

SEP 11 1998

Ms. Ann Loadholt, Chair
SRS Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 365
Barnwell, South Carolina 29812

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 63

Thank you for the Board's recommendation regarding political, regulatory, and State equity issues. We recognize that these issues have the potential to impact the Department of Energy's (DOE) ability to take a national approach to managing post-Cold War nuclear waste and materials.

Recently a series of meetings was held at DOE sites around the country where the senior managers from the HQ Environmental Management (EM) program office and the Managers of the five major sites discussed opportunities for moving out on integration across the EM program as well as with other DOE programs. Your recommendation was welcome input in those deliberations. Consistent with your recommendation, a few areas were selected for focus. Of most immediate interest for the Savannah River Site (SRS) is the movement of plutonium bearing materials from Rocky Flats to SRS. This option was considered more ripe for resolution than the example of the West Valley canisters noted in your recommendation.

As this process evolves, we will continue to be mindful of the Board's concerns about impediments to real progress in the program.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Citizens Advisory Board for being involved in national issues, as was evident during the recent visit of the new Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson. In particular, we appreciate the cogent remarks provided by Vice-Chair Brendolyn Jenkins in the meeting with the Secretary. The CAB involvement illustrated the strong support of the community surrounding SRS. It was also evidence of a level of informed involvement by the community that is vital as the Department moves towards making important decisions regarding waste disposal and new missions for the site.

Sincerely,

/s/ Greg Rudy

Greg Rudy
Manager

OC-98-0086