

May 3, 2001

Mr. David Nulton
Director, Reactors Group
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: ONGOING SAVANNAH RIVER SITE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Dear Mr. Nulton:

In your letter of February 27, 2001, you informed us of several maintenance and environmental compliance activities that are taking place, or are expected to take place, on the proposed site of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility (MFFF). You stated that these activities are independent of the MFFF and would be performed regardless of whether the MFFF is licensed.

Your letter also references the need for the NRC to prepare environmental documents pertaining to the proposed licensing of the MFFF. In this regard, the pertinent NRC regulation is 10 CFR 70.23(a)(7), which prohibits certain construction activities related to the MFFF from taking place prior to when the NRC has completed its environmental evaluation pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51. Because the activities you cited do not relate to the MFFF and involve maintenance and environmental compliance activities on existing site features, we have no objections to the planned activities. As you have stated, we also agree with the need to properly coordinate with archeological data recovery activities performed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. For your proposed activities related to the installation of new groundwater monitoring wells, we would appreciate advanced notice of these activities so that we can observe the installation.

Nulton

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Timothy C. Johnson at 301-415-7299.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric J. Leeds, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3098

cc: Mr. James Johnson, DOE
Mr. Henry Potter, SC Dept. of Health
and Environmental Control
Mr. John Conway, DNFSB

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