



Recommendation No. 90

May 25, 1999

The DOE Nuclear Materials Integration Project

Background:

The Department of Energy's Environmental Management organization chartered the Nuclear Material Integration (NMI) project in September 1998 to identify and inventory all nuclear materials in the DOE complex. The NMI project focuses on materials owned by EM, those located at EM sites, and materials expected to transfer to EM by 2015. The intended results include determining disposition paths for all excess nuclear materials, evaluating the programmatic risks with disposition plans and identifying ways to provide cost savings and program improvements.

Recommendation: The SRS CAB strongly supports the concept of an integrated effort by DOE to consolidate nuclear materials at four DOE facilities. We believe such actions would optimize national stabilization and disposition activities and serve as practical approaches in times of limited funding. After hearing the presentation on the NMI project on April 27, the SRS CAB offers the following comments:

- We strongly support the pre-decisional recommended action to ship vitrified americium/curium to Oak Ridge for storage. We believe it is important for DOE to demonstrate to South Carolina and Georgia stakeholders that high-risk materials will leave SRS.
- We encourage DOE to provide the necessary funding to support nuclear materials consolidation. We suggest dissolving the funding boundaries among the Defense Program, Materials Disposition and Environmental Management so that material consolidation and needed stabilization activities can be accomplished.
- We urge DOE to put stronger emphasis on a public involvement process for the NMI project. As stated previously, we see the NMI project as worthwhile but it will require the fullest stakeholder support from all sites and states involved.

Additionally, we request that DOE continue the information sharing process on the NMI project and that briefings on the Transportation, Facility and Research and Development plans be provided to the SRS CAB on a timely basis.

Agency Responses