



Recommendation No. 11

November 28, 1995

Transuranic Waste

Part of the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 4 regarding transuranic (TRU) wastes addressed retrieving containers at risk to corrosion and overpacking them. Because of increased risks during the retrieval process, to eliminate the need to re-handle these wastes later, prior to treatment, the CAB recommended that DOE evaluate repackaging.

DOE has reconsidered its TRU waste repackaging plan, including a review by outside experts. We are satisfied with the review, however, we believe that DOE should proceed slowly by inspecting selected containers. If inspections indicate that postponement is wiser, spend the repackaging funds on acquiring treatment for all TRU wastes at SRS.

The board remains convinced of the urgency to remove all TRU wastes from SRS by 2033, prior to the closure of the Waste Isolation Pilot Project. This date was negotiated by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). DOE eventually plans to ship the TRU wastes to the underground Federal Repository at WIPP in Carlsbad, NM. Our concerns, however, are magnified by knowing that the repository shipment dates first depend on treatment at SRS (i.e., Pu-238 intermixed with combustible material). In addition to the urgency of selecting a treatment option, the CAB recommends:

1. That after negotiations with DOE-SR and SCDHEC, and following review with the CAB, the schedules for the removal of TRU wastes from SRS and their burial in the Federal Repository at WIPP be published in future WIPP documents.
2. That the new WIPP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-II address not only the environmental issues related to operating WIPP but also those associated with not operating it (i.e., environmental impacts at SRS).
3. That our concerns be addressed in SEIS-II (i.e., provide a copy of our Motion to the DOE Carlsbad Operations Office).

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#)

[Department of Energy-New Mexico \(12-18-95\)](#)

[Department of Energy-New Mexico \(1-11-96\)](#)

[SCDHEC](#)