



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

SEP 10 1998

Mr. John T. Greeves,
Director, Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Greeves:

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Petition Regarding U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Licensing Authority Over Savannah River Site (SRS) High Level Waste (HLW) Tanks

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has received your letter of August 27, 1998, notifying DOE that the NRDC submitted a petition to the NRC requesting that the NRC exercise immediate licensing authority over all HLW stored in 51 underground tanks at SRS. You indicated that your staff would be interested in any comments that DOE may have regarding the NRDC petition and would appreciate receiving any such comments by September 16, 1998.

DOE intends to file comments regarding the petition as you requested. DOE, however, would like to request an extension of time until September 30, 1998, to file comments. The petition raises complex legal and technical issues which requires coordination among numerous DOE program and site offices which would involve more time than the twenty days allotted in the letter. If you have any questions, please call Larry Ling at 803-208-8248 or Ray Hannah at 803-208-541. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Roy A. Schepens
Acting Assistant Manager
for HighLevel Waste

PD:GRH:eeh

PB-98-0096

cc:
William Reamer, NRC-OGC
Carl J. Paperiello, NRC-NMSS
Thomas B. Cochran, NRDC

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