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A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board

June 28, 2005

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environmental Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303



Subject: Revised Modification Request to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for WIPP

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The Waste Management (WM) Committee of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has a stakeholder interest in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) revised consolidated permit modification request. The SRS CAB is a non-partisan group of individual stakeholders from South Carolina and Georgia. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Board provides informed and timely recommendations on waste management, environmental restoration, and other activities affecting SRS.

The SRS CAB previously adopted Recommendation #164, which was drafted by the WM Committee. This recommendation voiced the concerns the SRS CAB had with increased SRS worker exposure caused by opening containers to remove non-compliant items. Section 311 of Public Law 108-137 addresses many of our concerns. Implementation of Section 311 of Public Law 108-137 has the potential to save considerable taxpayer dollars without compromising the safety of SRS or WIPP operations, human health, or the environment. In addition, while SRS has very little remote handled waste, the WM Committee understands the benefit that the DOE complex can receive by having WIPP dispose of this waste stream.

Therefore, the WM Committee supports incorporation of (1) Implementation of Section 311 of Public Law 108-137 and (2) Authorization for remote-handled transuranic mixed waste into the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. In order to meet the July 5, 2005, deadline for public comments, the WM Committee is submitting this letter for the official record. There will be another letter in support of these items coming from the full SRS CAB. However, the next meeting of the SRS CAB will not occur until July 26, 2005. Since we would like to see these permit modifications implemented as quickly as possible, we are not going to request an extension of the public comment period but hope you will consider both letters in support of the permit modifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Ortaldo for".

Mr. Robert Meisenheimer
WM Committee Chair
46 Haul Way Road
Hilton Head, SC 29928

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