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To: Dr. Mildred McClain 912-233-5105
Mr. Bill Lawless 706-821-8342
Mr. Bob Slay 803-827-1239

From: Monika Fraley

Date: January 9, 1996

Subj: Blue Ribbon Panel Review

In response to the SRS CAB's recommendation, the Landfill Stabilization and Focus Area (LSFA) has commissioned an independent "blue ribbon" panel of experts to review the organic treatment options of Transuranic waste at the site, and report their findings to DOE and in a presentation before the CAB.

The following panelists were selected based on their independence from DOE activities and for their expertise in thermal or non-thermal treatment technologies.

Dr. Ir. L. H. Baetsle
Counsellor to the General Management
Nuclear Research Center
Belgium

Dr. Tom Carleson
Professor of Chemical Engineering
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID

Dr. Ervin J. Fenyves
Professor of Physics
University of Texas
Dallas, TX

Dr. Wm. Randall Seeker
Senior Vice President
Energy and Environmental
Research Corp.
Irvine, CA

On December 7 & 8, 1995, the four panelists visited SRS and met with SRS Transuranic Waste Program personnel to learn more about the available treatment technologies and to tour the site. CAB member Bill Lawless provided a briefing for the panelists and explained the CAB's request.

The panelists are scheduled to attend the Stakeholders Tribal and Stakeholders Working Group of the INTS (Integrated Non-Thermal Treatment Systems) meeting next week in Phoenix. Following the meeting, the panelists will begin drafting their review which will be presented to the CAB in mid-February. However, prior to drafting their evaluation, the panelists' chairperson, Dr. Seeker, has asked that we submit our "charge", as we understand it, to the CAB co-chairpersons and to Bill Lawless, Chairperson of the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Subcommittee, for your concurrence.

Attached is the "charge." We will attempt to telephone you from the Phoenix meeting next week to solicit comments. Or, if you prefer, please fax comments in my care by January 16, 1996. Please feel free to share this with any other CAB members who may be interested. If we do not receive comments, we will assume the "charge" is on target with the CAB's wishes, and will proceed accordingly.

Please contact me (as I am serving as the point of contact for the panelists) if you have any comments or questions. Thank you.

attachment (1)

cc: Virginia Gardner
Dawn Haygood
Paul Krumrine

Charge to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Savannah River TRU Waste Treatment and Waste Form

1. Evaluate and comment on the urgency of SRS High Activity Transuranic waste management based upon a review of the available waste characterization data and the current waste storage and management procedures at the Savannah River Site. Particularly focus on high activity Pu-238 mixed waste materials currently stored at SRS.
2. Evaluate and comment on the organic treatment options (thermal and nonthermal) under consideration by SRS and others for TRU mixed wastes. Evaluate the ability and suitability of selecting and implementing within the near term, a treatment technology or series of technologies to remove organics from TRU mixed waste at SRS.
3. Evaluate and comment on the stabilization options under consideration by SRS and others for TRU wastes. Evaluate the ability and suitability of selecting and implementing within the near term, a treatment technology or series of technologies to stabilize TRU mixed waste at SRS. Evaluate and comment on the SRS technology treatment selection process and results for TRU wastes as documented in the "Emerging Technologies to Meet Solid Waste Needs" reports.
4. Evaluate and comment on the current SRS plans to retrieve and repackage the Pu-238/239 wastes on 5 of the TRU pads both in terms of the current hazards associated with the waste storage and in the context of waste characterization and treatment options that could become available in the future.
5. Provide other comments on the SRS TRU waste management program as appropriate.

Or, simply, to recommend how SRS should deal with TRU waste.