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

OCT 08 1996

Mr. Robert Slay  
P. O. Box 192  
Beech Island, South Carolina 29842

Dear Mr. Slay:

SUBJECT: Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF)

I am pleased to accept the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 25, pertaining to the startup and operation of CIF.

As you are aware, CIF construction is complete and startup testing is proceeding. Over the next few months, we will be conducting the Pre-Trial Burn and Trial Burn, both using simulated wastes. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will have officials on site to witness the Trial Burn. Upon successful completion of the Trial Burn, SCDHEC will issue a final operating permit for CIF. While we intend to strive to begin radioactive operations at CIF on the current schedule, constraints within the Fiscal Year 1997 funding levels may delay startup a few months.

As we near radioactive startup, we will work closely with our Office of External Affairs to develop a communications plan that will identify the most appropriate avenue for communicating or introducing CIF to the public. We will consider the option of holding an open house during our planning. Additionally, we will include an opportunity for the Board members to visit CIF for a briefing in conjunction with startup of the facility.

Again, thank you for the Board's recommendation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me or A. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, at (803) 208-6053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mario P. Fiori", is written over the typed name.

Mario P. Fiori  
Manager

PA-97-0003