

SEP 03 1999

Ms. Ann Loadholt, Chair
SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 95 – Contractor Replacement, High Level Waste (HLW) In Tank Precipitation Process Replacement

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the new HLW Salt Processing Project. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates the CAB's interest and shares their concerns over the importance of removing waste from the HLW Tank Farms to support closure of the HLW storage tanks.

Processing of the HLW into glass at the Defense Waste Processing Facility is and will remain a top priority for DOE at Savannah River (SR). Processing of the salt fraction of the HLW is a key component of this priority. For this reason, DOE has decided to use every means available to stimulate innovative and aggressive approaches to management of the project for the salt processing facility.

There are many indicators from the General Accounting Office, National Academy of Science, and Congress that significant changes are needed in the approach to management of projects at SR and the DOE Complex. At the same time, DOE recognizes that Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) has performed well in many other areas of Management and Operation (M&O) of the Savannah River Site. Although WSRC has been removed from the future management of the Salt Processing Project, our path forward will be focused on assuring new approaches to best in class project management practices. The path forward will include emphasis on implementation of proven and innovative approaches to project management in order to complete the project and commence processing of salt waste cost effectively and without impact to our plans and commitments for closure of HLW storage tanks.

Much of the information requested by the CAB will not be known until contract strategies are finalized and procurement initiatives started. Information and answers to these questions will be provided when available and as allowed by the contract procurement process. Briefings and updates on the Salt Processing effort will be presented to the Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee and the full CAB as we proceed toward selection and implementation of a process.

Ms. Loadholt

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If you have any questions, please call me or John Reynolds at (803) 557-5144.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Greg Rudy

Greg Rudy
Manager

PD:JMR:scm

PB-99-0059

bc:

Manager's Reading File, 703-A

AMEP Reading File, 703-A

AMHLW Reading File, 704-S

PD Reading File, 704-S

Gerri Flemming, PM&CD, 703-A

Dawn Haygood, WSRC (CAB Files) 742-A

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