



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

JAN 25 2002

Mr. Wade Waters, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
308 Pinewood Drive
Pooler, GA 31322

Dear Mr. Waters:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 147 – Parallel Salt Disposition Strategy

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) plans for disposing of High Level Waste (HLW) salt.

It is DOE's intent to meet the Federal Facility Agreement closure schedule for the HLW tanks including those portions that are directly affected by our salt processing and disposal activities. We plan to meet this schedule using a combination of activities that include the design, construction, and operation of a small-scale Salt Waste Processing Facility, as well as our low-curie salt disposal activities. This is a cost-effective approach that allows DOE to better manage the risk associated with the acquisition of new facilities and processes.

DOE-Savannah River Operations Office has ongoing activities that will identify our regulatory and permit requirements for disposing of low-curie salt waste at the Saltstone Facility without further processing. A technical plan for low-curie salt disposal is under development by Westinghouse Savannah River Company and it will be submitted to DOE for review and approval by March 31, 2002. This technical plan will address applicable regulatory requirements including the waste incidental to reprocessing determination, National Environmental Policy Act coverage, and environmental permitting. It will also include project milestones and funding requirements associated with low-curie salt disposal.

My staff will be available to brief the Savannah River Site CAB by April 23, 2002, on the status of salt processing activities including our progress in dispositioning low-curie salt. If you have any questions, please call me or Terrel Spears at (803) 557-4505.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Rudy".

Greg Rudy
Manager

PE-02-008