



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

NOV 13 2012

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

Dear Dr. Bridges:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 297 – Concern the Salt Waste Processing Facility Will Not Open According to the Schedule of Liquid Waste System Plan Rev. 17

Thank you for your recommendation, "Concern the Salt Waste Processing Facility will not open according to the schedule of Liquid Waste System Plan Rev. 17." The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) is also concerned with the delay of the Salt Waste Processing Facility project. Responses to each of the two items in this recommendation follow:

1. *Inform the CAB of any issues that could delay the startup of SWPF in accordance with Liquid Waste System Plan Rev. 17 and the agreements with the state of South Carolina.*

At your July meeting, Dr. David Moody, DOE-SR Manager, confirmed that due to the delay in receiving the process vessels and the new project cost estimate from Parsons that the 2015 startup date for Salt Waste Processing Facility will not be met and that DOE will begin discussions with South Carolina later this year regarding any impacts to regulatory commitments that may result from this delay. At this time, DOE-SR and our operating contractor Savannah River Remediation, LLC are evaluating potential impacts and I assure you that we will do everything possible to minimize any delays in meeting commitments to the State of South Carolina.


2. *Include all funding required to meet the October 2015 deadline for SWPF construction, DWPF and HLW tank closure in its FY 2013, 2014, & 2015 budget requests.*

The DOE requested and will continue to request sufficient funding to support liquid waste risk reduction at the Savannah River Site. On October 1, DOE sent a request to Congress to shift FY 2012 commissioning funds within the SWPF project to construction. The reprogramming action requests a shift of \$34.3M that is needed to sustain construction activities in FY 2013 as a result of the late receipt of ten large vessels which delayed construction completion. The reprogramming helps construction activities at SWPF continue unabated while the Contractor prepares a cost and schedule proposal and DOE reviews the proposal and gains approval of an amended project cost/schedule baseline as required by DOE Order 413.3B, "Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets." This process is expected to complete by early 2013. Future funding requests for SWPF are dependent on completion of the review and rebaselining process described above that will inform funding needs.

DOE has also requested full funding for the Liquid Waste Program to fully operate liquid waste facilities and support meeting Federal Facility Agreement tank closure commitments.

As always, DOE welcomes input from the public as we continue to work the treatment and disposition of radioactive waste. If you have any questions, you can contact me or Terrel Spears, of my staff, at (803) 208-6072.

Sincerely,

  
David C. Moody  
Manager