



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

APR 10 1996

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

Dear Mr. Slay:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB) Nineteenth Recommendation - Interim Action
Proposed Plan for the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground

Thanks for the CAB's recommendation for the preferred alternative as identified in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act Interim Action Proposed Plan for the Savannah River Site (SRS) Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground.

This alternative, as discussed at the March 26, 1996, Board meeting, will consist of placing a low permeability, compacted soil cover over the existing surface of old buried waste trenches. The soil cover will then be seeded to prevent erosion. These waste trenches are where low level radioactive material was buried at SRS from 1952 to 1972. This proposed interim action is designed to reduce rainwater infiltration into the trenches thereby reducing contaminant migration and future impacts to the groundwater.

In accordance with our regulatory process, SRS will be evaluating remedial alternatives for final remedy selection. Our plans call for a Record of Decision for the final remedy selection in 2001. Your recommendation to utilize the interim soil cover with the final selected remedy will be considered during this process.

The Department of Energy appreciates your recommendation. I look forward to the Board's continued involvement in SRS's Environmental Restoration process.

If you have any questions on this response or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact me or Cynthia Anderson at (803) 725-3966.

Sincerely,

Mario P. Fiori
Manager

DD-96-0327