



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

FEB 21 2007

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
1103 Conger Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 243 – Plutonium Vitrification Update (Your Letter, 01/23/07)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning plutonium vitrification as the preferred alternative in the Plutonium Vitrification Project. My response to your recommendation is as follows:

- 1. Provide and justify the anticipated NEPA documentation schedule and defend why it should not start earlier to the SRS CAB by March 26, 2007.**

I appreciate the CAB's interest in the effective scheduling of activities necessary to ensure efficient accomplishment of the Plutonium Vitrification Project. The effective implementation of the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is always of importance to the successful management of any DOE project. Currently, DOE is preparing the NEPA strategy, which will include the schedule, for the Plutonium Vitrification Project. This strategy will be finalized before the conceptual design phase (Critical Decision 1 or CD-1) is approved which is scheduled for September 30, 2007. DOE will provide this strategy as soon as it is available or upon approval of CD-1. DOE Order 413.3A requires the NEPA requirements be completed before the baseline for the project is established (Critical Decision 2) which is planned for fiscal year (FY) 2009.

- 2. Provide an overlay of the plutonium vitrification facility schedule versus the current Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) operational schedule to demonstrate the anticipated impacts by March 26, 2007.**

It is the intent of the Savannah River Site to share as much information as possible with the CAB when projects are in development. The Plutonium Vitrification Project is currently in the conceptual design phase. The current plan is to complete Plutonium Vitrification operations by FY2020 which is well within the current operational plan for DWPF which completes operations FY2024.

- 3. Provide final funding estimates for the Plutonium Vitrification facility to the SRS CAB as soon as possible but no later than July 23, 2007.**

As noted above, the Project is in conceptual design phase which will include development of the project cost range. This will be included in the CD-1 activities of the project. As noted above, CD-1 approval is scheduled for September 30, 2007. After CD-1 approval, we will provide the CAB with the approved funding profile.

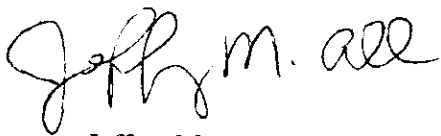
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Ms. Patterson

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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact H. Allen Gunter at (803) 208-3975.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

NMPD-07-0015

cc: Melissa Nielson, (EM-13), HQ
Percy Fountain, (EM-3.2), HQ