



**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

JUL 09 2009

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger, Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) has reviewed the concerns detailed in your March 5, 2009 letter regarding the conceptual design activities and associated safety basis development for the Tank 48 Treatment project at SR. In addition to ensuring that the Tank 48 design incorporates necessary safety features, the ability to utilize Tank 48 to support safe tank waste management activity and future tank waste missions remains a high priority within the Department. Our response is as follows:

**Implementation of DOE Order 413.3A.** "The Board strongly suggests that as the project proceeds, DOE meet the requirements of DOE Order 413.3A as well as the guidance of DOE Standard 1189. Integration of Safety into the Design Process".

DOE will continue to follow the process prescribed in DOE Order 413.3A, as noted below, and implement DOE Standard 1189 for this project consistent with the EM policy memorandum issued from the Chief Operations Officer on April 15, 2009.

**Active Confinement Ventilation.** "The Board remains very interested in the evaluation and urges DOE to ensure the contractor performs a thorough and effective evaluation."

The Contractor has recently completed the evaluation of the new and existing confinement ventilation systems associated with the Fluidized Bed Steam Reforming process as defined in the Recommendation 2004-2 Ventilation System Evaluation Guidance. The DOE Integrated Project Team will be performing a detailed review of this document in the near future and we will continue to communicate and work with your staff regarding this matter.

**Project Delays.** "The Board urges DOE to accelerate the recovery of Tank 48".

DOE acknowledges the concern regarding project delays. To this end, plans are to follow the process prescribed in DOE Order 413.3A and seek opportunities to accelerate the recovery of Tank 48. In accordance with DOE planning as a basis for Revision 5 of the Implementation Plan, for DNFSB Recommendation 2001-1, DOE's schedule for Critical Decision 2. Approve Performance Baseline, is November 2010.

If you have any further questions, please call me at (803) 952-6337 or Terry Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, at (803) 208-6072.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey M. Allison".

Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

WDPD-09-044

cc: M. Moore, EM-3.3. HQ  
M. Whitaker, HS-1.1. HQ  
J. Owendoff, EM-3. HQ