



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

NOV 30 2001

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

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation Number 145 – Groundwater Mixing Zones

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the use of groundwater mixing zones at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

We have been successful in recent years in getting approval of groundwater mixing zones at several locations, reflecting the regulators' (Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) confidence in and support of the SRS Environmental Restoration Program and its technical expertise. A three-party Groundwater Mixing Zone protocol exists, and has simplified the use of mixing zones by standardizing the application process.

The protocol is applied at each operable unit once groundwater contamination and hydrogeology are found through investigation to meet the requirements for a mixing zone. Ultimately, the mixing zones we apply for will have very different characteristics and regulatory conditions. The case-by-case nature of mixing zones does not lend itself to a plug-in approach, but the three-party protocol has great streamlining benefit for the application process nonetheless.

We will continue to look for opportunities to use passive, natural remedies, including groundwater mixing zones, and your support of them will ensure that we make the greatest possible use of them. We will continue to involve you in the remedy selection process for Environmental Restoration sites as early as possible. If you have any questions, please call me or Cynthia Anderson at (803) 725-3966.

Sincerely,

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

Greg Rudy
Manager

OA-02-010