

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD



P.O. Box A ♦ Building 730-B, Room 1184 ♦ Aiken, SC 29802

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January 31, 2013

Dr. David Moody, Site Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P. O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Dear Dr. Moody,

On behalf of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, I am pleased to forward to you the following letter, adopted at the January 29 SRS CAB Full Board meeting in Augusta, GA.

We anticipate a written response to this letter prior to our March 2013 Full Board Meeting.

Our appreciation to you and your staff for the support, information, and briefings provided that assisted us in the development of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald Bridges, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald Bridges".

SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Enclosures:

Letter on Expanding CAB Charter

cc:

Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2, DOE-HQ
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2, DOE-HQ
Zack Smith, Deputy Manager, DOE-SR
Patrick McGuire, DDFO, DOE-SR
Terry Spears, DDFO, DOE-SR
Robert King, SCDHEC
Gwen Keyes, EPA
Albert Frazier, GADNR

The CAB's purpose is to provide advice and recommendations on environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities to DOE.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us at:

Phone: 803-952-7884 • Toll Free: 1-800-249-8155 • Fax: 803-952-9228

Email: srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov

For more information about the CAB, visit us at <http://cab.srs.gov>

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January 29, 2013

Dr. David Moody
Department of Energy – Savannah River
P.O. Box A
Building 730-B
Aiken SC, 29802

Dear Dr. Moody,

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board has been pleased to fill a vital role in providing citizen input to DOE since 1994 when the Environmental Management (EM) Division of the Department of Energy created Site Specific Advisory Boards to review and provide input about the activities of the various DOE sites around the country.

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), as a stakeholder board, has enthusiastically and effectively provided the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management and designees with advice, information, and recommendations on issues affecting the EM program at SRS. We also feel that the scope of the CAB role of clean-up standards and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship; risk assessment and management; and clean-up science and technology activities was proper and well-defined.

Among the benefits of the SRS CAB have been fostering transparency and encouraging community support for the site. The Blue Ribbon Committee, sponsored by the Department of Energy at President Obama's direction, had highlighted the value of transparency and consent-based decision-making for issues related to nuclear policy and actions.

As noted earlier, when the SRS CAB was originally organized by the DOE's Environmental Management Division, the scope of responsibilities was limited to the scope of the EM's responsibilities specifically addressing environmental issues and site cleanup. This was completely appropriate at the time because of the pressing issues related to environmental issues at the site. Over the 18 years since the CAB was organized, there has been tremendous progress made in site cleanup and mitigation of environmental issues. A plan exists and is being implemented for the completion of the site cleanup. That is not to imply that the cleanup mission is complete, but it is certainly making significant progress. The CAB believes that it has made a positive contribution to the progress over the years.

One issue that has presented itself recently is the fact that the scope of the SRS CAB is limited to Environmental Management issues. Recent projects such as the Mixed Oxide Processing Facility fall outside of the scope of the CAB. In addition, many of the activities related to the new site vision, called "Enterprise SRS," are outside the scope of the CAB. The Site management has kept the CAB informed about many of the new projects and changes; however, the CAB cannot formally provide input on these activities.

This limited scope of responsibility for the CAB confuses the public that is not aware of the Department of Energy's management structure. The assumption is that the transparency and mechanism for public input associated with the cleanup activities should exist for all site activities.

The CAB understands the complexity of DOE's management and the limited responsibilities of Environmental Management; however, the public does not. In addition, the mechanisms that exist for transparency and community consent for EM projects do not exist for the greater scope of work at the site. The CAB feels that in the future this transparency for some, but not all the site, will be an issue for the community. In addition, the CAB can provide valuable input into the planning and execution of additional site missions.

The CAB requests that you work with sister organizations within DOE such as the NNSA to determine if a solution to this problem can be developed and implemented. It may well be that certain other DOE programs or portions of DOE programs would be receptive to receiving citizen input much as EM had done with great success. Any expansion of the citizen input role at SRS would be well-received.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Donald N. Bridges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Donald N. Bridges

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