



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

JUL 12 2013

Dr. Donald N. Bridges, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Dear Dr. Bridges:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 305 – Replace Glass Waste Storage Building (GWSB) #3 with GWSB #1

Thank you for your recommendation, “Replace Glass Waste Storage Building (GWSB) #3 with GWSB #1.” DOE appreciates your continued interest in the progress of the Liquid Waste Program at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and your interest in facilitating a disposition pathway for vitrified high level waste (HLW).

Significant issues preclude shipment of high-level waste canisters to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Designation of WIPP for disposal of SRS’s vitrified HLW would require numerous activities, including development and implementation of a consent-based process consistent with the Department’s “Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste” (Strategy), changes to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, update of the regulatory framework, revision of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, evaluation of impacts of high-level waste on WIPP performance, revision to the WIPP waste acceptance criteria, etc.

Hence, continued use of the existing SRS Glass Waste Storage Facilities and acquisition of additional storage capacity is necessary to avoid reduced operations of liquid waste system at SRS. Further, we have determined it is not prudent to invest in detailed cost analyses and further studies as requested in Items 2, 3, and 4 unless and until progress is made on the above activities, in coordination with the Administration, Congress, and impacted stakeholders. Similarly, for item 5, it is premature for DOE to determine all the necessary changes to public policy, DOE Orders, permits, state and federal laws that would be required.

Mr. Bridges

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As always, DOE welcomes your input as we continue to work to disposition radioactive waste. If you have any questions, you can contact me or Terrel Spears, of my staff, at (803) 208-6072.

Sincerely,



David C. Moody
Manager

WDPD-13-71

cc:

Frank Marcinowski, EM-30
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