



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

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

Dear Dr. Murray:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 371 - Prepare Required Regulatory Decommissioning Documents in Parallel with the Deactivation Process (Your letter dated, July 26, 2022)

Thank you for your recommendation about regulatory decommissioning documents. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) accepts this recommendation and provides the following response.

CAB Recommendation:

- 1. The Savannah River Site (SRS) CAB recommends that excess nuclear facilities rated as hazard category 2 or 3, that DOE initiates the preparation of required regulatory decommissioning documents in parallel with the deactivation process when engaging in future Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) processes at SRS.*

DOE-SR accepts this recommendation. In 2019, the CAB adopted and DOE accepted Recommendation 364, which recommended that DOE accelerate the D&D of Building 235-F, including the parallel preparation of the required decommissioning documents and the facility deactivation process.

Building 235-F was ideal for the early preparation of decommissioning documentation because deactivation had been ongoing for several years and the amount of residual radioactive material was well understood. There was also Federal Facility Agreement Core Team (DOE, Environmental Protection Agency, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) consensus that an in situ end state was acceptable and which decommissioning model would be followed. Decommissioning Building 235-F was, and still is, a priority for DOE-SR, and accelerating the regulatory decommissioning documentation has been helpful.

As such, DOE-SR accepts this recommendation, and will initiate the necessary decommissioning process with our environmental regulatory agencies in parallel with future deactivation activities for nuclear facilities rated as hazard category 2 or 3 consistent with this recommendation whenever it is practicable—for example, when the deactivated end state of the facility is known, and when complex contaminant modeling is not required.

Dr. Murray

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The Department thanks you for your recommendation, values the CAB's position on SRS programs, and, when possible, factors those opinions into Department decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Hennessey at (803) 952-8365.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Budney
Manager
Savannah River Operations Office

AMIES-22-018

cc:
Kelly Snyder, DFO, DOE-HQ