



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

October 12, 1998

Dr. Thomas B. Cochran, Director
Nuclear Program
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

SUBJECT: NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL PETITION TO EXERCISE
LICENSING AUTHORITY OVER SAVANNAH RIVER SITE HIGH-LEVEL
WASTE TANKS

Dear Dr. Cochran:

In a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) dated August 27, 1998, (J. Greeves/NRC, to R. Schepens/DOE), the U.S. Nuclear Regulator Commission (NRC) offered DOE the opportunity to comment on the July 28, 1998, petition from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for NRC to exercise licensing authority over the Savannah River site high-level waste tanks. By letter dated September 30, 1998 (enclosed), DOE provided comments on the subject petition to NRC. In this regard, NRC would be interested in any views or comments that NRDC may have on DOE's response and would appreciate receiving any such comments by November 6, 1998.

Please contact Richard Weller at (301) 415-7287 of my staff, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Weller for".

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

Enclosure: As stated

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Sincerely,
(orig signed by MFW for:)
John T. Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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Enclosure