



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

DEC 19 1996

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

Dear Mr. Slay:

SUBJECT: Transuranic (TRU) Waste Disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

I am pleased to accept the Citizens Advisory Board's (CAB) twenty-seventh recommendation regarding treatment and disposal of TRU waste. We agree with the emphasis the Board places on TRU waste transportation-related issues.

Enclosed is our response to each specific concern of your recommendation. We look forward to your continued involvement in the Savannah River Site Waste Management Program.

If you have any questions on this response or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact me or William Noll at (803) 725-2219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mario P. Fiori", is written over a horizontal line.

Mario P. Fiori
Manager

OC-97-0032

Enclosure:
Response to CAB's TRU
Waste Recommendation

Enclosure: Letter, Fiori to Slay,
Transuranic Waste Disposal at
the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant,"
dated DEC 19 1986

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)
TRANSURANIC (TRU) WASTE RECOMMENDATION

TRU RECOMMENDATION PART #1:

The DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) need to revise the current transportation regulations to allow the shipment of all Pu-238 waste without thermal treatment.

RESPONSE:

Over the course of the next year, SRS will work with WIPP and DOE HQ to engage the NRC on the transportation regulations associated with shipping TRU waste. Based on our progress in these discussions with respect to our ability to ship Pu-238 waste, SRS will pursue the most viable option for disposal of TRU waste which includes: continuing with the current strategy outlined in the SRS Transuranic Waste Strategy, funding additional technology development for treatment, or submitting to HQ a line-item project for a TRU waste thermal treatment facility. It is important to note, however, that SRS does not believe that the technology currently exists to safely treat Pu-238 contaminated waste for organic destruction.

TRU RECOMMENDATION PART #2:

The DOE needs to work with the South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Environmental Protection Agency to avoid closing down the Experimental TRU Waste Assay Facility (ETWAF) while it still has a vital mission.

RESPONSE:

The current schedule does not show the ETWAF closing until after the year 2000. However, SRS will ensure that the eventual disposition of the ETWAF is considered in the Burial Ground final closure plan (which is not yet complete). Based on the impacts to the ETWAF in the approved closure plan, SRS will brief the CAB on our strategy to either maintain the use of the ETWAF or close it while maintaining its characterization capabilities.