



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

SEP 22 2016

Mr. Harold Simon, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Dear Mr. Simon:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 336 – Waste Management Milestones (Your letter, dated 07/26/2016)

Thank you for your recommendation on waste management milestones. The Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts your recommendation and provides the following responses to the recommendation:

- 1. Review and revise their process on how clean-up goals are set and by what means they will be implemented, so that they may more accurately present clean-up timelines to meet commitments made to the State of South Carolina.*

We partially accept this subpart. The DOE-SR accepts and already reviews the process of setting clean-up goals as part of the development and revision cycle of the Liquid Waste System Plan. System planning is a dynamic process that requires continuous monitoring and adjustments in response to process upsets and limit impacts from changes in federal funding. While processing goals are set year to year, Waste Management commitments agreed to with the state of South Carolina are incorporated into the Federal Facility Agreement (Appendices E and L) and permits include milestones that extend well into the future. The DOE-SR understands that process upsets and technical issues do occur and that funding fluctuates from year to year. As issues arise, the DOE-SR strives to adapt with changes to day-to-day operations to ensure that processing rates are maximized and timelines to meet commitments are minimized. We would like to explore and further discuss ways to address funding and other technical uncertainties as we establish cleanup milestones in the future.

- 2. Continue to work within their process to solicit the funds necessary to ensure that the clean-up process is fully funded and working at the maximum, safe, capacity.*

We accept this subpart. During the budget formulation process, DOE-SR identifies and submits funding requests using an Integrated Priority List needed to meet scope requirements and to maximize and optimize the use of operating funds. We will continue to work with the CAB as we prioritize work scope and to ensure the CAB is informed regarding any funding or technical issues.

- 3. Evaluate the possibility of using a different material, other than mercury, for the clean-up process.*

We do not accept this subpart. The mercury within the liquid waste system was introduced as

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legacy waste resulting from years of cold war operations. Mercury is a constituent of the by-product waste that was sent and stored in the Tank Farms, and not a material used in liquid waste treatment processes.

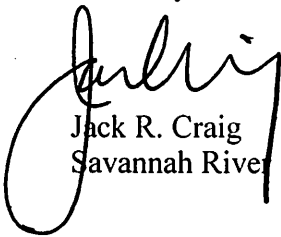
Today mercury is still used as a catalyst for fuel dissolution in Nuclear Material operations, but additions are negligible to what is already in the system. There is currently no other viable alternative catalyst, however, DOE-SR has begun several technology initiatives to implement a viable method of mercury removal within the Liquid Waste system.

4. *Finally, with regard to the multi-year planning tool to improve dialogue and communication with stakeholders, continue to hold public outreach meetings (PODS) at least twice yearly to share activities and events happening in the clean-up process with the community.*

We partially accept this subpart. DOE-SR will evaluate its community outreach programs annually to determine what type of public outreach will be used and where it will be held. However, at this time, we do believe that multiple public outreach meetings (in addition to scheduled CAB meetings) would be beneficial for community learning and engagement.

As always, DOE welcomes input from the public as we continue to work on cleanup and waste disposition activities at the Savannah River Site. If you have questions, you can contact me or Jim Folk, of my staff, at (803) 208-6710.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig
Savannah River Site Manager

WDPD-16-61

cc:

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