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

FEB 2 0 2007

Franklin E. Hill, Acting Director
Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Hill:

SUBJECT: A Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Release of Tritium at the E-Area Slit Trenches, United States Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River Site (SRS), Aiken, South Carolina (Your letter, 1/31/07)

As you noted in your January 31, 2007, letter, there has been ongoing consultation among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (EPA-4); South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC); and DOE concerning tritium at the E-Area Slit Trenches. DOE appreciates the opportunity to informally discuss EPA-4's E-Area tritium concern with EPA-4 and SCDHEC. DOE understood the time line for addressing any related matters, including conducting an investigation per the terms of Section X of the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), would be deferred until such time as EPA-4 formally issued a determination to DOE. Your recent letter expresses EPA-4's determination that the presence of tritium in the vadose zone is a "release" of a hazardous substance under CERCLA.

Consequently, the purpose of this letter is to notify you, in accordance with the FFA for SRS, Section X, that DOE will conduct a Removal Site Evaluation pertaining to EPA-4's determination that there has been a "release" of a CERCLA hazardous substance associated with the presence of tritium in DOE's E-Area Low Level Waste Disposal Facility Slit Trenches at SRS. DOE will immediately report any release it discovers during this evaluation when required under Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 300.405.

I have confidence that this agreed upon process for investigating concerns of this kind will provide useful information for reaching resolution of the issues under discussion by the parties during the past several months. DOE would welcome the opportunity to continue informal efforts toward resolving this important matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Helen Belencan at (803) 952-8696.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Hennessey
SRS Remedial Project Manager
Soils and Groundwater Project

FCP-07-043

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cc: Arthur Collins, EPA-Atlanta
Dawn Taylor, EPA-Atlanta
Robert Pope, EPA-Atlanta
Keith Lindler, SCDHEC-Columbia
Don Siron, SCDHEC-Columbia
Shelly Sherritt, SCDHEC-Columbia