



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
APR 28 2004

Ms. Jean Sulc, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
24 Harbor River Circle
St. Helena Island, SC 29920

Dear Ms. Sulc:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 185 - Savannah River Site's (SRS) Environmental Monitoring Program (Your letter, 3/24/04)

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation on the SRS's Environmental Monitoring Program. We appreciate the interest shown by the SRS CAB in this program and your support of its objectives.

My responses to your specific recommendations appear below.

1. SRS should provide additional and continuing trending analysis, especially for the long-lived, mobile fission products like I-129 and Tc-99, and highlight those in a separate section of the annual SRS Environmental Monitoring Report.

The Department of Energy (DOE) agrees with this recommendation. Trending for long-lived and mobile radioisotopes will be incorporated in the 2004 Annual SRS Environmental Monitoring Report.

2. SRS should consider making a portion of the semiannual regional monitoring organization meetings open to the public and include presentations directed towards public education about the monitoring data and its impacts.

The semi-annual regional monitoring organization meeting referenced in this recommendation is the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) meeting. DOE and Westinghouse Savannah River Company are only two of the six REMP members. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Power Company and Chem Nuclear Systems, Incorporated are the other members of the programmatic technical working group. The REMP has no "lead" agency or company. DOE does not have the authority to open the REMP meetings to the public. DOE does agree with the concept of non-technical presentations on environmental monitoring and impacts to further educate and inform the public about activities at the SRS.

3. SRS should separate the deer and feral hog surveillance data and report the individual radiation dose to sportsmen and the general public. The SRS CAB supports this recommendation that comes from an active stakeholder in environmental affairs.

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DOE agrees with this recommendation. We will begin separately reporting doses from hogs and deer for offsite hunters and will continue to report combined dose from deer and hogs to the maximally exposed onsite hunter beginning with the 2003 Annual SRS Environmental Monitoring Report.

4. SRS should expand its environmental sampling and analysis program to cover both shellfish and bivalves in and around the mouth of the Savannah River and its coastal area. A presentation to the CAB of the technical requirements, potential merits, and cost estimates for such a program is requested by July 26, 2004. This recommendation is offered as a result of previous contacts with the CAB by residents of Savannah, Georgia.

DOE has performed monitoring of shellfish from the Savannah area for at least 20 years. We are currently conducting an evaluation of the technical merits for sampling shellfish and bivalves. The results of this evaluation will be reported at the July CAB meeting as requested.

5. SRS should consider preparing the CD-ROM that accompanies the annual Environmental Report in such formats as to permit both PC and Macintosh users to be able to easily open and read files, such as .exe, which are now only available to the former.

We are currently conducting an evaluation to determine the appropriate method and cost to produce the CD-ROM that accompanies the Annual SRS Environmental Monitoring Report, in both formats. We will report the results at the July CAB meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Gail Whitney at (803) 952-8113.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

EQMD:GRW:orc

GC-04-043

cc: Dawn Haygood, WSRC (CAB Files) 742-A