



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

JAN 20 1995

Dr. Mildred McClain
720 Maupas Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Mr. Robert H. Slay
P.O. Box 192
Beech Island, South Carolina 29842

Dear Dr. McClain and Mr. Slay:

SUBJECT: Independent Technical Review of Savannah River Site (SRS) Environmental Documents

On behalf of the Department of Energy, I would like to thank you for the SRS Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB) first formal recommendation. Now that the initial educational process is completed for the Board, I look forward to more recommendations from the Board on how we can better deal with the many challenges facing the SRS.

I agree with and accept your recommendation for independent, technical review of significant SRS environmental documents. In fact, many of these documents currently are benefiting from such a review, although not always in as formal manner as suggested by the Board. Recognizing that the recommendation stemmed from consideration of the Annual SRS Environmental Report, I am immediately taking action to increase the formality of the independent review for the report.

I have directed Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) to continue using the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) to provide external independent review of the site's Annual Environmental Monitoring Report. This review is central to the credibility of the report, as suggested in the CAB's recommendation. Enclosed is the process the EAC proposes to use for review of the report. I will also direct WSRC to make the review process more formal such that all EAC comments and the WSRC resolution to these comments are formally documented and distributed back to the EAC and the CAB. In addition, WSRC will prominently publish, in the annual report, the fact that the report has undergone an independent review and will make the comments and responses available to the public upon request.

Finally, I will direct my assistant managers to identify other environmental documents that might warrant this same type of independent review based on their scope, purpose, and significance. I will advise you of the status of the completion of these activities by April 1, 1995.

I trust that those actions will satisfy the Board that we are taking this recommendation very seriously. Again, I would like to thank the entire Board membership for this recommendation.

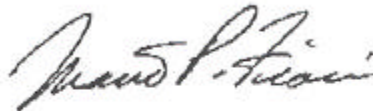
Dr. McClain and Mr. Slay

2

specifically, but more importantly, their dedication to improving public participation in the decision making process at the SRS.

Please contact me or Tom Heenan of my staff if you have any questions on this response or if you desire further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,



Mario P. Fiori
Manager

Enclosure
EAC Letter

