



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

AUG 08 2012

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

Dear Dr. Bridges:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 287 – Disposition Planning and Dry Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, Your letter, 05/23/12

Thank you for your recommendation on Disposition Planning and Dry Storage of Spent (Used) Nuclear Fuel (UNF). The Department is currently evaluating the Recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on America's Nuclear Future regarding long-term waste and UNF storage and disposal as mentioned in the Department's June 19, 2012, letter responding to your Recommendation Number 286 and 290. The Department's response to the BRC recommendations is expected this summer.

As you are aware, a decision to process additional aluminum-clad UNF utilizing H-Canyon beyond the currently planned processing of certain vulnerable UNF has not been made and would require amending the existing Savannah River Site (SRS) UNF Record of Decision, which identifies melt and dilute as the method to be used to dispose of such UNF.

Furthermore, UNF disposition planning is dependent on decisions that have yet to be made and are expected to emerge as part of implementing the Department's response to the BRC recommendations. Once the response is submitted to Congress, the Department will provide a briefing to the CAB on how disposition of UNF will be considered as part of implementing the Department's response.

Currently, SRS is evaluating the potential for dry storage of the L-Basin UNF. The CAB received a briefing on this work in the 2012 Full Board meeting on July 24, 2012. The Department values the CAB's supportive position of the SRS programs' capabilities and readiness to actualize the final BRC recommendations, as quickly as possible. The Department appreciates the CAB's understanding of the timeframes and legal requirements necessary before decisions can be made regarding these programs.

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

Sincerely,

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

David C. Moody
Manager

Dr Bridges

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cc:

Melissa Nielson, (EM -3.2), DOE-HQ
Catherine Alexander, (EM-42), DOE-HQ
Edgardo Deleon, (EM- 22), DOE-HQ
Mark Senderling (EM-32), DOE-HQ
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