



Savannah River Site Watch

**10 November 2017**

**To: Dr. Barbara Hendricks - Federal Environment Minister**

**Re: Strong Opposition by Public in South Carolina to Import and Dumping of AVR, THTR Spent Fuel at U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site – Project Must Halt**

**Columbia, South Carolina**

The public in South Carolina is strongly opposed to the import of high-level nuclear waste from Germany, in the form of AVR and THTR spent fuel stored in CASTOR casks, to the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site for processing and dumping.

Savannah River Site, located in South Carolina, already has a large amount of high-level nuclear waste and the site is struggling to deal with that material to prepare it for geologic disposal. Adding more waste to the aging storage tanks or disposing of the German waste on site will only present an additional environmental and health risks and this is unacceptable.

On 26 September 2017, the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, an official advisory committee to DOE on SRS clean-up issues, passed a resolution against import of the German graphite fuel. That recommendation to DOE was influenced by the overwhelming communication from the public to the SRS CAB to oppose the import and this recommendation duly represents public opinion.

The CAB recommendation - *Oppose Receipt of German SNF for Treatment and Storage in the U.S.* – can be seen here: [http://www.srs.gov/general/outreach/srs-cab/library/recommendations/Rec\\_350\\_-\\_German\\_Fuel.pdf](http://www.srs.gov/general/outreach/srs-cab/library/recommendations/Rec_350_-_German_Fuel.pdf)

As DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has clearly stated that there is no proliferation risk to leaving the AVR and THTR spent fuel in Germany, the public here is convinced that the wisest thing to do is to leave the material in Germany.

Therefore, the public here believes that the project to import the AVR and THTR spent fuel must be halted and no further money provided by Germany to develop methods to process the material for disposal in the United States.

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