



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

APR 08 2003

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 159 - Low-Curie Salt to Saltstone

Thank you for your recommendation regarding the Savannah River Site's (SRS) salt waste disposition program. We concur with the CAB's view that tank closure activities and salt waste disposal are vital parts of our efforts to accelerate risk reduction at SRS. We share your concerns with respect to the potential impacts to these programs from the ongoing litigation in Idaho. While we monitor developments in this case, we continue to aggressively pursue all elements of our salt disposition strategy including low curie salt, actinide removal, and the Salt Waste Processing Facility.

The Department of Energy plans to focus on cleanup and risk reduction while maintaining or accelerating the current tank closure schedule, and constructing a salt waste processing facility by 2010. We also support having a short series of meetings to help the CAB's Waste Management Committee focus on salt disposition and to educate interested stakeholders. We will work with the Committee to set up these meetings starting in May 2003.

If you have any questions, please contact Terrel J. Spears at (803) 208-2845.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey M. Allison", is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager