



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

**JUN 28 2005**

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

Dear Ms. Sulc:

**SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 211 Draft Salt Waste Determination**

Thank you for your May 24, 2005, recommendation regarding the Draft Section 3116 Determination for Salt Waste Disposal at Savannah River Site (SRS). The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) accepts Recommendation 211 and responds as follows:

- Part 1: DOE-SR proceed with the planned interim technologies to ensure uninterrupted use of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and to enhance risk reduction.**
- Part 3: DOE-SR, working with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), assure flexibility in operating the Saltstone Disposal Facility to accommodate disposal of between three million and five million curies.**

In response to Parts one and three, DOE-SR is currently working with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to complete consultation on the Draft Salt Waste Determination as required by Section 3116 of the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. DOE-SR is also working with SCDHEC to develop an acceptable Saltstone Facility operating and disposal permit approach that can be implemented following completion of the NRC consultation process. DOE-SR expects to be able to implement the modified salt processing strategy discussed with the CAB on several occasions and as laid out in the Draft Salt Waste Determination.

- Part 2: DOE-SR provide to the SRS CAB by July 26, 2005, more detailed information on the Tank 48 process strategy, including alternatives, and the potential impacts to DWPF and Saltstone.**

DOE-SR will work with the Waste Management Committee (WMC) to schedule briefings on the Tank 48 recovery strategy, the alternatives that we have considered, and the potential impacts to the downstream facilities at appropriate meetings of the CAB and/or WMC later this year.

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**Part 4: DOE-SR provide the results of an independent scientific peer review on both the Vault 4 Saltstone Performance Assessment Special Analysis (SA) and the Performance Assessment (PA) revision.**

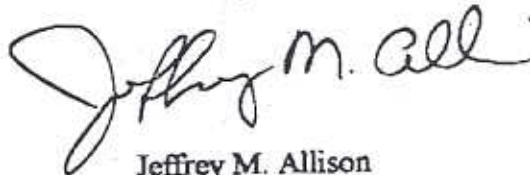
The new Saltstone Vault 4 SA is currently awaiting DOE-SR approval. The SA was independently reviewed by a team of technical experts including two members of the Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility Federal Review Group (LFRG). A copy of the evaluation report on the SA is enclosed. The SA will be provided to the NRC as part of their consultation on the Section 3116 Waste Determination for Salt Waste Disposal at SRS. The revised PA, to be completed in 2006, will receive an independent review by the LFRG and will incorporate the analysis from the Vault 4 SA.

**Part 5: Give the CAB the most recent updated tank-leak history and crack history in July 2005, and in April of each year thereafter.**

DOE-SR will work with the WMC to schedule briefings and provide documentation on the tank leakage and crack history at appropriate meetings of the CAB and/or WMC later this year and annually thereafter.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Terrel J. Spears at (803) 208-2845.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

SPD-05-215

Enclosure:  
DOE Saltstone Special  
Analysis Evaluation Report