



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 18

March 26, 1996

Transuranic Waste

The Department of Energy Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board commends the Independent Panel (Blue Ribbon Panel) for its forthright evaluation and recommendations on the organic treatment and stabilization of the transuranic (TRU) wastes at the Savannah River Site. The Board commends DOE-SRS for employing the Panel to do an independent study for the treatment of SRS TRU wastes. We also believe that DOE and SRS have done a commendable job with the SRS TRU wastes to protect the public, the environment, and SRS workers. In response to the Panel's recommendations, the Board recommends:

1. That in accordance with the recommendations provided by the Blue Ribbon Panel Report, the Department of Energy Savannah River Site implement an urgent budget request to treat SRS TRU wastes.
2. That, as a baseline, SRS implement the technology decision recommended by the Panel (i.e., bulk metal decontamination and incineration). Compared to this baseline, however, the actual technology selected shall be the best available technology at the time of funding. For example, it is possible that the plasma torch "Pit-9" project at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory may soon be demonstrated as the best and cheapest combined treatment.
3. That, for the purposes of permitting, planning, and budgeting, the final Blue Ribbon Panel Report be reviewed by the three agencies and a consensus response be obtained on the treatment of TRU wastes at DOE-SRS.
4. That the Blue Ribbon Panel remain available to DOE-SRS and the Board for further consultations as necessary.

Agency Responses

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