

AUG 05 2002

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

Dear Mr. Waters:

**SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 156 – F-Canyon Suspension**

Thank you for your continued interest in our programs at Savannah River Site (SRS). The Canyon facilities have served the Nation well in meeting the needs of our Defense and Environmental Cleanup missions. In response to your recommendation number 156, I understand and appreciate the CAB's support for suspension of the F-Canyon operations at SRS and provide to you the following specific information.

1) As discussed with the CAB's Nuclear Materials Committee on May 20, 2002, the site is not conducting any irreversible actions as we proceed with our F-Canyon suspension activities. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) and staff have been fully briefed of our suspension plans and the September 2002 date to begin deenergizing equipment. We are keeping the DNFSB fully apprised of our progress and will continue to work with the DNFSB in resolving any concerns.

2) and 3) During the May 20, 2002 meeting, Sachiko McAlhany presented descriptions of the nuclear materials requiring either stabilization or disposition through the Canyons and discussed potential materials that the DOE is considering for stabilization or disposition through the Canyons. She described the best suited facilities to conduct these operations, a rough order of magnitude cost including modifications to the facilities, and described the known disposition paths for certain materials. A summary of this materials management strategy is also identified in the enclosure to the June 24, 2002 letter from the Secretary of Energy to the DNFSB Chairman. For those current and future materials at SRS that do not have a specific disposition path identified, DOE will conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluations. Specifically for plutonium bearing materials, SRS intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement describing the reasonable alternatives for the disposition of these materials, which includes modification and utilization of existing facilities and construction of new facilities. DOE will keep you informed during the NEPA preparation and encourages your participation and comments.

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Thank you for your continued interest. If you have any questions, please call me or Sachiko McAlhany, of my staff, at 803-952-4802.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed By  
Jeffrey M. Allison*

Jeffrey M. Allison  
Acting Manager

NMPD:SWM:ja

UC-02-126

bc:

Gerri Flemming, STMD  
AMEST Reading File

AMMFS Reading File  
Manager's Reading File  
NMPD Reading File  
Dawn Haygood, WSRC  
ECTS, 703A  
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