



**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802  
**NOV 07 2006**

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chair  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 239 – Standard Review Plan Public Meetings (Your letter, 9/26/06)

Thank you for your recommendation titled *Standard Review Plan Public Meetings*. My response to each part of Recommendation 239 is provided below:

1. **The Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ensure all meetings to review the important issues dealing with closing the high level waste tanks are conducted in public.**

The DOE Savannah River Operations Office (SR) is committed to conducting public meetings used to review important issues dealing with the closure of Savannah River Site (SRS) radioactive liquid waste tanks. The public participation process will be described in the presentation discussed under Item 4 below.

2. **DOE work with NRC and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to reduce the overall consultation time frame and/or innovatively complete the consultation in a manner that supports compliance with the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) schedules.**

DOE-SR is actively working with NRC and SCDHEC to streamline and reduce the consultation time frame. An update will be provided during the presentation requested in Item 4 below.

3. **DOE conduct a preliminary performance assessment for tank groups ahead of waste removal so that after waste removal, waste determinations for tanks may be conducted more quickly, similar to a "plug-in Record of Decision (ROD)" approach.**

DOE-SR concurs with the recommendation and is actively working with NRC and SCDHEC concerning the initiative. An update will be provided during the presentation requested in Item 4 below.

4. **DOE, NRC, and SCDHEC make a joint presentation to the SRS CAB in November 2006 on the roles and responsibilities and meeting processes of each agency in the Section 3116 process.**

DOE-SR will work with NRC and SCDHEC to participate in the requested presentation. However, due to ongoing discussion between DOE, NRC, and SCDHEC to address Items 1, 2, and 3 above, this briefing will not occur prior to February 2007.


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5. **In Recommendation Item 4, for the presentation to the SRS CAB in November 2006, provide an overview of how much efficiency can be achieved by standardization processes to comply with FFA schedules (such as teams to jointly write documents).**

DOE-SR will provide our assessment of how much efficiency may be achieved using identified standardized process.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Sherri Ross at (803) 208-6078.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

WDPD-07-02