



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

OCT 20 1999

Ms. Ann Loadholt, Chair  
SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 365  
Barnwell, SC 29812

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation Number 100 – "Canyon Utilization and Spent Nuclear Fuel Melt and Dilute Technology"

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding maintaining the site reprocessing capability until the Melt and Dilute Technology has been demonstrated and the melt and dilute facility is fully operational.

The Secretary of Energy approved the strategy for utilization of the Savannah River Site (SRS) canyons in July 1997. This is a phased strategy, with the F-Canyon completing its mission first and the H-Canyon operating for an additional number of years to complete stabilization of the remaining SRS materials plus any other materials for which H-Canyon was needed. The Department of Energy (DOE) continues to evaluate the utilization of canyon processing capabilities where that technology is most appropriate for the remaining nuclear materials requiring stabilization.

During the discussions between DOE and the Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB's) Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee on August 26, 1999, Mr. David Huizenga, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Materials and Facility Stabilization, stated the H-Canyon capability would remain until the Melt and Dilute Technology was demonstrated. In addition, Secretary Richardson jointly signed, with Governor Jim Hodges of South Carolina, a Statement of Principles on September 10, 1999. It stated DOE will "Develop a plan for use/closure of the canyons that addresses the needs of DOE, the State and the surrounding communities."

Using these principles and the existing canyon utilization strategy, the Savannah River Operations Office will update the strategy for utilization of the SRS canyons and obtain the approval of the Secretary of Energy in Fiscal Year 2000. This strategy will fully address the issues addressed in the subject CAB Recommendation 100.

If you have any questions, please call me or Charles Hansen, Assistant Manager for Material and Facility Stabilization, at (803) 952-2486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Greg Rudy", is written over the typed name and title.

Greg Rudy  
Manager

UA-00-001