



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 27, 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. Erickson:

On July 28, 1998, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) submitted a petition (Enclosure 1) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requesting that the NRC exercise immediate licensing authority over all high-level waste (HLW) stored in the 51 underground tanks in the 2 tank farms at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site. By letter dated August 27, 1998 (Enclosure 2), the staff acknowledged receipt of the NRDC petition and indicated that the NRC could not fully respond to the petition, pending completion of the NRC's ongoing review of DOE's methodology for classification of the residual wastes in the 51 tanks. Also enclosed is a notice of receipt of the NRDC petition for publication in the Federal Register (Enclosure 3).

The 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.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures (3): As stated

cc: R. Erikson, DOE-EM32  
E. Regnier, DOE-EH 412  
M. Vickers, SCDHEC  
J. Rhoderick, DOE-EM35

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DATE	8/17/98		8/17/98		8/17/98	8/18/98/c/8/27/s/tr

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IG: YES  NO   
LSS : YES  NO

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*ADD  
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**Enclosure 1**