



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

DEC 11 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 315 - Public Meetings on Background and Status of High-Level Waste Tank Closure Program  
(Your letter, dated 09/25/2013)

Thank you for your recommendation on holding Public Meetings on Background and Status of High-Level Waste Tank Closure Program. The Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Operations Office shares the CAB's interest in providing comprehensive information to the public on Environmental Management activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS). We partially accept your recommendation and provide the following response to each sub-part:

### **Recommendation 315**

The SRS CAB recommends that DOE:

1. *Hold public meetings to provide accurate, honest, frank, up-to-date information about the human health and environmental dangers, technological challenges, budget details, timetable, and successes of the tank closure program. How budget constraints will impact the timetable of the tank closure program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and beyond must be included.*

DOE will take advantage of regularly scheduled full CAB and Committee meetings, as well as Environmental Justice (EJ) meetings, jointly hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DOE to provide accurate, honest, frank and up-to-date information on the SRS Tank Closure Program, as well as all other operations and environmental remediation activities performed at the SRS. DOE looks forward to working with the CAB during development of its FY 2014 Work Plan to ensure appropriate briefings are included in the CAB's meeting schedule to address the requested elements comprehensively. We will also coordinate with the EPA to include appropriate information in EJ meeting agendas.

2. *Hold the first such public meeting before the end of 2013, and annually thereafter, in the cities of Aiken and Bluffton, South Carolina; Augusta and Savannah, Georgia; and other communities deemed to be appropriate by the Department with input from the CAB.*

DOE will work with the CAB during development of the FY 2014 Work Plan to include appropriate presentations at each CAB meeting location.

3. *Invite the local drinking water suppliers to participate in the public meetings.*

DOE will identify points of contact for surrounding water suppliers in Aiken, Barnwell, Burke and Richmond Counties. They will be added to the list of invitees for the full CAB, Waste Management (WM) Committee, and EJ meetings.

4. *Invite the EPA (including EJ staff), South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) to participate in the public meetings.*

The EPA Region 4, SCDHEC, and the GDNR are currently on the list of invitees for CAB and EJ meetings. Representatives from EPA Region 4 and SCDHEC actively participate in these meetings. GDNR will continue to be invited.

5. *Invite members of the CAB to attend the meetings.*

DOE will continue to utilize the invitee list for full CAB, WM Committee, and EJ meetings.

6. *Develop a questionnaire to be distributed to those attending the public meetings so that the effectiveness can be assessed and additional concerns can be identified.*

DOE will work with the CAB Administrative and Outreach Committee to review the existing feedback questionnaire distributed at Committee meetings, make any changes necessary to ensure it is sufficient to collect the requested information, and expand its use to include full CAB meetings.

7. *Consider expanding the public information meetings in the future to include other environmental concerns expressed by the public.*

The DOE will work with the CAB Administrative and Outreach Committee to evaluate feedback received from the public and responses obtained from the questionnaire referenced above to identify other environmental concerns that need to be addressed. The CAB is also empowered to make appropriate recommendations to the Department based on this feedback.

8. *Invite members of the press to attend and report.*

DOE will continue to make local members of the press aware of CAB meetings through press announcements and emails.

Dr. Bridges

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If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Angelia Adams at (803) 952-8593.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Moody". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

David C. Moody  
Manager

AMIES-14-004

cc: Kristen Ellis (EM-3.2), DOE-HQ  
Catherine Alexander (EM-3.2), DOE-HQ  
Ken Picha (EM-20), DOE-HQ  
Zack Smith, Deputy Manager, DOE-SR  
Sandra Waisley, DDFO, DOE-SR  
Terry Spears, DDFO, DOE-SR  
Catherine Templeton, SCDHEC  
Gwen Keys, EPA