



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

January 26, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: C. William Reamer, Acting Chief
ENGB/DWM/NMSS

THRU: Richard M. Weller, Section Leader *RAW*
Engineering and Material Section
ENGB/DWM/NMSS

FROM: John Contardi, Chemical Engineer *JC*
Engineering and Material Section
ENGB/DWM/NMSS

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, SAVANNAH
RIVER SITE, HIGH-LEVEL WASTE TANK CLOSURE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, PUBLIC SCOPING
WORKSHOP, NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, JANUARY 14,
1999

On January 14, 1999, J. Contardi attended a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) public scoping meeting for an environmental impact statement (EIS). This meeting was the result of DOE's issuance of a notice of intent on Tuesday, December 29, 1998, in the Federal Register/Vol. 63, No. 249, to prepare an EIS for closure of high-level waste tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Aiken, South Carolina. The reason for the workshop was to allow for public comments on the pending development and release of an EIS for the high-level waste tank closure operations at SRS. The public scoping period will last until February 12, 1999.

Four public workshops were planned for the EIS. Approximately 10 citizens were present for the meeting on January 14, 1999, 6:00 p.m., therefore, few public comments were received. Another workshop was also held earlier in the day at 2:00 p.m., with more citizen participation. The remaining two workshops were held in Columbia, South Carolina, on January 19. A complete attendee list for both workshops on January 14 is attached. *//*

The meeting on January 14, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. began with an introduction from Drew Grainger, DOE-SR National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Officer. The introduction was followed by a presentation from Larry Ling, DOE-SR High-Level Waste Tank Closure Program Manager. A period of informal discussions and comments followed the background presentation. Finally, the meeting closed with a session for formal input opportunities. *NH 16*
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Drew Grainger: Provided the introduction to the scoping workshop. Explained the purpose for the scoping meetings. Described the scoping period and what DOE actions would occur thereafter. Provided means for public comments, i.e., mail address, toll-free phone numbers, and e-mail address.

CONTACT: J. Contardi, ENGB/NMSS
(301) 415-6680

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Larry Ling: Presented a brief history of the high-level waste tank activities and characteristics at SRS. A total of 51 carbon steel high-level waste tanks were constructed at SRS to support interim storage of waste from canyon reprocessing operations. Four different types of waste tanks were built at SRS. Twenty-four tanks have been declared non-compliant for meeting secondary containment requirements. These tanks are identified as the following: 12 Type I, 4 Type II, and 8 Type IV. Type III tanks are compliant for secondary containment requirements. Under the Federal Facility Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Controls (SCDHEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DOE must close all non-compliant tanks by Year 2022. Closing of the high-level waste tanks and associated systems is required under the wastewater operating permit in accordance with SCDHEC regulations. Tank closure performance requirements are established by SCDHEC and EPA, with a limited performance standard of 4 mrem/yr for drinking water. Alternative tank closure activities were also presented. The next scheduled closing is set for Tank 19F in Year 2003.

Public Comments:

Bill Lawless, SRS citizen advisory board (CAB)

1. Good possibility that CAB will vote down the EIS unless significant risk to the environment, workers, or public is demonstrated.
2. DOE should devote a minimum amount of time, money, and effort into the EIS, unless significant risk to the environment, workers, or public is demonstrated.
3. If the EIS does proceed, the record of decision should be delivered no later than December 1999.
4. All results from the EIS process should be implemented into helping advance the tank closure activities.

General Public Comments:

- a total integrated risk assessment should be performed (i.e., risk to the worker, public, and environment)
- want to see a cost-per-life-saved assessment
- would like to see if a tank could be removed or some other means taken to insure that the release of radionuclides under the tanks is well documented. (i.e., no undetected leaks are currently present)

To view or obtain copies of handouts from the workshop, please see John Contardi in T-7C14 (301) 415-6680.

Attachment: Attendee List

High Level Waste Tank Closure

Scoping Meetings

January 14, 1999

North Augusta, SC

2:00

Please check the documents you would like to receive

| Name | Address | Draft EIS | Final EIS |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Kelly Way | 125 Gatewood Aiken SC 29801 | | |
| John Knox | USDOE/EAD | | |
| Philip Rodwell | 544 MCKINNA'S LINE EVANS, GA 30809 | | |
| John Murdock | 2024 Lowmeyer Dr Aiken SC | | |
| Dillard B. Shipley | 2411 RICHMOND, WA PINEYRIDGE LN. | | |
| Steve Connor | 4265 Vaucluse Rd Aiken 29801 | | |
| Ann Clark | DHEC | | |
| Harry Quarles | ORNL OAK Ridge, TN 37831 | | |
| John Austin | 157 SWEETBAY DR AIKEN SC 29803 | | |
| Pete Rieck | SDE 119 DAVIS RD AUGUSTA GA | | |
| Jim Cook | bdg 723-43A | | |
| Lestic Wells | WSRC, 730 730-2B | | |
| John Reynolds | DOE-SR | | |
| C.S. Berry | WSRC 704-8T | | |
| Paul Shearer | 13 SR1 730-2B | | |
| Ann Gough | WSRC 730-15 | | ✓ |
| RAY HANNAH | DOE-SR | | |
| Tommy Caldwell | 2355 Casaba Dr Aiken, SC 29803 | | |
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High Level Waste Tank Closure

Scoping Meetings

January 14, 1999

North Augusta, SC

6:00

Please check the documents you would like to receive

| Name | Address / Company - Affiliation | Draft EIS | Final EIS |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Paul Lawler | Paine College [CAB] | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Dillard B. Shipley | Buckhead, WA | | |
| JOHN Contardi | US NRC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GERRY STESSLER | AIKEN - CITIZEN | | |
| HOWARD GNANN | DOE | | |
| LEONARD HUESTICS | 223405 E COCHRAN KENNEWICK, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Bonnie Shapiro | WSMS | | |
| Leonard Colvard | 116 Floral North Augusta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Harry Purles | ORNL OAK RIDGE, TN 37831 | | |
| Brandon Haddock | The Augusta Chronicle P.O. Box 1926, Augusta, GA 30901 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Paul Campbell | 7 Cherry Hill Aiken SC 29803 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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FAX
301 415-5398

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DISTRIBUTION:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Central File | ENGB r/f | NMSS r/f | PUBLIC | JWHickey |
| JGreeves | JHolonich | JRussell/CNWRA | JParrott | LBell |
| ACNW | | | | |

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DWMENGBWJSC\SRSEIS99.WPD

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|------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OFC | ENGB <i>me</i> | ENGB | ENGB |
| NAME | JContardi:cc/eb (prf rd) | BJDavis <i>BJD</i> | RWeller <i>Raw</i> |
| DATE | 01/25/99 | 01/25/99 | 01/26/99 |