



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

DEC 03 1999

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

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 105, *Tank 19 Closure*

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the closure of Tank 19 at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

We appreciate the support the CAB has provided in the past relative to high level waste tank closures and continues to provide as evident in the subject recommendation. The Savannah River Operations Office (SR) is working closely with the Department of Energy Headquarters (DOE-HQ) on expediting the Tank 19 closure from Fiscal Year 2003 (FY03) to FY01. We agree with the five recommendations presented as they support the closure of Tank 19 in FY01. The following provides specific responses to each recommendation:

1. *Expedite the release of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from DOE-HQ in order that the public review of the EIS can be commenced.*

SR is working with DOE-HQ to resolve remaining questions and issues and obtain approval to release the draft EIS for public review.

2. *Provide an update to the Board by its January 2000 meeting on the release of the EIS from DOE-HQ.*

SR will provide an update to the Board at its January 2000 meeting on the status of the draft EIS.

3. *Expedite the review of the General Closure Plan by DOE-HQ. Encourage DOE-HQ to provide the site and the Board with confidence that the Closure Plan will receive a timely review that does not interfere with the early closure of Tank 19 (i.e., request a schedule for the review from DOE-HQ).*

SR will work with DOE-HQ to establish a review schedule that will be supportive of a FY01 closure of Tank 19.

4. *Expedite the waste removal from Tank 19 in FY00 and close Tank 19 in FY01.*

Tank 19 waste removal to meet tank closure requirements and performance objectives is in the Annual Operating Plan for FY00. SR is working with DOE-HQ to obtain support and requisite funding for closing Tank 19 in FY01.

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5. *Provide updates to the Board on the closure of Tank 19 (upon completion of waste removal from Tank 19; the completion by DOE-HQ of its review of the General Closure Plan; the beginning of closing Tank 19; and the end of the closure of Tank 19).*

SR will continue to update and brief the Board and its subcommittee on the status of SRS tank closure activities.

If you have any questions, please call me or Larry Ling at (803) 208-8248.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Ruddy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Ruddy
Manager

PB-00-0006