



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
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Aiken, South Carolina 29802

JUN 25 2008

• Ms. Donna Antonucci, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
8601 Creighton Place West
Savannah, GA 31406

Dear Ms. Antonucci:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 255 – Waste Solidification Building (WSB) Cost Benefit Analysis (Your letter, 5/21/08)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning the necessity for the future National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) WSB and the project's integration within existing Savannah River Site (SRS) Environmental Management (EM) capabilities.

You requested SRS to identify existing/planned EM waste treatment capabilities suitable for use or modification to satisfy the WSB capabilities. You also requested a cost benefit analysis documenting overlapping capabilities, cost saving potentials, and reassurance for the need to construct and operate the WSB.


The following applies to parts one and two of your recommendation. In 2005, NNSA and the SRS Managing and Operating Contractor fully evaluated waste treatment alternatives. This evaluation, which remains valid today, considered the potential utilization of existing SRS facilities as well as combinations of existing facilities with modifications that could provide a cost-effective path for waste disposition. This comparison included operating costs and technical and regulatory issues.

Most of the evaluated alternatives presented technical risks with high probabilities of affecting Liquid Waste Project cost and schedules for completing legacy waste streams and tank closures. Only support facilities such as the SRS Solid Waste Management Facility and the Effluent Treatment Facility can be utilized without impact to the SRS Liquid Waste Project completion schedule. In February 2006, NNSA concluded that the most cost-effective alternative consisted of: (1) construction of a stand-alone facility for treating the three major waste streams from the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility and Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility and (2) use of existing SRS facilities for other waste handling operations. The scope of the WSB project assumes the use of existing SRS facilities to the extent possible, such as transuranic waste shipping and disposition of liquid and solid low-level waste meeting the waste acceptance criteria for on-site facilities.

In summary, the NNSA and EM programs are now integrated to the maximum extent practicable and, with regards to waste treatment and disposal, we will continue to work with NNSA to ensure that existing EM missions and the NNSA mission remain integrated and cost effective.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Terry Spears at (803) 208-6072.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager