



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

APR 16 1996

Mr. Robert Slay
P. O. Box 192
Beech Island, South Carolina 29842

Dear Mr. Slay:

SUBJECT: Negotiated Federal Facilities Agreement Part C Milestone with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

I am pleased to accept the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 12 pertaining to the negotiated milestone in the Federal Facilities Agreement Part C with the SCDHEC and the EPA.

I agree it is imperative that DOE fulfill negotiated commitments with the SCDHEC and EPA to complete the removal of all waste from types I, II, and IV tanks by Fiscal Year 2028 or sooner. Please note that the actual commitment differs slightly from that stated in your recommendation. In order to continue to make this a high priority for the Savannah River Site, I will evaluate actual allocated budgets and whenever possible effect necessary actions to ensure the regulatory commitments are met. If I am not able to allocate sufficient funding to meet our negotiated commitment, I will advise SCDHEC, EPA, and the CAB of any funding shortages and the related program impact. Additionally, I am committed to identifying and developing other new, innovative, and cost-effective methods to remove waste.

With regard to Independent Scientific Peer Reviews (ISPR), the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and the High Level Waste (HLW) system have already undergone extensive reviews. Some examples of independent reviews that have been performed on the DWPF and the HLW system include: Westinghouse Corporate Hamilton Reviews; Office of Environment, Safety, and Health reviews; U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters Red Team Review of the In-Tank Precipitation Process; Duke Engineering Review of Suspect Parts and Fasteners. The HLW program will continue to employ this review process in the future as technical and programmatic issues warrant. Additionally, the HLW system is continuously reviewed by the Congressionally chartered Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Through use of the reviews identified and executed by the HLW program, I believe the intent of your recommendation for ISPR has been met.

Again, thank you for the Board's recommendations. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact Charlie Anderson at (803) 208-6084.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario P. Fiori".

Mario P. Fiori
Manager

MB-96-0101