



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
May 21, 2025

Ms. Susan B. Fulmer, P. G., Manager
Federal Remediation Section
Division of Site Assessment,
Remediation and Revitalization
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
South Carolina Department of
Environmental Services
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Mr. Jon Richards
Savannah River Site Remedial Project
Manager
Superfund and Emergency Management
Division
United States Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Fulmer and Mr. Richards:

SUBJECT: Request for Concurrence to Cease Waste Removal and Proceed to Sample and Analysis Phase of the Tank Closure Process for Tank 11 and Tank 15 (SEMS Number: 89)

On May 19, 2025, the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy provided a briefing to your agencies which described our proposal to enter the sampling and analysis phase of the closure process for Tank 11 and Tank 15. Enclosed are copies of the presentation entitled "Proposal to Cease Waste Removal Activities in Tank 11 and Enter Sampling and Analysis Phase" (SRMC-CWDA-2025-00053, Revision 0, May 19, 2025) and "Proposal to Cease Waste Removal Activities in Tank 15 and Enter Sampling and Analysis Phase" (SRMC-CWDA-2025-00054, Revision 0, May 19, 2025).

Based on the enclosure and our discussion, your concurrence to cease waste removal and proceed to the sample and analysis phase of the closure processes for Tank 11 and Tank 15 is requested. The "Consolidated General Closure Plan for F-Area and H-Area Waste Tank Systems" (SRR-CWDA-2017-00015, Revision 1, April 2017), describes our agreement for documenting the three agency decisions to meet the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), Appendix L, Statement of Resolution of Dispute Concerning Extension of Closure Dates for Savannah River Site High-Level Radioactive Waste Tanks 19 and 18, Item 9.b.

Ms. Fulmer and Mr. Richards

2

May 21, 2025

Cease waste removal for Tanks 11 and 15 accomplishes the third of three cease waste removal milestone deliveries for calendar year 2025, and the first of two tanks committed for calendar year 2026. These milestone deliveries are an example of our acceleration to complete tank closure at Savannah River Site. In keeping with this agreement, the concurrence requested by this letter is a preliminary, non-binding concurrence based on the qualitative information available at this time.

The results of the sample and analysis phase will support preparation of a Closure Modules covering Tank 11 and Tank 15. These results are expected to provide the information necessary to justify that waste has been removed to the extent that is technically practicable from an engineering perspective. This justification will also address programmatic aspects such as technology capabilities, schedule impacts, and a quantified cost, risks, and benefits analysis. The Closure Modules will be prepared and provided for your agency's review and comment in accordance with the FFA.

The effort and time that the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have contributed on this subject are appreciated.

Questions from you or your staff may be directed to me at (803) 952-7805, or Mr. Joel Maul at (803) 208-7424.

Sincerely,

**MATTHEW
BAKER**

Digitally signed by
MATTHEW BAKER
Date: 2025.05.21
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Matthew Baker
Acting FFA Project Manager
Department of Energy Savannah River
Operations Office
Remediation, Deactivation and
Decommissioning Division

RDDD-25-137

Ms. Fulmer and Mr. Richards

3

May 21, 2025

Enclosures:

**Presentation: "Proposal to Cease
Waste Removal Activities in Tank
11 and Enter Sampling and Analysis
Phase" (SRMC-CWDA-2025-00053,
Revision 0, May 19, 2025)**

**Presentation: "Proposal to Cease
Waste Removal Activities in Tank
15 and Enter Sampling and Analysis
Phase" (SRMC-CWDA-2025-00054,
Revision 0, May 19, 2025)**

cc w/enclosure:

**S. French, SCDES - Columbia
M. Reece, SCDES – Columbia
H. J. Porter, SCDES – Columbia
J. Blalock, SCDES - Columbia
M. Mehta, SCDES – Columbia
G. R. Stewart, SCDES – Columbia
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J. Dawson, EPA - Atlanta
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