



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

JUN 15 2000

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chair
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
1103 Conger Drive
Aiken, SC 29803

Dear Ms. Patterson:

**SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 112 (Amended)
Selection of High Level Waste (HLW) Salt Processing Alternative**

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the HLW Salt Processing Alternative selection and implementation effort. The Department's main focus in this area is targeted toward selection and deployment of a technology for salt processing as quickly as possible. HLW salt processing at Savannah River is one of the highest priority and visibility projects within the Department of Energy. Optimism toward successful accomplishment is based on the commitment to provide the resources and oversight needed to meet project goals. Ultimate success will require continuation of the detailed and disciplined approach currently being applied for technology development during alternative selection, scale up, and deployment efforts. Throughout the implementation of this project, the principles of risk management will be incorporated, identifying and responding to risk factors in the best interests of the objectives. A continuing analysis of the risks associated with the related cost, schedule, and technical commitments will be conducted as the project progresses, identifying critical areas and investigating methods for minimizing these risks. Throughout this process, progress will be monitored and assessed toward milestones that support continued operation of the HLW system without disruption.

In parallel with development and deployment of a salt processing facility, efforts to optimize HLW tank space will continue. New ideas on ways to decrease waste streams to the tank farms and increase tank space availability continue to be developed and deployed (e.g. reduction of the steam scrubbing component from the Defense Waste Processing Facility off gas system waste stream). Key assumptions, uncertainties, and contingencies surrounding HLW system operations are contained in the HLW System Plan. DOE-SR will be glad to present the details and timing of these contingencies to the focus group as requested.

If you have any questions, please call me or John Reynolds at (803) 208-6261.

Sincerely,

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

Greg Rudy
Manager