

DEC 1 8 2003

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

Dear Mr. Waters:

SUBJECT: Response to Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 180 –  
Burning Paper Pellet Update (Your letter, 11/19/03)

Thank you for your recommendation supporting the burning of paper pellets in our onsite boilers in A-Area. The Savannah River Site (SRS) intends to continue the burning of the paper pellets for the one-year data collection period that began in September 2003. The purpose of the one-year data collection period is to demonstrate the uniformity of the paper pellets composition, reduced impacts on the environment, economic benefits, and the use of a renewable fuel.

My responses to your specific recommendation are below:

1. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) ensures that DOE Headquarters (HQ) is aware of the project and the successful cooperation between SRS and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

SRS has worked closely with DOE-HQ, the Energy Efficiency Program Office (EE-90), and the SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality, specifically in developing and obtaining approval for this initiative. SRS will continue to work with these organizations during this demonstration period and future activities.

2. DOE-SR disseminates the press releases on the cost-effective alternative fuel source to local and national news outlets, and ensures coverage in DOE-wide complex and local site news sources.

SRS has widely distributed a "paper pellet" news release, which resulted in a published article in the *Aiken Standard* and several DOE newsletters and publications. These publications included the DOE-SR Federal Employee Newsletter, the *Focus*; the contractor's *SRS in Brief*; the DOE-SR and EE-90 *Case Study - SR Co-firing Project* (for complex-wide distribution); the *SRS Update*; and the DOE-HQ *DOE This Month*. Additionally, the feasibility evaluation of the SRS Alternative Fuel Project was sent to the Oak Ridge Office of Scientific and Technical Information Clearinghouse, which is accessible to all DOE personnel and private industry.

3. Presently, DOE-SR publishes an article(s) and, when the test results are available about this project, in a technical periodical(s) so that information on the technology can reach others who may have similar waste streams.

Once this one-year data collection period is complete, and SCDHEC approves the use of the alternative fuel, SRS will consider this practice as a routine operation for the A-Area boilers. SRS will highlight this successful project by forwarding another official press release to: DOE-HQ (for complex-wide distribution); local, regional, and national newspapers; and environmental technical periodicals.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Doug Hintze, of my staff, at (803) 208-6076.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed By  
Jeffrey M. Allison*

Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

DECP:SJM:cb

ED-04-024

bcc: Dawn Haygood, WSRC (CAB Files)  
D. Hintze, WDPD  
Rebecca Craft, OEA  
Larry Snyder, OSS  
Lee Davis, EQMD  
Gerri Flemming, DECP (copy of original)  
MGR Rdg. File  
DMC Rdg. File  
AMWDP Rdg. File  
AMCP Rdg. File  
ECATS, 730-B (031860)