



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
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NOV 04 2005

11/04/05 10:56
MAIL ROOM

Ms. Jean Sulc, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
24 Harbor River Circle
St. Helena Island, South Carolina 29920

Dear Ms. Sulc:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 219 – Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipments from Battelle Columbus, Ohio (Your letter, 9/29/05)

Thank you for your recommendation regarding TRU waste from the Battelle Columbus Site and the CAB's input during the DOE decision process on selecting a receiving site for Battelle Columbus TRU waste. Since receiving the CAB's recommendation, the Department has selected both the Savannah River Site (SRS) and Waste Control Specialists in Texas for the receipt of Battelle Columbus TRU waste. However, I expect the waste will be shipped to SRS unless some unforeseen technical issues arise which preclude SRS from receiving the waste. Enclosure 1 is the Record of Decision (ROD) on the Battelle Columbus TRU waste signed on October 12, 2005.

For Recommendation 219, the CAB identified three parts I have addressed below:

Parts 1 and 2 request DOE-Headquarters (HQ) and/or DOE-Carlsbad make certain commitments (as identified in Recommendation 219) to SRS stakeholders before the Battelle Columbus TRU waste shipments are received at SRS.

Many of the CAB's requested commitments were factored into DOE's agreement with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for acceptance of the Battelle Columbus TRU waste at SRS. The agreement with the State does not encompass all of the CAB's requested commitments, but does continue to make TRU waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) a priority at SRS and includes the following:

- 1) DOE agrees the total volume of TRU waste allowed by SCDHEC to be shipped to SRS from off-site facilities will not exceed 373 cubic meters;
- 2) SRS will disposition 1,000 cubic meters (5,000 drum equivalent) of TRU waste by the end of FY06 at WIPP (or another disposal option) to receive the Battelle TRU waste in FY06. SRS began earning credit for TRU volume disposed beginning October 1, 2005;
- 3) For each shipment of TRU waste to be received from Battelle Columbus, SRS will ship, in advance, twice as much TRU waste to WIPP. SRS began earning credit for TRU volume shipped beginning October 1, 2005;
- 4) DOE will notify SCDHEC in writing upon their receipt of the WIPP Remote-Handled (RH) permit by the New Mexico Environment Department;
- 5) DOE will remove the Battelle RHTRU waste from SRS by January 1, 2009;

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- 6) DOE will establish a large box certification program at SRS and fabricate a TRUPACT-III container by December 30, 2006, for integrity testing and conduct the initial WIPP certification audit of a large box process line at SRS by the end of FY07;
- 7) DOE shall assure adequate availability of TRUPACT III or other approved non-drum shipping containers for disposal of SRS waste at WIPP;
- 8) All funding needed for operating and infrastructure costs to receive, store, and manage the Battelle TRU waste will be provided from a source other than SRS. Funding will not be provided from the SRS budget.

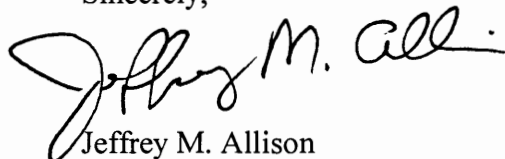
In addition, DOE has entered into an agreement with SCDHEC that by September 30, 2006, SRS will make a decision to submit either a RCRA part B permit application or a RCRA closure plan for TRU Pad 1. DOE is then required to submit either the application or closure plan by June 30, 2007. The RCRA permitting process will drive the schedule for when SRS will excavate TRU Pad 1. DOE fully intends to meet the SCDHEC agreement on TRU PAD 1 with no schedule slippage.

Part 3 requests DOE-HQ provide an annual update, in October of each year, on the progress made toward meeting all of the commitments identified in Recommendation 219.

DOE-SR will coordinate with DOE-HQ to ensure the appropriate DOE representative provides an annual update to the CAB on the commitments made by the Department for shipping the Battelle Columbus TRU waste to SRS. In addition, Enclosure 2 is a copy of the letter from Dr. Ines Triay, Chief Operating Officer for Environmental Management, to the CAB's Waste Management Committee Chair (dated October 12, 2005) addressing many of the commitments identified in Recommendation 219.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Doug Hintze of my staff at (803) 208-6076.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

WDPD-06-012

2 Enclosures:

1. ROD
2. Triay letter, dated 10/12/05

MC# 051295