



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

APR 02 1999

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

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 79, Fiscal Year (FY)  
2000 Budget for Savannah River Site (SRS)

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the FY 2000 budget.

The Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Operations Office (SR) agrees that the work of emptying tanks and vitrifying waste is very important. To that end, DOE SR is committed to meeting its Site Treatment Plan requirements and accordingly, expects production of 200 canisters of vitrified high level waste in FY 2000. DOE believes the Site's FY 2000 budget request will support this expectation. Furthermore, DOE SR is committed to seeking funds in future budgets needed to maintain progress towards these requirements.

The CAB specifically recommends that \$55 million be added to DOE SR's FY 2000 budget for expediting development and evaluation of alternatives to the in-tank precipitation, salt feed preparation process, as well as to support higher canister rate production in Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). While these additional funds could reduce the risk related to assuring continuous feed to DWPF over the longer-term, finding these funds within the overall DOE budget will be difficult. DOE SR will inform DOE Headquarters of the CAB's specific recommendation to increase funding to DOE SR for this purpose.

Finally, DOE SR agrees to work aggressively with the State of South Carolina regulators and elected officials to ensure waste management goals established for SRS are in accordance with expectations of the State. This will include discussions relative to funding, schedule, and progress in meeting established goals.

If you have any questions, please call me or James Buice at (803) 725-2263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Rudy", is written over the typed name and title.

Greg Rudy  
Manager

TD-99-0072