



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

SEP 17 2004

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

Dear Ms. Sulc:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 194 – Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Recycle (Your letter, 07/28/04)

Thank you for your recommendation regarding increased emphasis on the reduction of the DWPF recycle water stream to the tank farms.

The CAB identified four parts to Recommendation 194 that I would like to address:

Part 1 seeks increased emphasis on DWPF recycle reduction.

- The U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) continues to aggressively pursue options for improving the management of waste stored in the tank farms and eliminating or reducing tank farm influents, including options for reducing the recycle stream from DWPF to the tank farms. As DWPF depends on sufficient tank space for operation, contract incentives are in place to achieve optimum operation.

Part 2 recommends DOE-SR accelerate the design, construction, and regulatory approval of an acid-side evaporator for DWPF and strive to have it operational by Fiscal Year 2007.

- An acid-side evaporator for reducing the DWPF recycle stream to the tank farms is included among the options DOE is considering for reducing influents to the tank farms. DOE-SR included this evaporator in its proposed change to the EM lifecycle baseline. Project complexity and funding priorities make it premature for DOE-SR to commit to bringing the evaporator on-line prior to 2009.

Part 3 seeks for DOE-SR to poise itself to accelerate the DWPF recycle disposal and low curie salt to Saltstone campaigns as soon as regulatory approvals allow.

- DOE-SR has directed actions to permit disposal of low activity wastes, such as DWPF recycle, in existing permitted site waste disposal facilities (i.e., the Saltstone Processing Facility). This option requires resolution of the uncertainties under the current DOE Waste Incidental to Reprocessing process. As soon as current regulatory issues are resolved and a permissible disposal path is identified, DOE-SR intends to aggressively move to utilize such capability.

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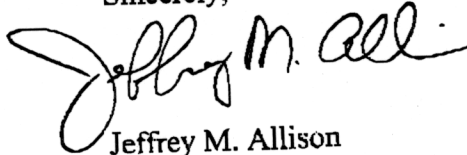
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Ms. Sulc

DOE-SR agrees to provide feedback to the CAB on these matters by December 31, 2004, as requested in Part 4 of the CAB's recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Charles Hansen at (803) 208-6072

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being more prominent.

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

DD-04-156

cc: P. Golan (EM-2), HQ
I. Triay (EM-3), HQ
D. Haygood, WSRC (CAB Files)