



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

DEC 07 2004

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

Dear Ms. Sulc:

SUBJECT: Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 197 – Yucca Mountain Waste Acceptance Criteria (Your Letter, 10/13/04)

Thank you for your recommendation regarding facilitation of effective, timely and responsive future shipments of waste from the SRS to Yucca Mountain.

The CAB identified six parts to Recommendation 197 that I would like to address:

Parts 1, 2 and 4 speak to the CAB's interest that the Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters (HQ) work with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to meet the 2010 opening date for the Yucca Mountain repository and take appropriate steps to accelerate the schedule; assure that the required shipping casks will be designed, tested and licensed to support the 2010 opening date; and ensure that the SRS shipping facility and the Yucca Mountain receiving facility are sized appropriately to support the integrated shipping/receiving schedule associated with the SRS accelerated cleanup plan.

Within DOE, the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) is responsible for working with NRC and EPA on the licensing of the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. The DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) continues to work closely with OCRWM to ensure programmatic requirements are addressed. In order to provide the CAB with the most current status on this effort, the DOE Savannah River Operations Office (SR) arranged for an OCRWM DOE official to brief the CAB at its November 15-16, 2004, meeting on the Yucca Mountain repository project and to speak to the CAB's stated areas of concern in this regard. Additionally, DOE-SR will follow up with the CAB on the status of transportation planning and the schedule for the design, testing and licensing of the shipping casks on or before July 1, 2005, as requested.

Part 3 addresses DOE-HQ support for the design and construction of an SRS shipping facility to be operational in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. DOE-SR currently has approximately \$40M in the funding baseline for the FY 2006-2010 time period to support design and construction of an SRS canister shipping facility. The cost estimate for this facility will be refined as design of the facility

Ms. Sulc

2

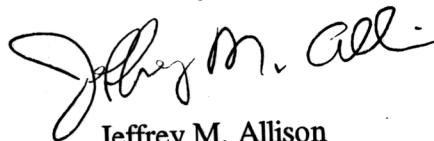
progresses. DOE-SR will follow up with the CAB on this matter on or before January 31, 2005, as requested.

Part 5 requests, and DOE-SR agrees, that a status update be presented to the CAB by November 20, 2005, and annually thereafter on the matters covered in this recommendation.

Part 6 requests that DOE make timely arrangements for a core group of SRS CAB members to tour and receive onsite briefings at Yucca Mountain. DOE-SR will facilitate a visit to Yucca Mountain and finalize arrangements by December 17, 2004.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Allison".

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

WDPD-05-032

cc: D. Haygood, WSRC (CAB Files)