



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 65

September 29, 1998

FY 2000 Funding Requirements

Background:

Annually the Savannah River Operations Office of DOE prepares funding requirements for the Savannah River Site. DOE Headquarters uses these requirements to prepare the DOE budget submittal to the Office of Management and Budget. The DOE budget becomes part of the President's budget submittal to Congress in February. The FY 2000 Funding Requirements package was submitted by DOE-SR in the Spring of 1998. As part of the process the DOE Headquarters provides a Target Level total budget to DOE-SR. Then DOE-SR allocates individual items within this Target Level. DOE-SR may well find that needs exceed the Target Level funding and these are identified separately. The Initial Target Level for FY 2000 is \$1,173,895,000 for the SRS Environmental Management (EM) Program. There is an additional \$253,000,000 for EM Program Direction and Technology Development, Defense Programs, Nonproliferation and Other small programs for a total SRS budget for FY 2000 of \$1,426,898,000. This is about \$25 million above the FY 1998 funding and about \$58 million below the FY 1999 submittal to Congress (the FY 1999 budget has not been approved by Congress yet although FY 1999 starts on October 1, 1998).

Recognizing that an Initial Target Level for the EM budget leaves many important SRS items unfunded, the DOE has presented a Base Case EM budget of \$1,298,937,000 (\$125,042,000 higher than the EM Initial Target Level). DOE-SR believes there is a reasonable probability of receiving the Base Case funding. As additional important SRS items are still unfunded, DOE has submitted an Over Target Case of \$1,337,388,000 (\$163,493,000 over the EM Initial Target Level). The probability of receiving the Over Target Case funding level is much lower than the Base Case.

Jim Buice, Director, Planning and Budget Division for DOE-SR presented budget details to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee on August 19, 1998 and on September 15, 1998. The Subcommittee was concerned about the number and significance of the unfunded items at the various funding levels. Many of the items below the funding line on the priority list were SRS needs in order to implement goals of the Environmental Management Integration Plan which the CAB has supported with Recommendations 45, 47 and 48.

Recommendations:

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board makes the following recommendations with respect to the SRS FY 2000 budget:

Provide sufficient funding for the technical programs needed to assure successful stabilization of the Americium/Curium solutions. **These solutions are one of the higher risks at SRS.** Current budget planning show this as being funded at the Base Case but only partially funded if the Initial Target Level funding prevailed.

Protect the funding for the new Plutonium Storage Project which includes the K-Area Materials Storage facility (KAMS) and the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility (APSF). It is vital to fund the KAMS project in order for SRS to move ahead with accepting plutonium (Pu) from Rocky Flats for processing and hence accelerating the closure of Rocky Flats. The APSF is needed to store SRS nuclear materials and potential future plutonium materials from other DOE sites.

Provide sufficient funding for High Level Waste Tank supernate processing upgrades. The CAB realizes that a preferred alternative version to the current In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) process has not been selected yet and that there is a cushion of about 6 years before it becomes essential to be able to process the supernate. However, we believe that sufficient funding needs to be provided in FY 2000 to proceed with an alternate to the current version of ITP. Currently, some funding is indicated (\$ 33 million) with some above and some below the Over Target Case funding level.

If additional funding is not available, we recommend that DOE-SR make a strong effort to fit the above items into the approved FY 2000 funding level. DOE-SR should provide more Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) funding in order to achieve more meaningful results in facility dispositioning to reduce its long-term surveillance and maintenance costs. There are many deactivated facilities at SRS that continue to require surveillance and monitoring until D&D is complete.

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#)