



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

DEC 16 2008

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

Dear Ms. Antonucci:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 259 – General Accounting Office (GAO) Report Regarding Processing Additional Nuclear Materials at the SRS H-Canyon, (Your letter, 11/19/08)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning the GAO's report concerning processing additional nuclear materials in H-Canyon. As stated in both the GAO report as well as in your recommendation, I want to reaffirm that H-Canyon can be operated safely through 2019 and will not process any material without an adequate safety basis. My response to your recommendation is as follows:

1. DOE continue to aggressively pursue measures to keep the H-Area assets (people and equipment) fully engaged in stabilizing and dispositioning all DOE legacy nuclear materials provided the current consolidated schedule for SRS clean-up is not jeopardized. To that effect, DOE should propose an updated agency-wide call for any additional nuclear materials requiring processing and inform the new DOE nuclear materials coordination team since they may impact H-Canyon schedule, plans for closure, and additional waste streams.

H-Area assets (people and equipment) are fully engaged to operate through 2019 to process 7.5 metric tons (MT) of highly enriched uranium (HEU), 13.5 MT HEU in aluminum clad spent nuclear fuel, and 5 MT plutonium not suitable as feed to the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. In reference to DOE conducting an updated agency-wide data call, Savannah River Operations Office (SR) hosts periodic meetings with personnel from headquarters and the other sites within the DOE Complex to discuss materials these sites plan to ship to SRS for disposition. The latest meeting was held at SRS on December 2-3, 2008. Any new materials proposed to be sent to SRS for disposition must be requested through the Office of Environmental Management (EM). Upon a request from EM, SR will evaluate the impacts to SRS facilities (i.e. H-Canyon, K-Area, and/or SRS's solid and liquid waste system), provide the impacts to EM, and await EM's decision on whether to include the material in the H-Canyon mission. SR will continue to provide timely updates to the CAB on the operational plans for H-Canyon.

2. DOE provide updates on the replacement group for NMDCCC to ensure continued timely and accurate information/presentations on activities and missions for H-Canyon to the SRS CAB.

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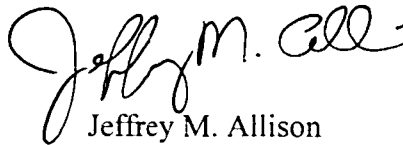
When new information becomes available SR will provide the CAB timely updates on activities of the replacement group for the NMDCCC relating to information/presentations on activities and missions for H-Canyon.

3. By July 27, 2009, DOE inform the CAB of progress in updating the safety documentation for H-Canyon operations.

SR will provide the CAB prior to July 27, 2009 a status of updating the safety documentation for H-Canyon and HB-Line facilities.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Allen Gunter of my staff, at (803) 208-3975.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent part.

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

AMNMSP-09-0003

cc:

M. Bettencourt