



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

DEC 15 1997

Ms. Ann Loadholt, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 365
Barnwell, SC 29812

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

**SUBJECT: Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
Recommendation Number 47 regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE)
Environmental Management Integration (EMI) Initiative**

Thank you for the CAB's recommendations on SRS participation in the DOE EMI initiative. This integration effort has the potential to save not only SRS, but the DOE complex hundreds of millions of dollars by using the expertise at each site to solve complex-wide problems, and where it makes sense, by combining our resources to centralize waste treatment and disposal. It also helps us to communicate to you, our stakeholders, that the Department has an integrated and well thought out approach to remediating our sites. Our responses to your recommendations follow:

1. SRS plans to continue operation of the Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) to dispose of waste generated at SRS.
2. SRS agrees with the CAB that the use of the excess capacity of CIF to treat waste from other DOE sites is a viable option. Considering equity issues, we will constantly evaluate this option as we continue to work with the CAB and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in planning future missions.
- 3&4. SRS has completed an evaluation of several Low Level Waste (LLW) disposal alternatives in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), including sending SRS waste to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). SRS plans to compare the costs and technical viability of shipping waste to NTS to on-site disposal.
5. SRS will continue, in conjunction with the Carlsbad Area Office, to work with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to modify the current transportation regulations to allow the shipment of Pu-238 waste without expensive pre-treatment (while maintaining an adequate margin of safety).

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6. SRS will pursue funding, in accordance with our Site Treatment Plan, to modify an existing facility or construct a new facility to prepare TRU waste for shipment and disposal in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).
7. SRS will develop the capability to process Pu-238 waste for disposal in WIPP. Although, at this time DOE is not planning to relocate any TRU waste from another site to SRS, we do anticipate that the site's future capability could process similar waste from other DOE sites. SRS would only accept off-site TRU waste for processing with the understanding that it would be shipped to WIPP for disposal at the earliest possible date.
8. SRS has a significant quantity of alpha Mixed-LLW, and if the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility can treat this waste at an economical price, SRS plans to use this capability to safely dispose of this waste. As waste plans are developed, we will incorporate this CAB recommendation and keep you informed of our progress.

Thank you for the CAB's input in these matters as we work together to accomplish the SRS missions. Questions concerning this response may be directed to me or to Thomas Heenan of my staff at (803) 725-8074.

Sincerely,


Greg Rudy
Acting Manager

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