



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

JUL 19 2010

Mr. Manuel Bettencourt, Chairperson  
SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Bettencourt:

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendation 269, Semi-Annual Review of the Inputs and Assumptions Used to Develop the Liquid Waste System Plan (Your letter to Craig, 6/3/2010)

The subject recommendation from the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) has been received and reviewed by the Department of Energy (DOE). The recommendation consisted of five parts. Our response to each part is provided below.

1. A semi-annual review, starting in the 4Q 2010, should be conducted that discusses the status of the bases inputs and assumptions for the Liquid Waste System Plan. If these inputs and assumptions have changed then the impact of these changes should be discussed.

Response: We will work with the Waste Management Committee to include in their meeting schedule the status of the bases, inputs and assumptions for the Liquid Waste System Plan at the frequency recommended.

2. Conduct a semi-annual review of salt and sludge processing operations including Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) & Actinide Removal Process (ARP), Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), Saltstone, and base operations supporting these facilities.

Response: We will work with the Waste Management Committee to include in their meeting schedule the status of salt and sludge processing operations including MCU & ARP, DWPF, Saltstone, and base operations supporting these facilities at the frequency recommended.

3. Conduct a semi-annual review of tank closure timing and the overall program critical path items with emphasis on changes from the previous review.

Response: We will work with the Waste Management Committee to include in their meeting schedule the review of tank closure timing and the overall program critical path items with emphasis on changes from the previous review at the frequency recommended.

4. Review the ten highest programmatic risks that are embedded in the Liquid Waste Plan.

Response: A presentation on this topic was provided to the Waste Management Committee on June 22, 2010. We will be repeating the presentation to the full SRS CAB at its July meeting. We will work with the Waste Management Committee to provide additional information as requested.

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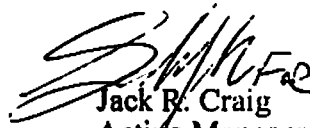
5. Review/status of the criticality studies relating to plutonium disposal in DWPF.

Response: Although the fissile loading level for canisters produced at DWPF presently remains unchanged (at up to 897g/m<sup>3</sup>), the Department will continue to study the issue with a view toward safe and expeditious waste processing in DWPF.

I agree with you that it is important that the public and the SRS CAB be informed of the progress and status of the Liquid Waste System Plan. Therefore, I accept the recommendation to that effect.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your recommendation on this very important topic. We look forward to working with the SRS CAB as the Liquid Waste System Plan is updated. If you have any questions, please contact me or Soni Blanco, of my staff, at (803) 208-6029.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig  
Acting Manager

WDPD-10-67

cc: J. Ortaldo, CAB WMC  
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