



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
NOV 16 2011

Dr. Donald N. Bridges, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P. O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Dear Mr. Bridges:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 280 - Concern for Receipt and Planning for Disposition of Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (RRSNF) at Savannah River Site (SRS) (Your letter, 10/10/11)

Thank you for your recommendation on RRSNF. The Department of Energy (DOE) shares the CAB's desire to disposition the RRSNF. As you know, DOE is evaluating options for effective utilization of H-Canyon in regards to the overall mission requirements of the Department as a whole. No decision on H-Canyon's operation status has been made at this time.

The RRSNF is being safely stored in L-Basin at SRS and L-Basin has been shown to be an available storage facility for 50 plus more years. This has been presented to the CAB on various occasions. Based on the need to promote nonproliferation throughout the World, it is in the best interests of the United States Citizens that SRS continue to receive the RRSNF.

The President is evaluating the disposition of Spent Fuel in the United States via the established Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC). Until the final report from the BRC is issued no "realistic planning case" can be finalized for any of the Spent Fuel. DOE does share your desire to have any such planning integrated with other related programs in order to provide a "holistic view" of the process. To the unknowns currently facing the Department in this area, it would not be effective use of tax payer funds to establish a System Plan at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Patrick McGuire at (803) 208-3927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David C. Moody".

David C. Moody
Manager

NMPD-12-0007

cc:

Melissa Nielson, EM-42, DOE-HQ
Catherine Alexander, EM-42, DOE-HQ
Gary Deleon, (EM-33), DOE-HQ
Zack Smith, DOE-SR
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