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Date: 9/30/2016 12:15:16 PM
Subject: FW: Notification: Savannah River Site (SRS) beginning efforts to process and permanently dispose of six metric tons of surplus non-pit plutonium

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Swenson, William [mailto:William.Swenson@hq.doe.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 10:11 AM
To: Patel, Swati; Glaccum, David; Baker, Josh
Cc: Carrillo, Francisco; Cabrera Bell, Karina; Easton, Tre; D'Ercole, Jed
Subject: Notification: Savannah River Site (SRS) beginning efforts to process and permanently dispose of six metric tons of surplus non-pit plutonium

Good morning Swati, Josh, and David,

I wanted to give you advanced notice that Savannah River Site (SRS) personnel have begun efforts that will result in the processing and permanent disposal of six metric tons of surplus non-pit plutonium.

The down-blending process, now underway in the SRS K Area Complex, blends plutonium oxide with an inert material, producing a mixture that is more secure and not usable for weapons. The startup of this work resumes a process that SRS successfully carried out in the HB Line Facility in 2012 to down-blend plutonium. After material is diluted it will be stored at the SRS Solid Waste Management facility and, as stated in the Record of Decision (ROD) on the Final Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), will be placed in the appropriate queue of material that will ultimately be disposed of at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The ROD was announced in March and published in the Federal Register on April 5, 2016.

Extensive preparations for today's startup included a revision of the facility's safety analysis to reflect the down-blending process, developing operational and safety procedures, training personnel on the down-blending process, and performing a readiness assessment to demonstrate that the facility's workforce and equipment are prepared to begin down-blending operations.

This project does not involve plutonium originally intended for disposition through the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility. However, this is the same down-blending process that NNSA has proposed as an alternative to the MOX approach.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

William J. Swenson

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