



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

MAR 2 2015

Mr. Harold Simon, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mr. Simon:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 323 – Safety Procedures and Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Savannah River Site and Other Department of Energy Sites (Your letter, dated 11/18/2014)

Thank you for your recommendation on “Safety Procedures and Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Savannah River Site and Other Department of Energy Sites.” The Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River Operations Office partially accepts your recommendation and provides the following responses to the six sub-recommendations:

1. *Give a presentation or verbal update to the Board about the Savannah River Site’s report to Headquarters on the status of maintenance activities and other judgments of need relative to the accident report at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project.*
 - a. *This presentation or update should be given as soon as possible but no later than the first Strategic and Legacy Management Committee meeting in 2015.*

DOE accepts this recommendation. A summary of the Site’s report to Headquarters concerning the status of maintenance activities will be added to CAB’s work plan for a presentation during an upcoming meeting of the CAB.

2. *Give a presentation or verbal update to the Board about the briefing to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in response to their May 16, 2014, letter.*
 - a. *This presentation or update should be given as soon as possible to the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee.*

DOE accepts this recommendation. The DOE Chief Engineer provided a summary presentation of the topic to the South Carolina Governors Nuclear Advisory Council in October 2014. The same presentation will be added to the CAB’s work plan for the March 2015 meeting of the CAB.

3. *Give a presentation to the Board with details about how Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board "Recommendation 2014-1, Emergency Preparedness and Response" is targeting issues relevant to the Savannah River Site and how the Site is preparing to respond to the Recommendation. This presentation should be provided at a 2015 Board meeting with updates later as appropriate.*

DOE accepts this recommendation; however, DOE will not be able to provide details regarding a response to Recommendation 2014-1 prior to issuance of an implementation plan that has been approved by the Secretary of Energy. Once an implementation plan has been issued, a discussion of the topic will be added to CAB’s work plan and presented during a future meeting of the CAB.

4. *Give a presentation to the Board with details about the "Safety Sustainability Plan" that was submitted to Mr. Mark Whitney, Headquarters, Department of Energy, and any actions planned as a result of such plan. This presentation should be provided during 2015.*

DOE accepts this recommendation in part. This topic is broader than the Office of Environmental Management. The Headquarters Office of Environmental Management is reviewing sustainability plans submitted from all of its sites and will forward the results to the Deputy Secretary's team addressing safety culture. The team will evaluate inputs from other offices associated with defense nuclear facilities. Once that review has been completed, it is anticipated Headquarters will provide direction to the field concerning the results of that review. Following completion of the Headquarters review, the topic will be added to CAB's work plan for a presentation during an upcoming meeting of the CAB.

5. *Add "Safety and Emergency Preparedness" topics to the annual work plan of the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee for 2015 and thereafter.*

DOE accepts this recommendation. The topic will be added to CAB's work plan for a presentation during a 2015 meeting of the CAB.

6. *Ask the Department of Energy to invite a Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board member to present a Safety Culture report of SRS to the CAB as soon as practical.*

DOE does not accept this recommendation. Information from members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is normally provided during public meetings which are periodically scheduled at different locations across the country. The last such meeting in our area was approximately 4 years ago. However, the CAB should note that the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Site Representatives routinely attend CAB meetings and are often willing to provide feedback in response to questions from members of the CAB. Although a Site Representative's response should not be considered to be representative of a Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board position, their feedback to the CAB would provide insight into the field observations which are used to formulate formal positions adopted by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board regarding safety topics at the Savannah River Site.

As always, DOE welcomes input from the public as we continue to develop plans and strategies to better achieve the goals to safely complete the cleanup mission. If you have any questions, you can contact me or Michael Mikolanis, of my staff, at (803) 952-8187.

Sincerely,


for David C. Moody
Manager

Mr. Simon

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cc:

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