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January 26, 2000

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Ms. Ann Loadholt
Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

Attached is the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control response to Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommendation # 107. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Ann Clark at 803-898-3973.

Sincerely,

R. Lewis Shaw, PE
Deputy Commissioner
Environmental Quality Control

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Response to Recommendation Number 107 From the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

1. First, a clarification: Mr. Don Siron is not the agency's epidemiology statistician. Mr. Siron reviews risk assessments for our Bureau of Land and Waste Management. Also, Dr. Mario is not the chief epidemiologist for DHEC. Dr. Marino is Director of our Health Hazard Evaluation Division.

While the specific language recommended may or may not be used, the Department will strive to ensure the Fish Consumption Advisory properly communicates the risk presented by the presence of radionuclides in fish tissue.

2. The time-frame for evaluation and publishing of the advisory is very accelerated so that the advisory can be completed in time to provide the information to the Department of Natural Resources for inclusion in their fishing regulations. Providing a copy of the draft communication tools for review, therefore, may or may not be possible given the accelerated schedule. If a draft copy can be provided, comments must be limited to the presentation of the information rather than calculation of risk. We will evaluate the input obtained at the CAB subcommittee meeting in Hilton Head for incorporation in our risk communication tools.
3. The Department would appreciate any input on better ways to ensure wide distribution of the advisory. Copies of the advisory in Spanish should certainly be explored. We will be happy to coordinate this effort.
4. The Department will gladly explore the need for additional data on salt water species.