



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

March 28, 2023

Mr. Joel T. Maul  
Waste Disposition Programs Division  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations  
Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, SC 29802

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FEBRUARY 1, 2023,  
ONSITE OBSERVATION VISIT REPORT FOR THE SAVANNAH  
RIVER SITE SALTSTONE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Dear Mr. Maul:

The enclosed Onsite Observation Visit (OOV) Report describes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) OOV on February 1, 2023, at the Savannah River Site Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF). The OOV was conducted in accordance with Section 3116(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (NDAA), which requires the NRC, in coordination with the NDAA-Covered State, to monitor certain disposal actions taken by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for assessing compliance with the performance objectives set out in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 61, Subpart C. The five 10 CFR Part 61 Subpart C performance objectives are: §61.40 (General Requirements); §61.41 (Protection of the General Population from Releases of Radioactivity); §61.42 (Protection of Individuals from Inadvertent Intrusion); §61.43 (Protection of Individuals during Operations); and §61.44 (Stability of the Disposal Site after Closure).

This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> SDF OOV since the NRC began monitoring the DOE SDF disposal actions under NDAA Section 3116(b) in October 2007. The main activities conducted during the February 2023 SDF OOV were: (1) discuss operating and disposal structure status; and (2) tour specific aspects of the construction of both Saltstone Disposal Structure (SDS) 8 and SDS 10. Those OOV activities were consistent with the activities described in the NRC Guidance for the January/February 2023 SDF OOV dated January 17, 2023 (available via the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] at Accession No. [ML23017A109](#)).

That Guidance was developed using the SDF Monitoring Plan, Rev. 1, dated September 2013 ([ML13100A113](#)) and the six NRC letters from June 5, 2017, to October 18, 2021, ([ML17097A351](#), [ML18033A071](#), [ML18107A161](#), [ML18219B035](#), [ML19150A295](#), and [ML21279A173](#)) to the DOE that supplemented the 2013 SDF Monitoring Plan. The NRC 2013 SDF Monitoring Plan, as supplemented, contains the monitoring areas and monitoring factors established to evaluate performance of the SDF. The February 2023 SDF OOV did not result in any changes from the 2013 SDF Monitoring Plan, as supplemented.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," 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 NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this report, then please contact Mr. Harry Felsher of my staff at [Harry.Felsher@nrc.gov](mailto:Harry.Felsher@nrc.gov) or (301) 415-6559.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Stephen S. Koenick, Chief  
Low-Level Waste and Projects Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery  
and Waste Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. PROJ0734

Enclosure:  
NRC Onsite Observation Visit Report

cc w/Enclosure:  
WIR ListServ