



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

DEC 22 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 176 – Plutonium Storage in the 235-F Facility (Your letter, 11/19/03)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning plutonium storage in the 235-F Facility. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) understands your concerns regarding the Savannah River Site's (SRS) ability to maintain a surveillance and disposition capability. SRS has initiated actions to provide the capability to perform the required surveillance and the capability to handle anomalous cans both in the interim and long-term storage.

My response to your specific recommendation is as follows.

1. Verify the funding availability for the 3013 Container Surveillance Line Item Project in the 235-F Facility and provide documentation to demonstrate its availability on or before January 26, 2004.

DOE-SR has validated that the 3013 Container Surveillance Line Item Project is in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 budget. In addition, DOE-SR plans to request an FY 2004 reprogramming to add additional funds into this project. The additional funds are for the installation of the racks and acceleration of the surveillance capability. DOE-SR will provide you a copy of the approved FY 2004 budget by January 26, 2004, showing the funding for this project.

2. Ensure the capability for interim disposition and repackaging is available until the capability to perform surveillance and to handle long-term storage of anomalous cans is established in the 235-F Facility.
3. Maintain an interim capability in compliance with the DOE-STD-3013 standard.

Items 2. and 3. are related. DOE-SR is planning to ensure the capability to allow routine surveillances as required by DOE-STD-3013 and to provide the capability to handle anomalous cans at SRS. SRS plans to install an interim capability between the time the FB-Line is de-inventoried and the 3013 Container Surveillance Line Item Project is operational. The interim capability will be placed in the 235-F Facility to perform the routine surveillances and the ability to relieve pressure from anomalous cans. After relieving the pressure, the cans will be overpacked, placed in a shipping container, and stored in one of the 235-F Facility vaults.

Mr. Wade Waters

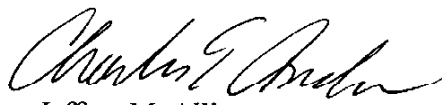
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Once the 3013 Container Surveillance Line Item Project is operational, the material will be restabilized and packaged in accordance with DOE-STD-3013. During this interim time, the cans will be stored under the DOE Criteria for Interim Safe Storage of Plutonium-Bearing Solid Materials.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Allen Gunter, of my staff, at (803) 952-4536.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey M. Allison
for Manager

ED-04-022