

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board's Position on Savannah River National Laboratory

Purpose of the Position Paper:

Identify the reasons for the SRS CAB to support the continued funding of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) by the Department of Energy (DOE). Uniquely, SRNL is Environmental Management's only corporate laboratory, and does work at all EM sites.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz made an announcement on May 20, 2014 that a Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Laboratories has been formed.

This commission has been congressionally mandated pursuant to the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The commission will evaluate the effectiveness of the DOE's 17 national laboratories. SRNL is the only one of those seventeen which is an EM laboratory, and has been rated number one in safety for the last 12 years. The DOE has already acknowledged the national laboratories are a leading force in driving U.S. scientific and technological innovation and advancing the DOE's science, energy, environmental, and national security missions.

Since 2012 the SRS CAB has been introduced to numerous accomplishments and technological innovations by the Savannah River National laboratory (SRNL) through site visits and presentations by Dr. Terry Michalske, SRNL Laboratory Director.

For example the SRNL has:

- Been very helpful to the Tokyo Electric Power Corp (TEPCO) to overcome the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear reactor problem.
- Provided new innovation for the SRS EM to process and store nuclear waste such research will ultimately save money in the SRS EM annual budget analogous to research being conducted in a variety of U.S. and international labs.
- Provided consulting services to numerous industries, educational facilities and U.S. government agencies like Ford Motor Company, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Defense Department, United Technologies, the NNSA, Clemson University and USC-Aiken.

The SRNL is a major employer of highly skilled and educated scientists in the Aiken community and the State of South Carolina. A significant percentage of funding for SRNL is from non-SRS customers, which allows for a robustness of services otherwise unachievable. Modest technology development investments for more than five years have resulted in over \$5 billion in projected savings in Environmental Management's lifecycle costs and 20 percent return on investment.

The SRNL has expertise in the fields of:

- Engineering Development
- Biotechnology
- Atmospheric Technologies
- Hydrogen use
- Nuclear Research

- International Remediation Solutions
- Technological Transmutation

The SRS CAB strongly supports the continued financial appropriations of the SRNL by the DOE. The Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Laboratories is charged with the responsibility to:

- Address whether the DOE's National Laboratories are properly aligned with the Department's strategic priorities.
- The Labs are not providing redundant services.
- Have unique capabilities to provide current and future energy and national security challenges.
- The Labs are appropriately sized to meet DOE's energy and national security missions.
- Supporting other Federal agencies.
- To consolidate and realign the National Labs to reduce overhead costs.
- Assess the opportunity to use other research, development, and technology centers and universities to meet the DOE's energy and national security goals.
- Assess whether the National Labs projects are compliant with statutory requirements.

Based on the presentations provided to the SRS CAB, we feel that the SRNL meets and arguably exceeds the standards of excellence and cost/benefit that the Commission is charged to identify amongst 17 National Labs. In our view the SRNL should receive increased funding and responsibility by the DOE.

As stated earlier the SRNL is a major employer in Aiken, SC. In the viewpoint of the SRS CAB the benefits of continuing the SRNL far outweigh the obvious cost. The benefit to South Carolina is evident by the strong support the SRNL received this spring from U.S. Senators Lindsay Graham and Tim Scott when the SRNL celebrated its 10th year anniversary as a national laboratory. SRNL has been an applied science laboratory for more than 60 years.

It is noted that the DOE Commission has already met in July 2014. The SRS CAB would like this Position Paper shared with the commission as soon as possible to acknowledge our strong support for the SRNL.