

**Comments to Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
Donald N. Bridges, Vice Chair,
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness
October 27, 2014**

- Thank You for allowing me to comment.
- My Name is Donald N. Bridges. I am a former DOE employee, a former chair of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, and presently vice chair of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness.

Relative to the issues surrounding SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive High Level Waste I think there is general agreement that the technical issues are being properly addressed and the major issues are on the adequacy of the budget and the ensuing schedule for processing the radioactive high level liquid waste.

However, I would like to make a few comments on two lesser visible SRS issues:

- **Spent Nuclear Fuel being Stored in L Reactor Basin:**
 - Within the few months DOE has made the decision (Supplemental ROD) that processing of aluminum based spent nuclear fuel is now the preferred option as opposed to “melt and dilute.” Further, DOE has commenced processing the vulnerable spent nuclear fuel and some fuels beyond the more vulnerable fuels. However, DOE has not committed to process all of the spent nuclear fuel in H-Canyon. We strongly recommend that all of the aluminum based fuel be processed in H-Canyon and opposed to extended storage in a basin under water. The capability exists to properly process the spent fuel and the decision has been made that processing is the correct approach. The proper course of action now would be to place priority on processing this spent fuel.
- **Defense Waste at SRS**
 - There should be a strong sense of urgency in dealing with the Defense Waste Removal from SRS.
 - A “good faith” effort to remove that waste has been delayed unnecessarily by the decision to stop the Yucca Mountain HLW Repository.
 - While extended storage at SRS is not an immediate safety issue it is clearly undesirable, and could possibly be a long-term safety issue.

- This decision to cancel Yucca Mountain has undermined confidence in DOE and the Federal Government to manage the national nuclear waste issue. Another option such as the use of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for disposition of SRS canisters should be considered.
- **The actions of this Board should be taken with an emphasis on restoring public confidence relative to HLW removal from SRS in a prompt and efficient manner with a real sense of urgency.**
- **One final budget note- For the record I would like to say that CNTA feels that it is important that the liquid waste program be funded at the levels necessary to meet regulatory commitments. Public confidence in the technical aspects of dealing with waste issues is established and reinforced by actual positive performance in the field.**