



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 327 – Follow-up on Savannah River Ecology Laboratory's (SREL's) Report "Technical Assessment of DOE Savannah River Site-Sponsored Radionuclide Monitoring Efforts in the Central Savannah River Area" (Your letter, dated 01/28/2015)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning potential improvements to the Savannah River Site (SRS) Environmental Monitoring Program. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts the recommendation and appreciates the emphasis on improving communication of the results of the program to concerned members of the public in the Central Savannah River Area. DOE-SR believes that inadequate communication of the results may have been a significant factor leading to the CAB's initial recommendation (Recommendation 317) on the subject.

In regard to the sub-recommendations of Recommendation 327, DOE-SR provides the following responses.

- 1. The CAB recommends that the Department of Energy presents to the CAB any actions that are planned or implemented to meet the recommendations found on pages 5 through 7 of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory's "Technical Assessment of DOE Savannah River Site-Sponsored Radionuclide Monitoring Efforts in the Central Savannah River Area".*

We partially accept this sub-recommendation, and note the overall conclusion of the SREL report: "With few caveats the spatial and temporal extent of monitoring programs currently conducted of funded by DOE-SR for air, rainwater, ground water, drinking water, surface water, sediments, soil, and biota are spatially and temporally adequate to provide the citizens of Georgia and South Carolina with both the extent and distribution of radionuclides in the environmental within which these citizens reside as well as the anticipated dosages that they could be maximally expected to receive from the presence of radionuclides in the environment."

Because of the overall strength of the monitoring program, as documented in the SREL report, DOE-SR will not at this time implement several of the SREL recommendations. However, DOE-SR will continue to implement the current program and monitor for significant changes in conditions or monitoring results, as SREL has recommended, and take appropriate action if such changes become evident. In addition, any changes to the program will be described in the SRS Annual Environmental Monitoring Report and briefed to the CAB in the annual presentation on the SRS Annual Environmental Monitoring Report.

2. *The CAB recommends that the DOE-SR provide opportunities for the public to help implement the four actions suggested in the [SREL] report to educate the public about radiological health risks.*
 - a. *Consider development of a communication strategy with local community audiences incorporating limited data from those communities to allow citizens to draw their own conclusions regarding health risks.*
 - b. *Utilize local community leaders to assist in development of such programs.*
 - c. *Limit the collection of monitoring data to only that needed to provide relevant, real world data for use in educational programs within those communities.*
 - d. *Guide the strategic development of these programs so they can be used within targeted communities as desired.*

We accept parts a, b, and d of this sub-recommendation and hereby ask the CAB to identify local community leaders who could work to implement the four SREL recommendations. DOE-SR has contacted representatives of Women's Action for New Directions and invited them to participate in development of a strategy to educate the public about radiological health risks. Opportunities exist to begin implementation of the actions, including scheduled meetings of the Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee (FD&SR) and the Administration and Outreach Committees. Representatives of SREL will be available to discuss a communications strategy during the June FD&SR Committee meeting. DOE-SR asks that the CAB clarify the intent of part c of this sub-recommendation. It may be more appropriate to determine what information is relevant after communication programs have been developed and presented to local communities.

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.*

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We accept this sub-recommendation. A topic has been added to the FD&SR Committee work plan to continue to review the recommendations in the SREL report and DOE-SR's actions in response to those recommendations.

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.*


We accept this sub-recommendation. Based on the outcome of sub-recommendation 2, DOE-SR would support the CAB in exploring the establishment of such a task force. The results of sub-recommendation 2 could help define the goals and composition of the task force.

5. *Make copies of the report available to the public at the Citizens Advisory Board's meeting in 2015.*

We accept this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR will make copies of the 2014 SREL report available at the FD&SR Committee and Full Citizens Advisory Board Meetings in 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Michael Mikolanis, of my staff, at (803) 952-8187.

Sincerely,



David C. Moody
Manager

AMIES-15-009

cc:

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