



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 308 – Request for Long-Term Assessment: Disposition of Research Reactor Fuels stored in L-Basin, (Your letter, 07/24/13)

Thank you for your recommendation on Disposition of Research Reactor fuels stored in L-Basin.

Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) accepts your recommendation 1(a). The Department must weigh many factors when making a decision on disposition of materials. These factors involve: risks, safety, operational concerns, funding, and programmatic impacts and are further influenced by Executive Branch Policy and Congressional direction. As you know some of these factors change frequently. The decision process is conducted at the Headquarters level in consultation with the site, other sites, and agencies involved/impacted by the decision. At this time, a decision has been made to process up to 1000 bundles of Used Nuclear Fuel (UNF), and up to 200 cores of High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) fuel. The remaining UNF will be safely stored wet in L-Basin. Any follow on decisions may be made when the Department reassesses the factors described above

DOE-SR accepts your recommendation 1(b). The disposition path for UNF is normally reevaluated every year during the budget process. The CAB is provided a status briefing yearly on L-Basin as part of the Nuclear Materials Work Plan. This will continue to be the case in the future.

DOE-SR does not accept recommendation 1(c). We understand the CAB's desire to have a disposition plan that provides a clear exit path from the State of South Carolina. The current approaches involve processing the UNF identified in the Amended Record of Decision and continued safe wet storage for the remaining UNF until a federal repository is available. If a long term decision for disposition of UNF is evaluated by the Department, DOE-SR will keep the CAB apprised of the Department's Decision.

We appreciate your continued support of the Savannah River Site and understanding of the complexities involved with Governmental Programs.

SEP 04 2013

Dr. Bridges

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, stylized 'D' and 'M'.

David C. Moody
Manager

NMPD-13-0046

cc:

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