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

JUL 19 2010

Mr. Manuel Bettencourt, Chairperson  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Bettencourt:

**SUBJECT: Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation  
Number 271 – Finalize Plans for Plutonium Disposition**

Thank you for your recommendation concerning the plutonium disposition at SRS. My response to your recommendation is as follows:

*1. Advise the CAB by July 2010 when DOE will have an approved final plan for the disposition of all said plutonium currently stored or still expected for arrival at the SRS in order to preclude unnecessary and unacceptable extended storage of excess plutonium at SRS.*

The Department of Energy (DOE) will have an approved final plan for plutonium disposition when all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents are completed, which is estimated to take approximately 18 months. Plutonium disposition is a very complex program with broad ramifications. Over the past several years, DOE briefed the CAB on several plutonium disposition studies which evaluated numerous alternatives. From these various studies, the viable alternatives include processing surplus plutonium in the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, processing the surplus plutonium in the H-Canyon/HB-Line facility and incorporating the plutonium in glass generated in the Defense Waste Processing Facility, and disposing the surplus plutonium at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The appropriate NEPA analysis and documentation for these and other alternatives must be completed prior to finalizing and implementing a final plutonium disposition plan. DOE concluded a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Surplus Plutonium Environmental Impact Statement is the appropriate NEPA analysis required. A Notice of Intent for the SEIS is scheduled to be issued this summer, and public meetings are being planned to be held late summer/early fall in New Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina. DOE Savannah River Operations Office will update the CAB at least every six months on the progress of the plutonium disposition NEPA documentation.

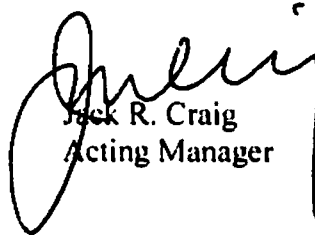
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*2. Advise the CAB of the schedule impact, if any, that the disposition plan will have on other DOE-SR EM programs and plans, and the incremental cost associated with the approved plan.*

Until the disposition pathway is selected it is difficult to provide the schedule impacts on DOE-SR EM programs and plans or the incremental cost associated with the approved disposition plan. Life cycle costs will be included in the SEIS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Mr. Allen Gunter at (803) 208-3975.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig  
Acting Manager

AMNMSP-10-0025

cc:

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