



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

JUN 28 2006

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
1103 Conger Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29812

Dear Ms. Patterson:

**SUBJECT: Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 233 --
P-Area Operable Unit**

Thank you for the subject recommendation. This recommendation will be sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (EPA-4) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) so they can also respond accordingly. I accept the recommendations for the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) and my responses to the six parts of Recommendation 233 are as follows:

- 1. The Three Parties should provide the results from the ongoing P-Area Operable Unit characterization to the SRS CAB as soon as the results are known.**

Characterization activities are ongoing adjacent to the P-Reactor. This work is anticipated to be complete by late Calendar Year (CY) 2006. DOE will provide the SRS CAB with a review of the results in early CY 2007.

- 2. The Three Parties should continue with formulating a performance assessment modeling strategy for P-Reactor and present the strategy through a series of informational presentations at upcoming Facility Disposition and Site Remediation (FD&SR) committee meetings.**

DOE will provide an overview of the performance assessment modeling strategy to the FD&SR and Strategic Legacy Management Committees in July 2006.

- 3. The Three Parties should host a series of public workshops on the P-Reactor End State process. These workshops need to be held as the alternatives are being developed.**

DOE will work with the EPA-4 and SCDHEC to plan workshops in order to assist the public in assessing potential end state conditions of the P-Reactor. These workshops will occur prior to final determinations to ensure stakeholder input is considered in the end state decision.

- 4. Based upon these workshops, the Three Parties should consider issuing an early decision, Record of Decision (ROD), on the final Reactor End State prior to the P-Area Operable Unit ROD in 2010. Such action will help provide guidance for future hardened facilities end state decisions at SRS.**

JUN 28 2006

DOE will meet with EPA-4 and SCDHEC over the next quarter to discuss regulatory strategies to achieve an early decision on the P-Reactor End State. The proposed regulatory strategy will be reviewed with the SRS CAB once the Three Parties determine an appropriate accelerated regulatory path forward. The review is anticipated to be provided in the fall of 2006.

5. **The Three Parties should utilize a cost/benefit evaluation when determining the P-Reactor End State. This process should incorporate cost-effectiveness and be protective of human health and the environment. The process also needs to consider previous and planned final Reactor End States at other DOE and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed facilities.**

DOE will develop estimated cost/benefit evaluations on different reactor closure alternatives when determining the P-Reactor End State. In addition, DOE will evaluate closure plans and activities at other DOE and NRC-licensed facilities. This information will be provided in the workshops we are planning. These workshops and the estimates for alternatives will be provided prior to final determinations to ensure stakeholder input is considered in the end state decision.

6. **DOE-SR ensure that there is adequate funding for Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) and Soil and Groundwater Closure Projects to complete the end state planning process and complete the P-Area Closure as scheduled in the Federal Facility Agreement.**

DOE will provide the SRS CAB with an overview of the status of funding and activities related to the D&D and Soils and Groundwater Project after the Fiscal Year 2007 budget allocation occurs.

If you have any questions, please call me or Mr. Wade Whitaker, of my staff, at (803) 952-7760.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

SGP-06-010

cc: Turpin Ballard, EPA-4
James Barksdale, EPA-4
Chuck Gorman, SCDHEC