February 27, 2013

Mr. David Huizenga
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC  20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) recommends that the Department of Energy (DOE) place more emphasis and priority on evaluating technologies that could make recycling excess materials cost effective. Decontaminating these materials for resale can have many positive benefits:

- Saving space in onsite CERCLA disposal cells
- Adding more dollars for cleanup from the sale of excess
- Reducing cumulative environmental insult
- Reducing long-term monitoring and stewardship costs

To facilitate continuous cost-effective recycling, the EM SSAB recommends that DOE identify and establish a national recycling center of excellence, incentivize contractors to recycle and repurpose items, and add a recycling and repurposing element to future Requests for Proposals.

Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

Kathleen Bienenstein, Chair
Nevada SSAB

Carlos Valdez, Chair
Northern New Mexico Citizens’ Advisory Board

David Martin, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB

Ralph Young, Chair
Paducah Citizens
Advisory Board

William Henderson, Chair
Portsmouth SSAB

Donald Bridges, Chair
Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2

EM SSAB Chairs’ Recommendation 2013-03
Mr. Donald Bridges, Chair  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802  

Dear Mr. Bridges:

Thank you for your February 27, 2013, letter recommending that the Department of Energy place more emphasis and priority on evaluating technologies that could make recycling excess materials cost effective.

Recycling excess materials within the restrictions identified in the 2000 Secretarial Moratorium has always been one of our priorities during site cleanup activities. We agree with you that decontamination and resale of these materials could have many positive impacts. We also agree that adding a recycling and repurposing element to future requests for proposals to incentivize contractors is a fine concept to be considered when sites draft their scopes of work for future cleanup contracts. We will consider your recommendation to identify and establish a national recycling center of excellence as we continue to analyze how best to move forward on recycling eligible materials.

I appreciate your continued support and take your input very seriously. Please continue to work with your site point-of-contact to offer thoughts and recommendations on the Office of Environmental Management's cleanup activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Catherine Alexander, Office of Intergovernmental and Community Activities, at (202) 586-7711.

Sincerely,

David Huizenga  
Senior Advisor  
for Environmental Management

cc: Paul Seidler, EM-3  
Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2  
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2