



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

APR 24 2006

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
1103 Conger Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 229 – Savannah River Site (SRS) Transuranic (TRU) Waste Update (Your letter, 3/29/06)

Thank you for your recommendation to ensure the SRS TRU Waste Program stays on track and the removal of legacy TRU wastes from SRS occurs by 2013. For Recommendation 229, the SRS CAB identified four parts that I would like to address:

- 1. Department of Energy-Headquarters (DOE-HQ) commit the necessary funding for the large box characterization equipment to be operational by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and DOE-Savannah River Operations Office (SR) report on the status of the funding and the status of the required operator training by October 1, 2006.**

The large box characterization equipment project is one of the National TRU Program's high priorities for FY07. Two key components of the large characterization equipment are the deployment of a non-destructive examination (NDE) unit and a non-destructive assay (NDA) unit at SRS in FY06 and FY07, respectively. Once SRS has been provided the budget for FY07, DOE will provide the SRS CAB the status of funding and activities related to the large box characterization equipment.

- 2. DOE-SR identify ways to increase the packing efficiencies of TRUPACT-II containers system wide and provide a report to the SRS CAB before October 1, 2006.**

SRS, in coordination with the National TRU Program, is developing and implementing processes to improve packing efficiencies of TRUPACT-II containers. DOE will report to the SRS CAB on TRUPACT-II packing efficiencies as requested.

- 3. DOE-HQ continue to work on ways to increase the overall operational efficiencies (including effective utilization of space) of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). DOE-SR provide an update to the SRS CAB to make them aware of potential operational bottlenecks at WIPP which may impact SRS TRU waste shipments.**

DOE will continue to update the SRS CAB on the SRS TRU Waste Program, including any operational bottlenecks that may impact SRS TRU waste shipments as part of those updates.

APR 24 2006

Ms. Karen Patterson

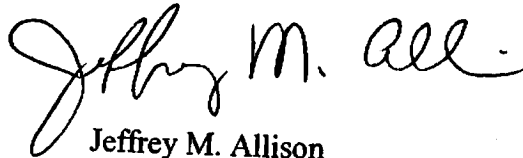
2

4. DOE-HQ arrange to have appropriate personnel present to the SRS CAB by October 1, 2006, the status of SRS equipment certification and SRS operator certification.

DOE will have appropriate personnel brief the SRS CAB by October 1, 2006, on the status of large box NDE and NDA equipment and operator certification.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Terry Spears at (803) 208-6072.

Sincerely,

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

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

WDPD-06-107