



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 74

January 26, 1999

SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement

For the past two years, the SRS CAB has had the highest interest in the development of a treatment option for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) so that the material can be shipped to a federal repository on a defined schedule. The CAB has reviewed the SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel Management draft EIS and has the following comments:

1. We acknowledge that the melt and dilute process has high expectations of technical success that will provide a waste form that will be acceptable for repository storage.
2. We would be immediately concerned if DOE relied on the direct disposal technology as long as there continued to be significant uncertainty as to the waste form acceptability.
3. The early expenditure of design and construction funds for the melt and dilute process should not undermine the funding for other established site missions.
4. We note that as long as the canyons continue to operate for the at-risk SNF, as well as other current or not yet defined missions, they can be reexamined as a viable treatment option. No canyon shutdown decision should be made before the cost, time and technical uncertainties of the melt and dilute option have been resolved.

The SRS CAB requests periodic updates on the progress of SNF management at SRS and recommends that DOE continue on its present course of action.

Agency Responses

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