

COMMENTOR NO. 30: SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (CONT'D)

Savannah River Site CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Recommendation No. 18
January 27, 1988

Dr. Earl R. Rasmussen (Project Manager) re Management of
Cesium Production Residues and Scrub Alloy Sludge at Rocky Flats

Background

Rocky Flats is a Department of Energy (DOE) site located near Denver, Colorado. Rocky Flats has been operated for approximately twenty years responsible for the country's nuclear arsenal. The complex was designed using plutonium-239 produced at and shipped from the Savannah River site and other DOE sites. Much of the spent plutonium remaining from the production process was then shipped back to DOE to be recycled.

With the end of the Cold War, however, weapons production ceased and weapons production at Rocky Flats ended. As a result of the nuclear arsenal reduction and ending fuel cycle capability, DOE has proceeded to clean up the Rocky Flats site. The reduction of the nuclear materials remaining at Rocky Flats is now being addressed in an environmental impact statement (EIS). One of the preferred alternatives is to send those types of residual materials to DOE for solidification and incineration.

Recommendation

The EIS EIS requires the preferred alternative in the Rocky Flats area. The EIS for sending EIS to include the following materials in the EIS:

- Rocky alloy
- Plutonium Residue residues
- Lead, slag and waste residues

Dispositive Statement

The CAB believes the materials proposed to be shipped from Rocky Flats and processed at DOE will be additional more easily, more expensively and more cost effectively than with any other alternative. These materials represent approximately 10% of all Rocky Flats plutonium waste being addressed in the EIS. DOE has the only large-scale processing capability in the country. In addition, DOE has already processed these and other radioactive materials for over 40 years in secure container waste by Federal Department of Transportation shipping residual plutonium. The nuclear industry technology would be easily, less expensively and require additional handling with possible safety issues.

The additional plutonium sent from the early assessment in the proposed Airside Plutonium and Storage Facility along with other EIS materials already designated for incineration storage in this work. This residual material will be suitable for DOE's existing program for plutonium disposition in a national inventory.

and DOE's inventory in
April 1987 to 1988

30-1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT COMMENTOR NO. 30: SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (CONT'D)

Response to Comment No. 30

30-2: Although the preferred processing technologies have changed in this Final EIS for several material categories, the preferred technology for the materials referenced by the commentor (Purex process at the Savannah River Site) has not changed.