



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

**JUL 01 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 212 Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) Confinement System**

Thank you for your May 24, 2005, recommendation regarding the SWPF confinement system. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) accepts Recommendation 212 and responds to each part as follows.

**Part 1: DOE-SR work with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) to expeditiously resolve the SWPF confinement system issues based on technical merit, risk impact to the overall Savannah River Site waste management system, and cost benefit analysis of various options.**

DOE-SR is currently working with the DNFSB to resolve the confinement system issues that have been raised. We are optimistic that a solution that is protective of the health and safety of the worker and the public, while minimizing cost and schedule impacts to the project, will be reached in an expeditious manner. We will continue to update both the Waste Management Committee (WMC) and the CAB as progress is made on these issues.

**Part 2: By July 26, 2005, DOE-SR provide an estimate of the relative risks of postponing the treatment of high-level wastes and closing high level waste (HLW) tanks in a HLW system operating with 50-year old tanks and infrastructure compared with the risks of not upgrading SWPF.**

SRS is in the process of preparing a more detailed risk-benefit discussion that addresses potential delays in the treatment of HLW at SRS. This risk discussion is being prepared to respond to a Request for Additional Information from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during their consultation on the Draft Section 3116 Determination for Salt Waste at SRS. DOE-SR will provide the requested briefing on a mutually agreeable schedule.

JUL 01 2005

Ms. Jean Sulc

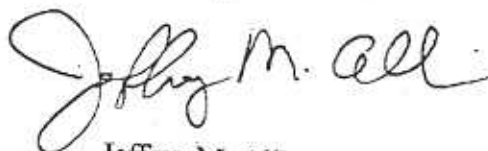
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**Part 3: DOE-SR review the open issues related to the SWPF confinement system with the WMC at the committee's June meeting.**

DOE-SR and the Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group staff provided a briefing to the WMC on June 28, 2005, on the SWPF project, its technologies, and the open issues related to SWPF confinement system.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey M. Allison".

Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

SPD-05-216