

April 10, 2000

Mr. David E. Adelman
Mr. Matthew McKinzie
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SAVANNAH
RIVER TANK CLOSURE PROGRAM

Dear Sirs:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received your letter of March 6, 2000, concerning the recent staff position described in "Review of the Department of Energy [DOE] at Savannah River [SR] High Level Waste Tank Closure Methodology," SECY 99-284, of December 15, 1999. In your letter you urge the Commission to hold a public meeting, and to consider the points the Natural Resources Defense Council has raised in its petition.

The technical and legal issues addressed in the letter have already been raised in other contexts, such as your "Petition to Exercise Licensing Authority," dated July 28, 1998; the NRC Request for Additional Information (letter from N.K. Stablein/NRC to R.J. Schepens/DOE-SR dated June 30, 1998); the DOE-SR response (letter from R.J. Schepens/DOE-SR to N.K. Stablein/NRC dated September 30, 1998); and two follow-up letters (letter from C.W. Reamer/NRC to R.J. Schepens/DOE-SR dated March 15, 1999; and letter from R.J. Schepens/DOE-SR to C.W. Reamer/NRC dated April 22, 1999). The issues have also been discussed in over 40 public meetings already held on this topic. Therefore, in regard to your request, staff does not consider that the issues raised in your letter warrant a new public meeting.

We are currently preparing a response to your petition, and plan to respond following the Commission vote on SECY 99-284. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Jennifer Davis on (301) 415-5874.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John T. Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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***see previous concurrence**

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