



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 27

November 19, 1996

Treating Combustible Transuranic Wastes and Shipment to WIPP

The Board has concluded in prior motions that the SRS Strategic Plan for transuranic waste must include aggressively treating combustible Pu-238 waste stored at the Site. Two Blue Ribbon Panels of scientists supported the Board's recommendation that these wastes be aggressively treated.

Despite its previous position on these wastes, the Board supports the SRS strategic plan to ship the Pu-238 wastes from SRS to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico, without prior treatment of the combustible fraction. This plan is contingent on revising the rules to permit the transport of all SRS Pu-238 wastes to WIPP without prior treatment.

However, if the transportation regulations cannot be rewritten by November 1997 to permit shipment of the SRS Pu-238 wastes to WIPP, then the Board recommends that funding for the construction of an SRS facility to destroy the combustible fraction of the Pu-238 waste be immediately requested from DOE Headquarters.

The Board also recommends to the three agencies (DOE Savannah River, South Carolina's DHEC, and EPA) that placing the temporary soil cap over the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) for low level wastes at SRS not require the relocation of the Experimental TRU Waste Assay Facility (ETWAF). This facility is needed to expedite the shipment of TRU wastes to WIPP. This recommendation will save money in the near term by leaving the ETWAF alone until a decision has been made on the final disposition of the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG).

Agency Responses

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