



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 14, 1998

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

Dear Ms. Loadholt,

This is in response to your letter of July 30, 1998, in which you provided the Department with the recommendations of the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board regarding political, regulatory and state equity issues. I apologize for the delay in our response.

We agree that it is imperative for the Department — working closely and cooperatively with Federal and State regulators, as well as Tribal and local governments — to “confront equity issues and make decisions” which advance the cleanup of contaminated sites. However, as was discussed during the recently-held meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs, *equity* concerns are best addressed within the context of other salient issues, e.g., low-level waste (LLW) disposal and transportation. We are currently addressing these issues in several ways.

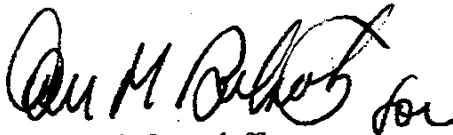
To begin with, the Department is soliciting feedback from concerned citizens — including the local SSAB site boards, the National Governors’ Association, and local governments — concerning the management of LLW and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) by distributing additional information regarding the disposal options under consideration in the Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. This information was requested during the SSAB “LLW Seminar” convened in Las Vegas, Nevada in August. We hope this will assist stakeholders in evaluating the disposal options and providing comments to the Department. The distribution of this additional information is consistent with DOE’s commitment to further evaluate costs and discuss *all* pertinent aspects of potential configurations — including that of equity or burden-sharing — across the spectrum of stakeholders before selecting preferred LLW and MLLW disposal sites.



In turn, planning is underway for a SSAB "Transportation Seminar" (modeled after the successful "LLW Seminar") to be hosted next spring by the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board. This event will provide another forum for addressing equity concerns, both at waste disposal sites and along transportation corridors — and, as with the disposal of low-level waste, within the context of an issue of primary importance to the Department, as well as to States, Tribal and local governments, and other concerned stakeholders.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the progress of the Environmental Management program and for your service as Chair of the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board. If you have any additional concerns or questions, please contact Martha Crosland, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability, at (202) 586-5944, or Fred Butterfield of her staff at (202) 586-8809.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Owendoff".

James M. Owendoff  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc:

M. Frei, DOE/EM-30  
D. Huizenga, DOE/EM-60  
M. Crosland, DOE/EM-22  
F. Butterfield, DOE/EM-22  
G. Rudy, DOE/SR