

July 27, 2001

Governor Jim Hodges
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 11829
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Hodges:

The S.C. Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council held its quarterly meeting on July 19 at the Savannah River Site. The Council reviewed a wide range of activities at the Site including such topics as the implementation of the SRS Long Range Plan, the status of plutonium disposition projects, and the current status of materials processing and disposal requirements for SRS waste materials.

Based on the information provided to the Council on the status of plans and programs for plutonium disposition, the Council recommends the following:

- (1) That you write the Secretary of Energy and request that implementation of plans and procedures for shipment of plutonium from other DOE sites to SRS be postponed until the plutonium disposition program elements previously identified (or appropriate alternative methodologies) are approved and funded.
- (2) That you accept the Secretary's offer for his staff to brief you and your staff on these programmatic options and the Secretary's plans for funding their implementation. The Council is willing to assist you and your staff in these briefings if that will be helpful.
- (3) That, based on this process, you develop with the Secretary written agreements that will lead to implementation of the agreed-upon programmatic elements and that will help to ensure adequate year-to-year funding for the plutonium disposition program. Again, the Council stands ready to assist you and your staff in crafting these written agreements if that will be helpful.

The goals of the plutonium disposition program that DOE announced in earlier 2000 remain valid in our view. Equally valid is our State's concern that we will see an accumulation at SRS of materials delivered from other parts of the DOE complex without the means in place to ensure their safe and timely disposition.

The Council is confident that the men and women of the SRS team are fully capable of accomplishing the plutonium disposition program goals. They can not do the job, however, without the proper commitment and resources. We must make every effort to secure these from the Secretary and Congress so that this vital program can go forward.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Stucker, Ph.D.
Chairman

cc: Members of the Council
David Wilson, SC DHEC
Greg Rudy, Site Manager Savannah River Site