



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

NOV 03 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: Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 221 – Loss of Expertise to Support SRS Cleanup

Thank you for your recommendation concerning the effects of the loss of expertise on soil and groundwater and decommissioning activities at SRS. My response to each part of your recommendation follows.

Part 1. The Department of Energy (DOE) demonstrate to the SRS CAB on or before November 15, 2005, that:

- a) The loss of Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) expertise will not impact projected waste site/area closure projects and schedules, especially the legally enforceable schedules in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA).**

The loss of SREL expertise is not anticipated to impact projected waste site/area closure projects and schedules. SREL is performing the following limited Fiscal Year 2006 work scope for the SRS Soils and Groundwater Project; Mixed Waste Management Facility Southwest Plume tritium studies, and updating the SRS Wildlife Database. The Wildlife Database is usable by others without further updates, and both tasks could, if necessary, be performed by other entities in the future.

- b) The potential changes in the SRS operating contract will not impact projected waste site/area closure projects and schedules, especially the legally enforceable schedules in the FFA.**

Meeting the projected waste site/area closure projects and schedules that are enforceable under the FFA will be a primary responsibility of any organization that DOE selects to execute the SRS cleanup work scope. No impact on projected waste site/area closure projects and schedules is anticipated.

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Part 2. By this same date, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide any concerns about the loss of experienced remediation professionals at SRS and the potential slippage that this loss of resources could have on the FFA schedule.

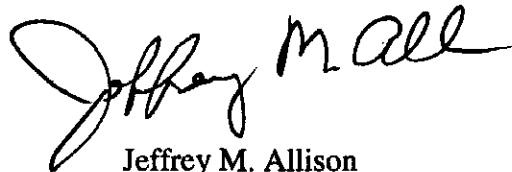
The DOE Savannah River Operations Office has forwarded your recommendation to EPA Region 4 and SCDHEC. Each of those organizations will respond to you directly.

Part 3. DOE provide a definition of "key positions" in the SRS operating contract and describe the authorization procedures utilized before such personnel involved in deactivation and decommissioning or soil and groundwater closure projects can be transferred or relocated.

"Key personnel" are those considered essential to the work being performed under the contract. They include the company's president; chief financial officer; general counsel; the Savannah River National Laboratory Director; the Safeguards, Security and Emergency Manager; and the Business Unit Directors/Chiefs. The current contract requires that the contractor provide reasonable advance notice and justification to DOE of its intent to remove or divert the employee, and that DOE approve such changes before they are made.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Brian Hennessey, of my staff, at (803) 952-8365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

SGP-06-002