



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

JAN 28 1997

Mr. Robert Slay, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 192
Beech Island, SC 29842

Dear Mr. Slay:

**SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board's Recommendation No. 28 - Savannah River Site (SRS)
Environmental Restoration (ER) Management Action Plan**

Thank you for your latest recommendation. We have consulted among our three agencies on the subject recommendation. The Department of Energy (DOE) will update the ER program strategy as previously scheduled. It will reflect the input from the recommendation as to form and content. We will continue our cooperative process and will continue to attempt to include diverse points of view, and reflect consensus to the extent practical. However, consensus on ER actions with the regulatory agencies is currently documented by the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit, and individual project plans which are approved by all three parties. This joint cooperation by all the parties is illustrated by the enclosed joint commitment statement developed in Rock Hill, South Carolina in 1995 toward common visions and goals. Additionally, the three agencies are currently discussing opportunities through further development of the FFA Implementation Plan.

While cost benefit analyses are currently being done comparing cleanup alternatives for each remedial decision, we recognize that cost benefit metrics should be established to make cost-benefit analyses a more visible part of the decision-making process. We will continue to refine appropriate measures that can be used by the three agencies to improve the decision-making process on remedy selection alternatives. We agree that risk should be a strong factor in guiding outyear budgets and planning. However, as you are aware from the role the Board has played in the Fiscal Year 1998 budget and planning activities, relative risk is only one factor to be considered in determining the outyear budgets. The three agencies understand and agree that DOE must seek funding from Congress to meet environmental regulatory commitments set forth in the FFA and RCRA Permit, as well as other orders, including the Consent Order implementing the Federal Facility Compliance Act.

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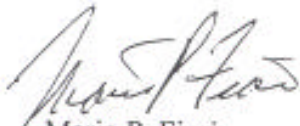
Mr. Robert Slay

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The regulatory agencies will continue to be offered input into the DOE's budgetary priorities and such input will be consistent with state and Federal regulations.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Cynthia V. Anderson at (803) 725-3966.

Sincerely,



Mario P. Fiori
Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River
Operations Office



R. Lewis Shaw
Deputy Commissioner
Environmental Quality Control
S. C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control



John Hankinson, Jr.
Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Region IV

OD-97-0096

Enclosure
SRS Workout
Meeting Commitment

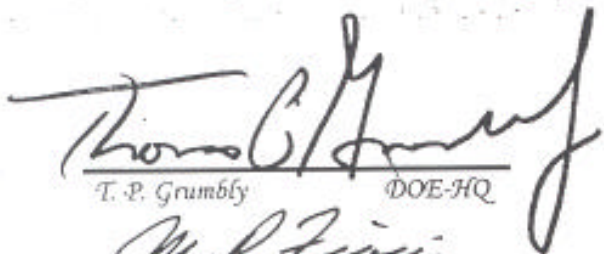
Savannah River Site

Workout Meeting

July 17 and 18, 1995

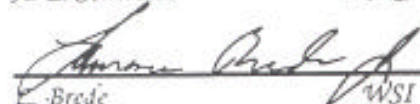
Executive management from the Department of Energy, the South Carolina Governor's Office, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Bechtel National, Inc. and Wackenhut Services, Inc. met in Rock Hill, South Carolina to explore ways to improve the ability to meet important environmental commitments amid changing congressional policies, challenging new priorities and diminished resources. A meeting summary is attached. The spirit of cooperation and resolve to meet this challenge developed during the meeting resulted in agreement to pursue substantive actions to enhance productivity and improve regulatory interfaces. Success in implementing these actions will enable SRS to meet its programmatic commitments in 1996 and 1997, and thereby increase the effective utilization of Federal and State resources to reduce public, worker and environmental risks.

We are committed to ensuring that the vision developed at Rock Hill will become a reality and lay the foundation for overcoming the significant challenges facing the Savannah River Site's Environmental Management Program.

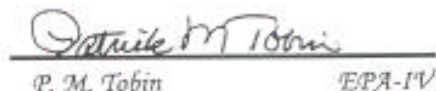

T. P. Grumbly DOE-HQ

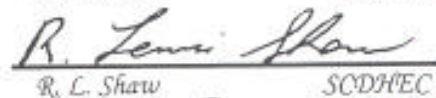

Dr. M. P. Fiori DOE-SR

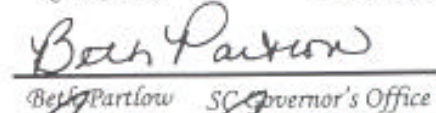

A. L. Schwallie WSRC


E. Brede WSI


T. E. Richardson Bechtel


P. M. Tobin EPA-IV


R. L. Shaw SCDHEC


Beth Partlow SC Governor's Office


B. Breen EPA-HQ