



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

August 5, 2019

Ms. Linda Suttora, Acting Director
Regulatory, Intergovernmental,
and Stakeholder Engagement
Office of Environmental Mgmt.
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2013 U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SALTSTONE DISPOSAL FACILITY MONITORING PLAN

Dear Ms. Suttora:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is supplementing the 2013 NRC Monitoring Plan for the Savannah River Site (SRS) Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF), Rev. 1, which is available via the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML13100A113, to increase the priority of Monitoring Factor (MF) 10.05 (Moisture Characteristic Curves (MCCs)), from low to medium.

The changes to the 2013 NRC SDF Monitoring Plan are based on NRC staff evaluation in the Technical Review Report (TRR) issued on May 28, 2019, entitled, *Technical Review: Saltstone Waste Form Physical Degradation* (ADAMS Accession No. ML19031B221). In that TRR, the NRC staff discussed how the Evaluation Cases in both of the DOE Fiscal Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 Special Analysis Document models relied on MCCs to reduce the projected hydraulic conductivity of saltstone relative to its assumed saturated hydraulic conductivity, thus, giving MCCs additional weight in the evaluation of the DOE models.

As a result, the NRC is increasing its prioritization of MF 10.05 (MCCs) from low to medium because of the potential impact of the MCCs on the new DOE model. This letter supplements the NRC SDF Monitoring Plan, Rev. 1 and staff will factor this change into future activities. The NRC expects to issue Revision 2 of the NRC SDF Monitoring Plan after the NRC reviews the next revision of the DOE SDF Performance Assessment, which is expected to be submitted in 2020.

This letter does not impact other monitoring factors. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Harry Felsher of my staff at Harry.Felsher@nrc.gov or at (301) 415-6559.

Sincerely,



for

John R. Tappert, Director
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. PROJ0734

cc: J. Folk, DOE
Barbara Harris, SCDHEC
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***via email**

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