



**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802  
NOV 19 2018

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

Dear Mr. Allensworth:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 359 – Plant Indigenous Flowering Plants on Industrial Landfills (Your letter, dated 09/25/18)

Thank you for your recommendation on Plant Indigenous Flowering Plants on Industrial Landfills. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following responses.

**CAB Recommendation:**

1. *Consider design improvements that include a clay barrier above the GCL and GDL for future landfills so that local flowering plants, clover and grass can be planted and monitored on the top of the landfill.*

DOE-SR does not accept this sub-recommendation. The existing cap design has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4. Any changes to the existing design would result in an increase in resources. Since there is ample acreage on the Savannah River Site suitable for establishing pollinator habitats, a change to our cap design is not necessary.

2. *Consider shallow rooted wild flowers, grasses and clover indigenous to the area that would also provide habitat for pollinators.*

DOE-SR does not accept this sub-recommendation. Cap inspection and maintenance require mowing and pesticide application which are incompatible with a pollinator habitat.

3. *Plant indigenous wild flowers and other pollinator habitat plants surrounding D-Area Ash Basin and other areas not impacted by GCL/GDS concerns.*

DOE-SR partially accepts this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR is interested in providing flowering plants to enhance pollinator populations in support of the Presidential Initiative on Pollinator Health. With support from the EPA, SCDHEC, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service Savannah River, DOE-SR has begun planning for the establishment of pollinator habitats in M-, P-, R-, and T-Areas where they will not interfere with caps or land use controls.

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Mr. Allensworth

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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Karen Adams, of my staff, at (803) 952-7871.

Sincerely,

for 

Michael D. Budney  
Savannah River Site Manager

AMIES-19-001

cc:

David Borak, EM-4.32  
Kristen Ellis, EM-5.31  
Michael Mikolanic, DDFO  
Jim Folk, DDFO  
David Wilson, SCDHEC  
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Mark Williams, GA DNR