



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

December 14, 2021

Mr. James L. Folk, Jr.  
Assistant Manager Waste Disposition  
U.S. DOE Savannah River  
Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, SC 29802

SUBJECT: THIRD REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING  
THE 2020 SAVANNAH RIVER SITE SALTSTONE DISPOSAL  
FACILITY PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Dear Mr. Folk:

By letter dated July 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted the DOE 2020 Savannah River Site Saltstone Disposal Facility Performance Assessment to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] under Package Accession No. Main Library [ML] ML20190A055). The DOE Submittal to the NRC was under Section 3116(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (NDAA) (i.e., NDAA Monitoring). By letter dated July 10, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20148M201), the NRC acknowledged receipt of the DOE Submittal.

By letter dated October 5, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20254A003), the NRC provided a preliminary review of the DOE Submittal along with NRC request for supplemental information (RSI) comments. In the NRC preliminary review letter, the NRC indicated plans to prepare technical review reports (TRRs) on specific technical review subjects and issue request for additional information (RAI) questions, if needed, when drafting those TRRs. Thus, there would be multiple sets of RAI questions. The NRC technical evaluation report (TER) will reference all those TRRs and the TRRs will be issued at the same time as the TER.

On March 1, 2021, the NRC issued the first set of RAI questions for those TRRs related to biosphere, inventory, inadvertent human intruder, and site stability under ADAMS Package Accession No. ML21062A214. On June 3, 2021, the NRC issued the second set of RAI questions for those TRRs related to infiltration and erosion control, model integration, radionuclide release, and far-field flow and transport under ADAMS Package ML21133A293. The NRC has enclosed the third set of RAI questions for those TRRs related to near-field flow and transport; composite barriers and drainage layers; radionuclide release; and sensitivity and uncertainty analyses. As the NRC continues its review of the DOE documents, the DOE responses to the NRC RSI comments, and the DOE responses to the NRC RAI questions, the NRC may develop additional RAI questions for which the NRC will need a response from the DOE.

The NRC requests that the DOE provide responses to the enclosed RAI questions by 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. If it would be useful to the DOE, the NRC is willing to host a virtual meeting with the DOE to discuss the NRC RAI questions and/or the preliminary DOE responses.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC public document room or from the publicly available records component of ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions, then please contact Mr. Harry Felsher of my staff at 301-415-6559 or by e-mail, [Harry.Felsher@nrc.gov](mailto:Harry.Felsher@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Ralph, Melissa  
on 12/14/21

Melissa Ralph, Acting Branch Chief  
Low-Level Waste and Projects Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium  
Recovery and Waste Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and  
Safeguards

Enclosure:  
Third Request for Additional  
Information Questions

THIRD SET OF RAIS FOR THE 2020 SAVANNAH RIVER SITE SALTSTONE DISPOSAL FACILITY  
 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT DATE December 14, 2021

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML21341A543; Ltr ML21341A550**

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