



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

APR 12 2005

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 209 – Savannah River Site (SRS) Transuranic (TRU) Waste Issues (Your letter, 3/30/05)

Thank you for your recommendation regarding the SRS TRU waste issues. As noted in your recommendation, TRU waste operations were placed in standby last December as a result of safety concerns with workers handling TRU waste drums. On February 15, 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE) updated the Waste Management Committee on these safety issues and the progress made for resuming TRU waste operations. DOE reported that weekly TRU waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) had resumed on February 9, 2005, and full operations to support the continuation of WIPP shipments were scheduled to resume in the May 2005 time frame.

In Recommendation 209, the CAB identified five parts I would like to address:

Part 1 requests that DOE accelerate TRU waste shipments to WIPP now that the worker safety issues have been addressed and ensure all legacy low activity drummed waste is shipped by November 2006.

DOE agrees with the CAB and the need for SRS to meet the Fiscal Year 2005 shipping commitments and to complete the low activity TRU waste drum shipments by November 2006.

Part 2 requests that DOE update the CAB on the implementation of worker safety controls and the status of TRU waste shipments.

I want to assure you the DOE will not resume any portion of the TRU waste operations until there has been a thorough review of the hazards and appropriate worker safety controls have been implemented. DOE will continue to update the CAB on worker safety controls and the status of TRU waste shipments. Currently, DOE is scheduled to update the Waste Management Committee in August 2005, on the TRU waste program, which will include TRU waste shipments and worker safety controls.

Parts 3 and 4 requests that DOE accelerate deployment of the TRU Package Transporter-III (TRUPACT-III) shipping container and the ARROWPAK.

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Ms. Jean Sulc

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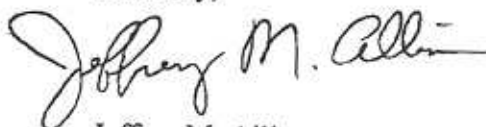
DOE agrees with the CAB and will provide a status update on the TRUPACT-III and ARROWPAK at the August 2005 Waste Management Committee meeting as part of the SRS TRU waste program update.

Part 5 requests that DOE Savannah River Operations Office (SR) notify DOE Carlsbad of the SRS CAB support for Public Law 108-137.

As requested, I have forwarded a copy of CAB Recommendation 209 to the Acting Manager, DOE-Carlsbad Office. See enclosed copy.

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

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

WDPD-05-148

Enclosure