



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

SEP 04 2013

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

Dear Dr. Bridges:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 307 – Transferring Materials in L-Basin to Auxiliary Dry-Cask Storage. (Your letter, 07/24/13)

Thank you for your recommendation on Dry Cask storage for the Used Nuclear Fuel stored and received in L-Basin.

Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) accepts subpart #1 of the recommendation. As has been presented to the CAB, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) developed a conceptual strategy for establishing dry storage in L-Basin. This strategy estimates the costs at over a Billion dollars. A recent cost study was completed for the Office of Management and Budget which compared several scenarios. One scenario was the processing of all the Aluminum-cladded fuel in L-Basin. Another scenario was that all the fuel was placed into dry storage configuration (information based on the SRNS conceptual strategy). The study showed that processing was more cost effective by approximately \$500 Million. The key factor affecting costs that was identified in this study is the number of canisters requiring disposal in a federal repository. The higher the number of canisters requiring disposal, the higher the costs for disposal and transportation will be. Dry Storage results in more canisters requiring disposition. When the study is finalized and available for release DOE will present the results.

DOE-SR does not accept subpart #2 of the recommendation. As mentioned above, the SRNS conceptual strategy evaluated the best options for bringing dry storage capability to L-Basin. It is not beneficial to conduct another study regarding this activity without additional research on drying of aluminum cladded fuel. Based on the current study there should be no operational impacts to other Savannah River Site (SRS) programs for implementation of the dry storage capability. Funding is limited and decisions regarding which projects are authorized will factor in risks and benefits.

DOE-SR does not accept your subpart #3 of the recommendation. It is important to have external review and validation of projects; however, the dry storage conceptual strategy is at such an early phase it would not be beneficial to have the National Academy of Science evaluate it without the needed research identified on drying of aluminum cladded fuel.

We appreciate your continued support of the Savannah River Site.

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Dr. Bridges

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If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McGuire at (803) 208-3927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Moody". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

David C. Moody
Manager

NMPD-13-0045

cc:

Kristen Ellis, (EM-3.2), DOE-HQ
Catherine Alexander, (EM-3.2), DOE-HQ
Frank Marcinowski, (EM-30), DOE-HQ
Gary Deleon, (EM-22), DOE-HQ
Terry Spears, DDFO, DOE-SR
Catherine Templeton, SCDHEC
Gwen Keys, U.S. EPA
Albert Frazier, GADNR