



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
DEC 01 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 281 – Disposition Costs for Savannah River Site (SRS) Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (RRSNF) (Your letter, 10/10/11)

Thank you for your recommendation on Disposition Costs for SRS RRSNF. One clarification that needs to be made is that you refer to H-Canyon utilizing the Plutonium Recovery and Extraction (PUREX) process in the Background of the recommendation. H-Canyon has not used the PUREX process for Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) in over 50 years. H-Canyon operates the H-modified process, which does not separate out Plutonium.

As you know, there is currently no final repository for the RRSNF or the vitrified High Level Waste glass logs. Since it is not known what the final repository will be and the specifications for that facility it would be difficult to prepare the disposition cost cases suggested in your recommendation. The many assumptions that would have to be made to determine the final disposition costs regarding the final repository would create more confusion, instead of being the valid data point represented in your recommendation.

Due to the uncertainties in H-Canyon future missions, the allocation of costs for processing the SNF cannot be determined, at this time. However, we can provide the costs associated with SNF storage in L-Basin. This cost is currently \$40 Million per year and would be required every year that SNF was stored in the basin.

As for the "hybrid cases" you mentioned, when cases are identified, evaluations are done to determine the most feasible path. These evaluations include cost considerations as well as technical, environmental, safety and health factors and will help us to determine if a third case should be considered.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David C. Moody".

David C. Moody
Manager

NMPD-12-0009

Dr. Bridges

2

DEC 01 2011

cc:

Melissa Nielson, (EM-42), DOE-HQ
Catherine Alexander, (EM-42), DOE-HQ
Gary Deleon, (EM-33), DOE-HQ
Zack Smith, DOE-SR
Doug Hintze, DOE-SR
Robert King, SCDHEC
Gwen Keyes, EPA
Albert Frazier, GADNR