



## **SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

### **Recommendation No. 17**

March 26, 1996

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### **1998 Budget Priorities**

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The Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board understands that the Environmental Management (EM) budget to fully fund the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office's (DOE-SR) mission and regulatory mandates for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 is approximately \$1.4 billion. We also understand that DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ) has informed DOE-SR that the funds available for FY 1998 are less than \$1 billion. And we understand that the budget presented to DOE-HQ by DOE-SR to minimally fund activities at SRS is approximately \$1.2 billion (i.e., the Priority 1 budget for the essential, non-discretionary activities at SRS). Based on this context, the Board recommends to DOE, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), and the Environmental Protection Agency items 1-6 shown below.

The Board also recommends that copies of this motion, when approved, be sent to the Governors and Congressional and State delegations of South Carolina and Georgia.

1. The Board commends DOE-SR for prioritizing the budget into risk categories and proposing a budget that exceeds the budget target. The DOE-SR is also to be commended for having early stakeholder input into the process. The Board recognizes that the budget does not allow funding for all activities at SRS. The Board firmly recommends that those budget items that affect the health and safety of the workers and the public and protect the environment should receive the highest budget priority. (example: treat transuranic wastes).
2. That, consistent with past Board motions, a consensus be established between the regulators of and the regulated at SRS for Environmental Management priorities to address the highest risks at SRS first.
3. That, if the forecasted funding shortfall remains for SRS, the mandated activities at SRS with low risk to the public, environment and workers may have to be renegotiated.
4. That additional operational cost efficiencies and funding sources should continue to be explored to assure the minimum funds necessary to operate SRS, meet its regulatory mandates, fully execute DOE programs, reduce the SRS mortgage, and guarantee the vitality of SRS.
5. That SCDHEC and EPA be commended for striving to find regulatory efficiencies. The Board encourages the regulators and SRS to continue to explore ways to minimize the overhead costs of regulatory paperwork, processes, organizational structures, actions, and the length of time required to implement regulatory actions.
6. That, as new missions are brought to SRS, they come to SRS with appropriate funding.

#### **Agency Responses**

[Department of Energy - SR](#)

[SCDHEC](#)

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