



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

OCT 31 2007

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

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Response to Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation #249 – Inadvertent Disposal of Transuranic (TRU) Wastes in the E-Area Trenches (Your letter, 9/25/07)

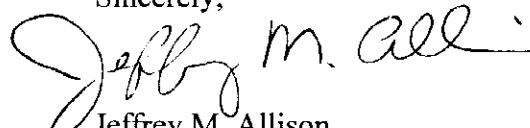
Thank you for your recommendation concerning the inadvertent disposal of TRU waste in the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility Slit Trenches. As you know from our briefing to the CAB at the September 24, 2007, Combined Committee meeting, we have performed the critiques and evaluations necessary to ensure that our operations continue to be protective of the public and the environment. We also formed a team to evaluate the potential retrieval of the five containers from the buried waste location for processing and shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

We have confirmed that the disposed waste isotopic content is well within our Radiological Performance Assessment Limits for the E-Area Slit Trenches. Thus, we are in compliance with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order 435.1 (Radioactive Waste Management) and the Disposal Authorization Statement issued under the requirements of that Order. We have concluded from this analysis that the disposed TRU isotopes do not pose a threat to human health or the environment and, in fact, remain well within the Performance Objectives and Measures prescribed by DOE Order 435.1.

As you requested, we are conducting a thorough evaluation of the risks, costs, safety, and environmental impacts associated with the options of retrieval and disposal in place. As you requested, we plan to ensure that the options chosen for consideration meet the DOE orders and regulations and we will continue to ensure that the options are protective of the public and the environment. We have also requested our Environmental Management Headquarters organization provide a review of the inadvertent TRU waste disposal. We will keep the CAB informed as the evaluations progress. We expect the evaluations to be completed by January 31, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Larry Ling, of my staff, at (803) 208-2845.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

WDPD:HP:pc

WDPD-08-007