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May 16, 2001

Andrew R. Grainger
NEPA Compliance Officer
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A, Room 185
Aiken, SC 29802

RE: Savannah River Site Salt Processing Alternatives Draft Supplemental Environmental
Impact Statement; March 2001;(SEIS)(SOE/EIS-0082-S2)

Dear Mr. Grainger:

We have reviewed the above referenced draft EIS submitted on March 23, 2001. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Bureau of Water administers applicable regulations pertaining to water quality standards and classifications, including 401 Water Quality Certifications. A 401 Water Quality Certification will be required for any part of the proposed work that impacts jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the U.S.

This document describes the stream and wetland resources that will potentially be impacted by the proposed project. In consideration of the site selection, the draft EIS provides an extensive alternatives analysis, which addresses factors such as socioeconomics, traffic volume/service, project costs, cultural resources, waste generation, worker and public health, various environmental resource impacts, and land use in addition to stream and wetlands impacts.

If it is determined that an Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit is required for the proposed project, a South Carolina 401 Water Quality Certification will also be required. The Water Quality Certification may be conditioned to address specific modifications and measures that may be required to further reduce impacts to water resources after a detailed review of project drawings. If required, a final mitigation plan must be reviewed and approved by the Department during the certification process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to call John Collum at (803) 898-4179.

Sincerely,


Quinton Epps, Section Manager
Water Quality Certification and
Wetlands Programs Section

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Response to Comment Letter L11:

L11-1 There will be no discharges to surface waters and no wetlands will be disturbed, therefore, a 401 Certification will not be required.