



Savannah River Site Watch

July 22, 2014

Savannah River Site Clean-up Panel Renews Position Against Bringing Commercial Spent Fuel to the Savannah River Site;

SRS Citizens Advisory Board Continues to Stay Focused on SRS Clean-Up While DOE Chases German Nuclear Waste

It's good to report that the [Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board \(SRS CAB\)](#), a duly embodied federal advisory panel to the US Department of Energy on SRS clean-up, this morning - July 22 - unanimously renewed its "position paper" against bringing domestic commercial spent fuel to SRS for "interim storage." The vote was in 16 to 0 in favor of renewing the position (which included a slight strengthening of language concerning the fact that SRS has never been studied for "indefinite" storage of spent fuel).

A big part of the concern has been that any spent fuel received for "interim storage," an approach recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's nuclear Future, would have no exit path if SRS were to be named such a storage site.

["Position Paper for the Savannah River Site's Citizens Advisory Board on Using SRS for interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel \(Adopted July 2013\)"](#)

--- from the position paper

The reasons for the CAB's opposition are:

- 1. The belief that no site for a long term geologic site superior to Yucca Mountain exists and any alternative site will be technically inferior.*
- 2. The reopening of the repository selection process and, as a consequence, creation of interim storage sites will be a very costly endeavor in a time when the nation does not have the financial resources.*
- 3. The completion of a new repository is generations away and there is no reason to believe the currently proposed 2048 availability date will be adhered to.*
- 4. Future generations of South Carolinians and Georgians will not be well served by having the Savannah River Site become an interim storage site for commercial nuclear waste, and for what will be an undetermined length of time.*

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board wants the Department of Energy to know that it is opposed the use of SRS as a site for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear reactors. (check CAB website for final version)

The furor over DOE's half-baked scheme to import and dump spent nuclear fuel from Germany at SRS was a back-drop for the renewal of the position paper. The position paper was overwhelmingly passed in July 2013 after concerned citizens fended off special interests that advocated for bringing spent fuel to SRS.

The long-term goal of a narrow group of special interests remains the reprocessing of spent fuel at SRS, which would dramatically and negatively impact on-going clean-up activities. The reprocessing "dream" continues to crumble as opposition in South Carolina and Georgia to spent fuel storage and reprocessing has only grown. Apart from lack of a policy in support of reprocessing, a dirty and dangerous process that yields many hard-to-manage waste streams, there is little possibility that a \$20 billion reprocessing plant would be funded by the US Government. *(Makes one shudder to think of another costly big-government boondoggle on the scale of the mismanaged plutonium fuel MOX project.)*

Congratulations to the members of the SRS CAB for letting DOE and special interests know of their concerns about SRS becoming a spent fuel dump.