ENCLOSURE: Fiori to McClain and Slay, Independent Technical Review of Savannah River Site Environmental Documents, dated

MILTON RUSSELL

December 9, 1994

Dr. Charles E. Murphy Jr., Executive Director
WSRC Environmental Advisory Committee
Westinghouse Savannah River company
Savannah River Technology Center
P. O. Box 616
Aiken, SC 29802

VIA FAX: 803-725-7673

Dear Dr. Murphy:

This letter is a response to your request that I describe the WSRC Environmental Advisory Committee's (EAC) action with respect to review of the Savannah River Site Annual Environmental Report (Report).

The EAC agreed that it would review the Report in its entirety. All members will review chapters of more general interest, and members with appropriate expertise will review each other chapter. These reviews will be based on the material presented and comments will reflect the EAC member's knowledge of the site and best professional judgment. In some cases the reviews may require examination of back-up data and other material, but as a general rule, the process will not include a full-scale audit of materials and protocols. The emphasis will be on such matters as clarity, proper use of data to draw conclusions, and adequacy of monitoring design.

EAC members will individually supply their comments to WSRC and to their fellow members. Subsequently, in EAC meetings, these comments will be open for discussion and the EAC will draw general conclusions about the adequacy of the Report for its intended purpose. However, the individual comments themselves will not be acted on collectively by the EAC and will remain the responsibility of the preparing member.

The EAC expects to receive responses to each of its comments that demonstrate that substantive attention was given to them. However, the EAC recognizes that, as in all such scientific undertakings, the response may indicate a range of reactions from acceptance of the comment and subsequent change to a rejection of the comment for cause. I emphasize that the EAC in making comments fully recognizes that in some cases its comments may be in error and that in other cases the matter is a judgment call

3636 WOODLAND DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37919
(615) 637-2211

which must ultimately be made by the authors of the Report. In circumstances where the EAC finds the responses inadequate it will not hesitate to report that fact in an appropriate way.

The process I have described above can be described as an independent technical *review* of the Report. It should not be characterized as *approval* of the Report because approval *per se* is outside the scope of the EAC role.

I hope this clarifies the prospective role of the EAC with respect to the Report.

Sincerely yours,

Milton Russell

Milton Russell
Chairman,
WSRC Environmental Advisory Committee