Dr. Thomas B. Cochran, Director Nuclear Program Natural Resources Defense Council 1200 New York Avenue Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Cochran:

I am writing to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed review of the petition you submitted on July 28, 1998. As noted in our August 27, 1998 letter to you, the NRC staff indicated it would wait to respond to the petition until the NRC staff had completed their technical review of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) methodology for classification of residual tank waste at Savannah River (SR). The technical review has been completed. It resulted in a letter and attached Technical Evaluation Report (letter from W. Kane/NRC to R. Schepens/DOE-SR, "Savannah River Site High Level Waste Tank Closure: Classification of Residual Tank Waste as Incidental," dated June 30, 2000).

The response to your petition is enclosed. We believe this and the recent April 10, 2000, letter respond to your requests. Please contact Jennifer Davis at (301) 415-5874 or James Lieberman at (301) 415-2746 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Response to petition

cc: See attached list

Dr. Thomas B. Cochran, Director Nuclear Program Natural Resources Defense Council 1200 New York Avenue Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005 October 2, 2000

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Central File DCB r/f EPAB r/f DWM r/f NMSS r/f PUBLIC LCamper RNelson TEssig CAbrams

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DOCUMENT NAME: NMSS-DWM-EPAB:/NRDCLTR.WPD

ADAMS PACKAGE ML003734734 * See previous concurrence

OFC	EPAB	DCB	0	GC		DWM		NMSS	
NAME	BJDavis*	JContardi*	JL	JLieberman*		JGreeves*		WKane	
DATE	7/25/00	7/25/00	8	8/29/00		9/21/00		10/02/00	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

ACNW: YES X NO X IG : YES NO X NO X

This document should/should not be made available to the PUBLIC bjd 07/20/00.

Dated: October 2, 2000

Mr. Ralph Erickson Assistant Manager for High-Level Waste U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office P.O. Box A Aiken, SC 29802

Mr. Lawrence Ling Senior Program Manager, Office of High-Level Waste U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office P.O. Box A Aiken, SC 29802

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Ms. Elizabeth A. Lowes West Valley Demonstration Project U.S. Department of Energy P.O. Box 191 West Valley, NY 14171-0191

- Continuation Page -

Dated: October 2, 2000

cc: for Letter to Dr. Thomas B. Cochran

Dr. Paul L. Piciulo, Program Director New York State Energy Research and Development Authority West Valley Site Management Program 10282 Rock Springs Road West Valley, NY 14171-9799

Dr. Paul J. Merges, Chief Bureau of Pesticides and Radiation New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 50 Wolf Road, Room 402 Albany, NY 12233-7255

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