



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

Recommendation 234

SRS Budget Participation

Background

The President's FY 07 budget for Savannah River Site (SRS) received considerable attention from the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB issued several recommendations concerning the President's budget for FY 07 (Ref. 1). The majority of these recommendations centered on the potential budget shortfalls at SRS. In addition, one recommendation addressed the previous practice of involving the CAB earlier in the budget process and requested that DOE return to this practice.

At the May 2006 meeting of the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB), the President's FY 07 budget for Environmental Management received similar attention because of the major budget cuts in funding requested by individual DOE sites. The SSAB voiced its concern that the budget shortfalls will result in insufficient funds for existing commitments on cleanup activities and regulatory compliance across the DOE complex. These concerns paralleled the concerns of the SRS CAB at the local DOE site level. The SSAB voiced these concerns in a draft letter to be discussed at each site-specific advisory board (Ref. 2). In addition, the letter addresses the need for a consistent and effective budget process that involves the SSAB to assist DOE with establishing priorities and levels of funding for each site.

Comment

The SRS CAB supports the SSAB's position. In years past DOE presented the Integrated Priorities List to the CAB and asked the CAB to rank its priorities. Four years ago, the SRS CAB told DOE-SR that it is imperative that stakeholders become part of the budget planning process from site requirement development through execution (Ref. 3). In Recommendation #149, the CAB requested that SRS develop and submit to the CAB a schedule for annual stakeholder involvement in the budget process. This schedule was to include specific dates for submission of information to the CAB and specific dates for CAB input throughout all phases of the budget process. In its response, DOE-SR stated its willingness to work with the CAB to develop a workable schedule and how important meaningful input in the budget process was from planning through budget formulation and execution (Ref. 4).

Although both parties had good intentions, the proposed budget participation process never evolved to the stage intended by the CAB and in recent years the participation by the SRS CAB has been very limited. While the SRS CAB is reviewing and discussing the President's FY 07 budget shortfalls at SRS, the Hanford site is having public meetings discussing the Hanford 2008 budget and funding priorities (Ref. 5). This disparity in the budget participation process is alarming to the SRS CAB. A more consistent and effective participation process is needed to involve stakeholders in the budget process so that their involvement will have the maximum opportunity to impact priorities and requested funding levels to achieve accelerated cleanup goals.

Recommendation

The SRS CAB is supporting the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) letter and its recommendation for input to future environmental budget requests. In addition, the SRS CAB recommends the following:

1. DOE-SR institute a consistent and effective budget participation process that involves stakeholders in the establishment of SRS funding priorities and levels for environmental actions and regulatory compliance. DOE-SR should submit the draft budget participation process to the SRS CAB by July 25, 2006.
2. DOE-HQ ensure that a consistent and effective budget participation process is being used across the DOE complex, with early participation by all SSABs under the DOE EM Charter, as amended.

References

1. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 228 (adopted March 28, 2006), "President's FY 07 SRS Budget Shortfall"
2. Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) draft letter (Recommendation for EM SSAB Input to Future Site Environmental Budget Requests) to Mr. James A. Rispoli, Secretary Environmental Management.
3. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 149 (adopted January 15, 2002), "Stakeholder Input to SRS Budget Process."
4. Greg Rudy, SRS Manager, Recommendation No. 149 response letter to Mr. Wade Waters, Chair SRS CAB dated January 25, 2002.
5. "Influence the 2008 Hanford Budget" public meeting notification, dated May 9, 2006.

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#)