



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dr. Gregg R. Murray, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Dr. Murray:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 380 – H Canyon Utilization (Your letter, dated November 7, 2023)

Thank you for your recommendation on H Canyon Utilization. The Department of Energy – Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following responses:

CAB Recommendation:

- 1. Maintain H Canyon and the associated liquid waste processing capability in a high state of readiness.*

The DOE-SR partially accepts this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR shall continue operations and will maintain a high state of readiness at the H Canyon facility at the Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina. DOE-SR shall provide technical staff necessary to operate and so maintain such facility pursuant to existing legislation. However, maintaining the liquid waste facilities in a state of readiness for the potential extension of H Canyon operations would be inconsistent with the DOE stated goal to “Reduce risk to the environment by removing waste and closing tanks with a goal of completion of the liquid waste program by 2037” as found in the 2022 High Level Waste Tank Milestones Agreement, signed by DOE, Environmental Protection Agency, and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

- 2. Expedite investigation of technologies that provide process capabilities which can be implemented upon completion of the ABD Mission.*

The DOE-SR accepts this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR will work with the CAB to identify when to present on progress to evaluate other alternatives to address the Canyon’s age and challenges/limitations.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Curtis Gardner, of my staff, at (803) 208-1939.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Budney
Manager
Savannah River Operations Office

NMPD-24-0004

cc:
Kelly Snyder, DFO
Amy Boyette, DDFO