



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel



March 22, 2021

Ms. Leslie S. Lenhardt
Staff Attorney
South Carolina Environmental Law Project
407 E. Church Street
Unit E
Georgetown, SC 29440

Dear Ms. Lenhardt:

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 2021, regarding your clients' (Nuclear Watch New Mexico, Savannah River Site Watch and Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) view that a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement must be conducted for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) plutonium pit production mission. This work will take place at the Savannah River Site and at Los Alamos National Laboratory. As you note in your letter, your clients submitted comments during four different National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) comment periods regarding NNSA's pit mission. Our NEPA public participation for the pit production mission began in June 2019 and was concluded in November 2020. The public, your clients included, were afforded opportunities to review and comment on the draft supplement analysis to the Complex Transformation Supplemental Programmatic EIS (CT SPEIS); the public scoping process for the Pit Production EIS at the Savannah River Site (SRS); the Supplement Analysis process for the Los Alamos Site-Wide EIS; and the public hearing and comment period on the SRS draft EIS.

This comprehensive public participation was important and helped inform our documented decisions authorizing pit production activities. The resulting decisions are themselves consistent with NNSA's obligations under NEPA. At this point, the NEPA review for pit production is complete and the Department has no current plans to revisit the NEPA review.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Fischer
Timothy P. Fischer
General Counsel