



Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Recommendation 166

Historic Preservation at SRS

Background

Congress established a comprehensive national policy on historic preservation with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended. In this act historic preservation was defined to include "the protection, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, or culture. The major provisions of the NHPA for Department of energy (DOE) are Sections 106 and 110. Both sections aim to ensure that historic properties are appropriately considered in planning federal initiatives and actions. The 1980 NHPA amendments expanded the NHPA of 1966 by making federal agencies responsible for identifying, preserving, and nominating to Department of Interior (DOI) all sites, buildings, districts, and objects under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Each federal agency, in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in a state, needs to "establish a program to locate, inventory, and nominate to the Secretary all properties under the agency's ownership or control by the agency, that appear to qualify for inclusion on the National Register". A Programmatic Agreement is one of several ways to meet the requirements in Section 106 of NHPA. This is a signed compliance agreement that outlines the specific measures to be taken to comply with Section 106 of NHPA. DOE-SR has begun to develop a PA with the South Carolina SHPO that will address the future decommissioning of historic facilities and hold a public meeting to receive input from interested stakeholders about the process (Ref. 1).

Comment

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is not only interested in stakeholder input in the process but full public participation during the development of the PA. It is important to have public review and input throughout, from deciding what is important in DOE's submittal of identified facilities (or groupings of facilities) early in the process and through the conclusions of SHPO and DOE deliberations. The public, especially former SRS workers, is an invaluable resource in identifying important artifacts and historic information and should be used during the PA development.

Recommendation

With the Programmatic Agreement in the beginning phases, the SRS CAB requests more public involvement and makes the following recommendations to DOE and SHPO:

1. As part of the Programmatic Agreement (PA), public workshops and/or educational information meetings should be included where input from the public and former SRS workers is specifically collected and the appropriate information on important artifacts and historic facilities included in the historic preservation effort Agreement.
2. A draft Programmatic Agreement shall be prepared and distributed for stakeholder review before DOE and SHPO finalize the agreement.

References

1. Historic Preservation of Cold War Resources at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Public Meeting, July 8, 2003.
2. Savannah River Site at 50, New South Associates

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#) (PDF)