The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) understands that the Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations (DOE-SR) is currently undergoing a re-engineering program for the SRS high-level waste program. A concern of the SRS CAB is the criteria that will determine the final disposition of the high-level waste tanks and piping and header systems for the movement of high-level wastes between the reprocessing canyons, the tanks and the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). This criteria is yet to be determined; however, closure cannot begin until the criteria has been established (e.g., the allowable amount of waste left in the tanks at closure, disposition of the tanks, and tank systems at closure).

Mindful of this situation, the CAB recommends that:

1. Criteria be established to close the tank farms by the end of FY1996 (September 30, 1996). A strategic closure plan to meet the criteria for the tank farms should also be drafted by the end of FY1996, and updated annually thereafter.
2. The closure criteria and the strategic plan should be reviewed by an independent scientific peer review (ISPR) whenever there are significant changes to the closure criteria.

Agency Responses

Tri-Party Response