

**SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH SAVANNAH RIVER STAFF  
ON NOVEMBER 9, 1998**

- On November 9, 1998, M. Tokar, J. Davis, R. Weller, and B. Reamer met with L. Ling and J. Reynolds from DOE Savannah River to discuss their proposed alternatives for treatment and disposal of the aqueous salt wastes resulting from fuel reprocessing operations.
- Prior practice for treating salt wastes was in-tank precipitation (ITP) with sodium tetraphenylborate which precipitated cesium, the dominant radionuclide, and other radionuclides from the salt solution.
- ITP was suspended as a result of unexpected generation of large volumes of benzene as a side effect of the process.
- DOE conducted an evaluation of alternatives to ITP for the treatment of salt wastes. Choices narrowed to four alternatives:
  1. Caustic Side Solvent Extraction
  2. Non Elutable Ion Exchange
  3. Small Tank Tetraphenylborate Precipitation
  4. Direct Disposal as Grout
- Higher costs and technical risks/uncertainty associated with first three alternatives. Institutional risk associated with alternative 4 as process would result in disposal of Cs as class C low level waste. Waste in all other respects can meet incidental waste classification criteria.
- Key issue with respect to alternative 4 is whether waste remains as HLW because the process does not effectively separate Cs as part of the HLW fraction to be vitrified.
- DOE interested in knowing whether there are any fatal flaws associated with alternative 4.
- DOE will prepare an EIS to assist in the decision-making process for a preferred alternative for treatment of salt wastes.
- DOE staff would like to make a recommendation for a path forward in the next couple of months.