

August 30, 2013

Mr. Mark A. Gilbertson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration  
EM-10/Forrestal Building  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION PLANNED MONITORING  
ACTIVITIES FOR THE SALTSTONE DISPOSAL FACILITY AT THE SAVANNAH  
RIVER SITE (DOCKET NO. PROJ0734)

Dear Mr. Gilbertson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is hereby providing the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) the *U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Plan for Monitoring Disposal Actions Taken by the U.S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site Saltstone Disposal Facility in Accordance With the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (NDAA), Revision 1*. The document describes the NRC staff's planned activities in carrying out its responsibilities for monitoring DOE's waste disposal activities at the Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF) at the Savannah River Site in accordance with the NDAA. Section 3116 of the NDAA requires NRC to monitor DOE's disposal actions to assess compliance with the performance objectives established in NRC's licensing requirements for land disposal of radioactive waste (Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 61, Subpart C). These performance objectives include provisions for the protection of the general population from releases of radioactivity, the protection of individuals from inadvertent intrusion, the protection of individuals during operations, and the stability of the disposal site after closure.

As you know, the staff developed a new Technical Evaluation Report (TER) for the SDF in April 2012 under NDAA Monitoring, which was based on the 2009 DOE Performance Assessment, DOE's responses to the NRC requests for additional information, and other NRC/DOE interactions. In the 2012 TER, the NRC staff concluded that the performance objective in §61.41 for protection of the general population from releases may be exceeded by DOE's current proposed disposal activities for salt waste. The NRC staff also concluded that it has reasonable assurance that waste disposal at the SDF meets the performance objectives in 10 CFR 61 for protection of individuals against intrusion (§61.42), protection of individuals during operations (§61.43), and site stability (§61.44).

In the enclosed monitoring plan, the NRC staff identifies specific areas that it intends to monitor in continuing to assess DOE's compliance with the performance objectives. The document describes what the NRC staff intends to do in each of these areas. This document addresses the comments and input received from the State of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

M. Gilbertson

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Please let me know if you have any questions about the contents of this document.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Larry W. Camper, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: PROJ0734

Enclosure:  
Saltstone Disposal Facility Monitoring  
Plan, Revision 1

cc:  
List Attached  
SRS e-mail Contact List

M. Gilbertson

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Sincerely,

Larry W. Camper, Director  
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Distribution List: NDevaser ARidge GAlexander KPinkston

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<b>OFC</b>	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	OGC	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
<b>NAME</b>	HFelsher	TMoon	CMcKenney	BJones (SP email)	JJessie	AMohseni	LCamper
<b>DATE</b>	04/10/13	04/15/13	05/17/13	06/18/13	08/07/13	08/08/13	08/30/13

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cc:

Ms. Jean Ridley, Director  
Waste Disposition Programs Division  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, SC 29802

**WIR Service List**

Ms. Shelly Wilson  
Federal Facilities Liaison  
Environmental Quality Control  
Administration  
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

Glenn Carroll, Coordinator  
Nuclear Watch South  
P.O. Box 8574  
Atlanta, GA 31106

Tom Clements, Member  
Friends of the Earth  
1112 Florence Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Jim Hardeman, Manager  
Environmental Radiation Program  
Environmental Protection Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
4220 International Parkway, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30354

Karen Patterson, Environmental  
Appointment  
Governors' Nuclear Advisory Council  
and Tetra Tech NUS  
900 Trail Road  
Aiken, SC 29803-5297

Bobbie Paul, Executive Director  
Georgia Womens Action for New Directions  
250 Georgia Ave., SE, Suite 202  
Atlanta, GA 30312

Robert H. Pope  
Senior Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4, Superfund Division  
Federal Facilities Branch, Waste Division  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Jon Richards, Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4, Superfund Division  
Federal Facilities Branch, Waste Division  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Thomas Saporito, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 8413  
Jupiter, FL 33468

John J. Schnabel  
Saltstone Project Inspector,  
Professional Engineer  
Division of Mining and Solid Waste  
Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201-1208