ITR at Savannah River

A Key Step in Developing a Safe and Effective Path Forward for SRS Tank 48

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The Problem

- Significant TPB contamination in Tank 48
- Hazardous in-tank condition:
  - TPB produces combustible gas (benzene)
- Tank needed to support HLW processing campaign
- Problem is over ten years old:
  - Resolution has been elusive
Independent Technical Review (ITR)

- In Concept:
  - Broader base of available experience, expertise
  - A fresh look at the problem

- The Simple Objective:
  - Offer constructive HELP (not criticism)
  - Identify and illuminate a success path
SRS ITR: Lessons Learned

1. Prior planning and agreement was very valuable
2. Small team size enhances effectiveness
3. Aggressive, well planned and managed schedule:
   - Yields a better product, faster and at lower cost
4. LOIs:
   - Need to be meaningful and flexible
   - Engage the team in developing

5. Real-time assembly of report
   - Structures and focuses the work
   - Produces clearer output
   - Simplifies review and concurrence

6. Open process yields benefits at the end
Bottom Lines

- SRS process built on prior successes
- The ITR produced constructive input:
  - Validated main elements of WSRC approach
  - Pointed out areas warranting attention
- Overall, very successful:
  - Efficient, effective and very fast

*The SRS approach merits consideration in other applications*