



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

**JUL 26 2012**

Mr. Larry Camper, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11545 Rockville Pike, Mail Stop T8F5  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Mr. Camper:

**SUBJECT:** Additional Response to *Technical Evaluation Report for Revised Performance Assessment for the Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site, South Carolina* and Letter of Concern

**References:**

- 1) Letter of Concern (Type IV) Regarding US Department of Energy Disposal Activities at the Savannah River Site Saltstone Disposal Facility (Letter, Satorius to Gilbertson dated 4/30/12)
- 2) Technical Evaluation Report for the 2009 Performance Assessment for the Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site (Letter, Camper to Gilbertson, dated 4/30/12)
- 3) Transmittal of Updated Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF) Information Developed since August 2011 (Letter, Spears to Camper dated 6/13/12)
- 4) Letter of Concern (Type IV) Regarding US Department of Energy Disposal Activities at the Savannah River Site Saltstone Disposal Facility (Letter, Spears to Satorius, dated 7/12/12)

This letter is in further response to the Letter of Concern (Reference 1) and associated Technical Evaluation Report (TER) (Reference 2). This letter supplements the information previously provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by References 3 and 4. The Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates NRC's review of the DOE's *Performance Assessment for the Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site* dated October 2009 (SDF PA). The Enclosure identifies DOE's approaches to address NRC's TER and Letter of Concern.

This transmittal along with References 3 and 4 completes DOE's commitment described in Reference 4 to respond to NRC's TER and Letter of Concern prior to initiating disposal operations in Saltstone Disposal Unit (SDU) 2. As previously stated in Reference 4, disposal operations are scheduled to resume in SDF later this fiscal year (FY), beginning with SDU 2 in August 2012. After filling SDU 2, operations in SDU 3 and 5 are anticipated to occur through FY 2015.

Consistent with DOE's performance assessment maintenance program described in the enclosure, DOE will consider NRC's SDF TER and Letter of Concern when performing new modeling, incorporating any available new information described in the Attachments to the Enclosure for all planned SDF operations. DOE would like to engage in technical discussions with NRC staff later this year prior to performing the new modeling activities. DOE anticipates completing the new modeling late next calendar year. DOE intends to provide the new information to NRC and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in advance of additional disposal operations (i.e. SDU 6 and subsequent units) to facilitate NRC's

JUL 26 2012

monitoring role under Section 3116(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2005.

DOE looks forward to continuing discussions with NRC pertaining to SDF operations. Our next public meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 6, 2012 starting at 1:00 at the Aiken Design Center in Aiken, SC to discuss References 3 and 4. Furthermore, I welcome NRC staff for the onsite observation monitoring visit of SDF on August 7 and 8, 2012.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call me at (803) 208-6072, Ms. Sherri Ross at (803) 208-6078, or Ms. Patricia Suggs at (803) 208-6804.

Sincerely,



Terrell J. Spears  
Assistant Manager  
Waste Disposition Project

WDPD-12-64

Enclosures:  
Assessment of Key Monitoring Factors  
in NRC TER for the SDF PA

cc:  
Nishka Devaser, NRC (w/ Enclosure)  
Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC (w/ Enclosure)