



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
SEP 09 2014

Dr. Marolyn Parson, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Dr. Parsons:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 320 – Chemical Separation or Partitioning and Transmutation (P/T) of Used Nuclear Fuel (UNF) and Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste, (Your letter, 07/23/14)

Thank you for your recommendation on Chemical Separation or P/T of UNF and Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste.

Department of Energy (DOE) partially accepts this recommendation.

The first recommendation is to “Develop a systemic plan which outlines and prioritizes the development of advanced separation technologies”. DOE accepts this recommendation as this plan is already developed as part of the Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) managed by Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL).

The second recommendation is to “Develop a strategy which integrates such advanced technologies with efforts to construct a repository”. DOE cannot accept this recommendation. DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) is not responsible for the interim or final repositories for High Level Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF). Information will be provided to the responsible organization, but DOE EM cannot require the integration requested by the CAB in this recommendation.

The third recommendation is to “Task the Savannah River Site (SRS) SRNL with implementing an investigative program in support of the systemic plan and the integration plan”. DOE cannot accept this recommendation for the same reasons provided in the response to second recommendation above.

The fourth recommendation is to “Develop a funding approach adequate to the task of supporting the systemic plan, the integrative plan, and the investigative program assigned to the SRS SRNL”. DOE cannot accept this recommendation for the same reasons provided in the response to second recommendation above.

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The fifth recommendation is to "Provide a draft plan and funding approach for public information and input by Fiscal Year 2016". DOE cannot accept this recommendation for the same reasons provided in the response to second recommendation above.

The Department values the CAB's position on the SRS programs and understands the CAB's desire to expedite disposition of SNF at the SRS; however, DOE EM must focus the funding received on achieving the most progress in cleanup and mission completion. Where possible, funding is provided for research and development as part of the LDRD program within SRNL. The ultimate responsibility for research & development is with the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (or any future responsible organization).

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

Sincerely,



David C. Moody
Manager

NMPD-14-0077

cc:

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