

September 11, 1998

Mr. Roy J. Schepens
Acting Assistant Manager for High-Level Waste
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

SUBJECT: NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL PETITION REGARDING U.S.
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION LICENSING AUTHORITY OVER
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE HIGH-LEVEL WASTE TANKS

Dear Mr. Schepens:

I am responding to your September 10, 1998, letter in which the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) requests an extension of time until September 30, 1998, to submit comments on the July 28, 1998, Natural Resources Defense Council petition regarding U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing authority over the Savannah River site high-level waste tanks. In the letter, DOE indicates that, due to the legal and technical complexities associated with the petition, DOE needs additional time to formulate, coordinate, and submit a response. NRC does not object to DOE's request for an extension of time to submit a response by September 30, 1998.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

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cc: R. Erickson, DOE-EM32
E. Regnier, DOE-EH412
M. Vickers, SCDHEC
J. Rhoderick, DOE-EM35
T. Cochran, NRDC

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John T. Greeves".

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

cc: R. Erickson, DOE-EM32
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