

Recommendation 383

Enhancing the PILT Program for Improved Transparency and Just Compensation

Background

In recognizing the vital role that Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments play in supporting local governments, especially those hosting DOE sites, by compensating for the property taxes they would have received if the properties remained on their tax rolls, improvements may need to be considered to enhance efficiency, transparency, and fairness. The Savannah River Site occupies over 300 square miles in rural South Carolina, a state that ranks 42nd in median income.

Recommendation

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) of the Savannah River Site (SRS) recommends improvements be made to the Department of Energy's Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. To ensure the PILT program operates with maximum efficiency, transparency, and fairness, we respectfully request that the DOE consider the following:

1. Develop and disseminate detailed guidelines and instructions on how PILT payments should be calculated.
2. Offer training sessions and resources to assist local communities in understanding the calculation formula and requirements, minimizing errors, and facilitating a smoother application process.
3. Implement a structured review process to regularly evaluate the accuracy and fairness of PILT payments.