



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

OCT 21 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 172 – Salt Processing
Design Revision (Your letter, 09/29/03)

Thank you for your Recommendation concerning the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) proposed Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF). The SWPF is currently in the conceptual design phase. In accordance with DOE project management requirements, conceptual design entails an evaluation of available alternatives and selection of the alternative best suited to meet mission needs. The determination of the appropriate scale for the SWPF is considered to be a key part of this evaluation of alternatives. The DOE plans to finalize its decision on the scale of the SWPF by January 2004, and to move forward with the remaining design, construction, and commissioning to ensure the facility is operational no later than 2010.

The DOE accepts your Recommendation 172 to: 1) consider increasing the scale of the planned SWPF; 2) evaluate the benefits/impacts on tank space management, tank closure, and other programs for a range of alternatives; and 3) provide the status of the SWPF project at a regularly scheduled meeting of the CAB in the January 2004 time frame.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Charles Hansen, of my staff, at (803) 952-6072.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

ED-04-003

cc: D. Haygood, WSRC (CAB Files)