



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 25

September 24, 1996

Consolidated Incineration Facility

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recognizes that each year at SRS, untreated hazardous wastes are being shipped offsite, mixed wastes are being stored onsite, and low-level radioactive wastes are being disposed onsite. All of this waste must be treated in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) regulations. The Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) will accomplish this task by reducing the volume and mobility of these SRS wastes.

SRS low-level radioactive waste is presently disposed in shallow land burial onsite. An additional 2.5 million pounds of this waste are presently generated at SRS each year. Expensive engineered vaults are currently used to isolate these wastes from soil and groundwater at SRS. Instead, CIF will perform the same task better by reducing the volume of this waste (13:1) ratio and its mobility (i.e., stabilized ash).

The waste streams that will be sent to the CIF are generated during normal operations at SRS and include oils, paint solids, solvents, rags, clothing, cleaning materials, etc. In addition, benzene from the DWPF will also be treated. However, no dioxins or PCB's will be treated in the CIF. Overall, the destruction efficiency will be at least 99.99% effective per the operating permit.

The Board recognizes that an Environmental Impact Statement issued by DOE-SR resulted in a Record of Decision, that preliminary approval has been obtained from EPA and SCDHEC to begin pre-trial and trial burns, and that a final operating permit will be obtained from SCDHEC upon the successful completion of trial burn testing scheduled for December.

The Board recommends that DOE-SR meet its schedule to begin operations of CIF by January 1997. In addition, we urge DOE-SR to use the startup in January as an opportunity to introduce the public to the CIF with an open house at the facility.

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy - SR](#)