



**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802  
OCT 25 2017

Mrs. Nina Spinelli, Chairperson  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mrs. Spinelli

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation #349 – Oppose Consolidated Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and High-Level Waste (HLW) at Savannah River Site (SRS), (Your letter dated, 07/25/17)

Thank you for your recommendation regarding Consolidated Interim Storage of SNF and HLW at the SRS. The Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts your recommendation, and submits the following responses to each recommendation subpart.

CAB Recommendation:

1. *Not consider SRS as a reasonable consolidated interim storage location for Office of Environmental Management (EM) SNF and HLW pending establishment of a permanent geologic repository.*

DOE-SR does not accept this sub-part. EM is not assigned the responsibility for consolidated interim storage of HLW and SNF; and thus has no control over what sites are or are not considered for feasibility as interim storage sites. This responsibility has been assigned to the Office of Nuclear Energy. The Office of Nuclear Energy is working on establishment of a consent-based process for siting interim storage locations and the SRS CAB can be engaged in that process.

2. *Stabilize and remove such waste from SRS as soon as possible and not wait until establishment of a permanent geologic repository.*

DOE-SR partially accepts this sub-part. DOE-SR is stabilizing materials as soon as possible. As noted in CAB Recommendation #348, the uranium from SNF processed in H-Canyon is shipped out of the State of South Carolina for reuse by a fuel fabricator. Documented Safety Analyses have been established that demonstrate SRS nuclear facilities are capable of safely storing the HLW and SNF.

However, removal of HLW and SNF to an interim consolidated storage location will not be performed in advance of the Office of Nuclear Energy's consent-based process for siting interim

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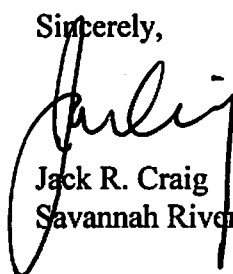
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storage locations for HLW and SNF. Any removal of the HLW and SNF would require evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regardless of where it was being moved and the SRS CAB can be actively engaged in the NEPA process at that time. As such, DOE-SR does not accept the remove portion of this subpart.

The Department thanks you for your recommendation and values the CAB's position on the SRS programs, but it is not possible for the Department to accept these recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Tony Polk, of my staff, at (803) 208-2854.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig  
Savannah River Site Manager

NMPD-18-0001

cc:

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