



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 20, 2007

Mr. Larry Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Camper:

SUBJECT: Path Forward for Consultation on Section 3116 Determinations for
Closure of Tanks at the Savannah River Site

- REFERENCES:
1. DOE-WD-2005-002, Revision 0, *Draft Section 3116 Determination for Closure of Tank 19 and Tank 18 at the Savannah River Site*, dated September 30, 2005
 2. Letter, Flanders to Gilbertson, *Request for Additional Information on the Draft Section 3116 Determination for Closure of Tank 19 and Tank 18 at the Savannah River Site*, dated March 31, 2006
 3. Letter, Gilbertson to Flanders, dated July 21, 2006

The Department of Energy (DOE) initiated consultation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the closure of two tanks at Savannah River Site (SRS) with the submittal of Reference 1 documentation. Per Reference 2, NRC staff submitted a request for additional information (RAI) containing 67 specific comments. Reference 3 provided a partial response package to NRC addressing 17 of the 67 comments.

As you are aware, DOE is pursuing a promising new technology for potentially removing additional waste and is developing a new performance assessment for the F Area Tank Farm prior to closure of Tanks 18 and 19 at the SRS. In light of these activities and consultation with NRC, DOE has decided to develop a new Section 3116 Determination that will cover Tanks 18 and 19.

As a result, I request NRC stop review and consultation on the Reference 1 draft document. Additionally, please be advised that DOE does not intend to formally respond to the 50 open RAI comments of Reference 2. However, DOE will address the comments of Reference 2, as appropriate, in the new Determination.

If you have questions please call me at (202) 586-8022 or your staff may call Karén Guevara of my staff at (301) 903-3339.

Sincerely,

Frank Marcinowski
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Regulatory Compliance

cc: Terry Spears, DOE-SRS
Jeffrey Alison, DOE-SRS

