



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAY 13 2003

WD-FFB

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

Dear Mr. Waters:

Thank you for your March 31, 2003, letter requesting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) support for a series of meetings regarding salt disposition related to acceleration of the High Level Waste Tank closure schedule.

EPA does, and will continue, to support the Savannah River Site's (SRS) Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) with ex-officio representation from Region 4's Federal Facilities Branch. EPA does not have a regulatory role related to High Level Waste Tank closures. Therefore, EPA is not a participating party with SRS and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) in negotiating an accelerated tank closure strategy.

EPA Region 4 is working expeditiously with SRS and SCDHEC to negotiate an accelerated cleanup plan and supports DOE's focus on cleanup and risk reduction. SRS has proposed to significantly accelerate the pace of Superfund clean up work as outlined in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). EPA recognizes that High Level Waste Tank closures are a prerequisite for F and H Area remedial evaluations and decisions and supports the CAB's involvement and interest in accelerating the completion of environmental cleanup at SRS. However, due to limited resources to support this initiative, EPA proposes to support recommendation 159 through continued participation at the monthly Board meetings.

We appreciate your desire to protect and preserve the environment and hope you find this information helpful. If EPA may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Jay Bassett, Chief of the Department of Energy Section, at 404/562-8559.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. I. Palmer, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name.

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator