

APR 09 1996

Mr. Robert Slay
P. O. Box 192
Beech Island, South Carolina 29842

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board's Eighteenth Recommendation - The Savannah River Site (SRS) Transuranic (TRU) Waste Program

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation which provides comments on the future of the disposition of the TRU waste stored at SRS. I understand the concerns the Board and the community has regarding this subject, and we will take the following actions to address your concerns:

1. With respect to funding, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) SRS has increased the emphasis on the TRU program and is taking actions to identify sources of funding to accelerate the TRU Program, including privatization approaches.
2. SRS is closely tied to the effort of the DOE-HQ Office of Technology Development Focus Groups to identify the appropriate treatment technologies for TRU waste which are safe, acceptable to the public, and efficient (i.e., one step processing to a final waste form). We will incorporate these efforts as well as the input from the Blue Ribbon Panel prior to making a decision for dispositioning TRU waste. By the end of September 1996, SRS will have developed a strategy for disposing of TRU waste at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and will transmit the strategy to the CAB for review.
3. Within the next year, SRS will update the Site Treatment Plan with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Environmental Protection Agency. The three agencies will consider and incorporate the strategy and the Panel's report during this period.
4. SRS retains the capability to use the Blue Ribbon Panel in the future.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the matter in more detail, please call Dale Ormond, of the Solid Waste Division, at (803) 725-8013.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by E.S. Chaput for

Mario P. Fiori
Manager

DC 96-0193

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