarding the feasibility of reclassifying certain high-level waste to enable acceleration of disposal and reduction of costs. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) provides the following response.

CAB Recommendation:

DOE investigate the feasibility of reclassifying the used Defense Waste Processing Facility melters and some portion of High Level Waste canisters as Transuranic Waste or Low-Level Waste to expedite disposal, reduce costs, and to free up storage space in the temporary Glass Waste Storage Buildings.

DOE-SR accepts this recommendation. At the DOE-Headquarters level, consideration is being given to a potential revision to DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management*, that would enhance the risk-based components of the current definition of “high-level radioactive waste”. A more risk-based approach could potentially provide more cost-effective and timely alternatives to the current disposal path for the items identified in your recommendation. DOE-SR will provide updates to the CAB as significant developments occur.

The Department thanks you for your recommendation and values the CAB’s position on the SRS programs, and when possible, factors those opinions into the Department decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or contact Roberto Gonzalez, of my staff, at (803) 208-6168.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Budney".

Michael D. Budney
Savannah River Site Manager

WDPD-18-35

Mr. Allensworth

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cc:

Kristen Ellis, EM-5.31

Amy Boyette, OEA

David Borak, EM-4.32

James Folk, DDFO, DOE-SR

Michael Mikolanis, DDFO

David Wilson, SCDHEC

Trey Glenn, EPA

Mark Williams, GADNR