



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

DEC 05 2013

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

Dear Mr. Camper:

Subject: Transmittal of Fiscal Year 2013 Special Analysis for the Saltstone Disposal Facility  
at the Savannah River Site, SRR-CWDA-2013-00062, Rev. 2

- References:
1. Letter of Concern (Type IV) Regarding U.S. 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. 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 (Letter, Spears to Camper, dated 7/26/12)
  4. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Response to the U.S. Department of Energy Letter Dated December 14, 2012, RE: Modeling Activities for the Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site (Letter, Mohseni to Blanco, dated 2/15/13)
  5. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Planned Monitoring Activities for the Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site (Letter, Camper to Gilbertson, dated 8/30/13)

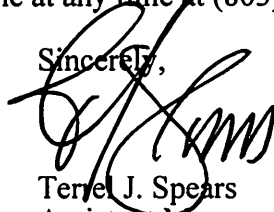
The purpose of the letter is to transmit the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Special Analysis (SA) for the Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Enclosure 1 is a Digital Versatile Disk containing the SA and all supporting reference documents. The Department of Energy (DOE) is submitting the enclosed SA to facilitate the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) monitoring role under Section 3116(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, which requires the NRC to monitor certain disposal actions taken by the DOE for the purpose of assessing compliance with the performance objectives set out in 10 CFR Part 61, Subpart C. As described in Reference 3, this SA is provided as an additional response to NRC's concerns identified in References 1 and 2. I would

like to thank NRC staff for the feedback provided by Reference 4 and during the January 17, 2013 public meeting, which has been considered in the development of the enclosed SA, and encourage continued technical discussions between our staffs at the earliest opportunity. DOE is also planning to develop a crosswalk describing how the SA and DOE's Performance Assessment (PA) Maintenance Plan addresses NRC's Technical Evaluation Report (Reference 2) and the monitoring factors identified in NRC's Monitoring Plan for the SDF (Reference 5). This crosswalk is anticipated to be available in 2014. Furthermore, SRS is preparing an updated SA during 2014 to further refine our modeling approaches and incorporate the Salt Disposal Unit #6 design. I will look forward to continued interaction with the NRC as we develop this new SA and will provide it to the NRC when completed.

Consistent with previous PA modeling approaches, DOE continues to have reasonable assurance that the performance objectives will be met at the SDF. DOE risk informed decisions consider the current storage of radioactive liquid waste in aging underground storage tanks, as well as disposal of low activity salt waste which has been treated and stabilized with reducing grout at SDF. Additionally, PA maintenance and monitoring programs continue, including groundwater monitoring for contaminants, and DOE maintains the capability to install additional barriers if necessary to ensure the long term performance of the disposal facility should future information identify the need.

Members of your staff should continue to contact Pat Suggs (803) 208-6804 or Sherri Ross (803) 208-6078, of my staff if there are any questions or follow-up needed regarding this letter. In addition, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time at (803) 208-6072.

Sincerely,



Terrel J. Spears  
Assistant Manager  
Waste Disposition Project

WDPD-14-08

Enclosure:  
DVD containing 2013 Special Analysis and supporting reference documents

cc w/enclosure:  
Nishka Devaser, NRC  
Shelly Wilson, SCDHEC

cc: w/o enclosure:  
Linda Suttora, DOE-HQ/EM