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

October 15, 2026

Ms. Deborah Creech, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Ms. Creech:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 387 - Reactivation of H-Canyon (March 25, 2026)

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

CAB Recommendation:

1. *The potential environment effects of isotope recovery.*
2. *The impact of isotope recovery on the overall cleanup plan.*
3. *Any other information deemed necessary.*

As announced in February 2026, Environmental Management (EM) is marking a strategic step forward in strengthening our nation's nuclear fuel production and advancing energy independence by restarting uranium and isotope recovery at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

This strategic step directly supports President Trump's Executive Orders ensuring national and economic security by enabling the site's H-Canyon facility to once again recover uranium, along with the opportunity to also recover valuable isotopes through its chemical separations capabilities while continuing to safely process used nuclear fuel as part of the cleanup mission.

H-Canyon is truly a one-of-a-kind asset and remains the only operating, production-scale, radiologically shielded chemical separations facility in the United States, successfully operating and recovering uranium and other valuable materials from used nuclear fuel for more than 70 years.

The decision to restart uranium recovery will produce highly enriched uranium that will be downblended to yield high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) needed for advanced reactors, open the door to for retrieving isotopes with limited availability and demonstrate America's capability to manage the complete nuclear fuel cycle.

DOE-SR will continue to keep the CAB informed on H-Canyon recovery operations and will be glad to add the requested information as a workplan topic for 2027 with a future brief to the CAB.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Bert Crapse, of my staff, at (803) 208-8404.

Sincerely,

EDWIN DESHONG

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Edwin R. Deshong, III
Manager
Savannah River Operations Office

cc:
Kelly Snyder, DFO