



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

JUL 14 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 232 – Nuclear Materials Disposition Consolidation and Coordination Committee (NMDCCC) (Your letter, 05/25/06)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning the activities of the NMDCCC. My response to your recommendation is as follows:

- 1. Provide timely updates on the NMDCCC activities to the Savannah River Site (SRS) CAB whenever committee deliberations/decisions may affect SRS.**

Department of Energy (DOE) understands the CAB's desire for timely updates to NMDCCC's activities, deliberations, and decisions that could potentially influence Office of Environmental Management (EM) operations at SRS. The NMDCCC is a working group for the DOE that provides a range of research information to DOE's senior leadership. Much of their activities include concept exploration that results in information that needs to be assessed by functional area DOE experts. As soon as updates are available for public release, we will promptly provide them to the CAB.

- 2. Notify the SRS CAB (within classification constraints) before shipments of nuclear materials destined for disposition involving SRS are made and any time a decision by NMDCCC implicates or impacts SRS or ongoing remediation activities at SRS (e.g. deferral of decontamination, decommissioning or dismantlement of SRS facilities).**

SRS has a number of ongoing Nuclear Materials Programs that involve frequent shipments or transfers of nuclear materials. For new nuclear material transfer activities, DOE will share the appropriate information on proposed EM shipments to SRS (within classification/OPSEC constraints) as early in the process as possible. As for the NMDCCC activities, we will provide the CAB updates related to EM activities as soon as they are made available for public release.

- 3. Allow the SRS CAB to review and provide input on the draft findings and identified alternatives for the plutonium-239 consolidation implementation plan, prior to the finalization by the NMDCCC.**

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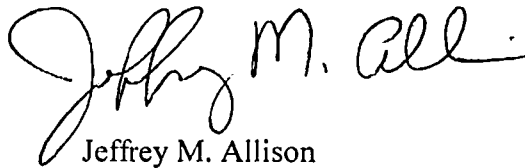
DOE fully understands the CAB's desire for timely updates to NMDCCC activities. As soon as updates on EM plutonium-239 activities or plans affecting SRS are available for public release, we will promptly provide them to the CAB.

4. **Send no additional plutonium or plutonium-laden materials which will have to be dispositioned under the proposed Plutonium-239 Consolidation Implementation Plan to SRS until a materials disposition path has been determined and a formal adoption of and commitment to a strategic plan and implementation plans, including a detailed schedule for removal of SRS material.**

While DOE understands the CAB's desire to be actively involved in any proposed plutonium-239 consolidation plans, projects, or programs, DOE cannot accept this portion of your recommendation at this time. In the interim, we will continue to share as much information as possible with the CAB on EM plutonium-239 related activities, discussions, and plans that affect SRS.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact H. Allen Gunter at (803) 208-3975.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent part.

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

NMPD-06-0064

cc:

C. E. Anderson, Chairman, NMDCCC