



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 70

November 17, 1998

Risks and Funding

Background:

A review of the FY 2000 budget priority list by the Risk Management and Future Use subcommittee of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) continues to reveal that fixing some high risk items, such as stabilization of the Americium and Curium solutions, remain low on the priority list. This is probably due to the consideration of numerous factors when preparing the budget priority list (regulatory compliance, mission viability, cost efficiency, safeguards and security, etc.) in addition to risk to worker and public health and safety. Determining the budget priority list requires a balancing of these numerous factors and the resulting list could easily vary among different people or organizations preparing such a list. It would be desirable to fund all of the items on the budget priority list but that is not likely to happen.

In its critique of past budget rankings, the CAB has consistently emphasized protecting the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment (see SRS Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation Number 17, 3/26/96). We feel that SRS must focus on those items that pose the highest threat first, then items of low threat subsequently. However, some low risk items continue to be funded before higher risk items.

Recommendation:

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board remains concerned that some projects/actions with low risk take funding precedence over higher risk items with a higher risk to worker safety, human health and the environment. Therefore, we recommend that:

1. Along with the list traditionally prepared under the present budget system, DOE-SR prepare and submit to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board a priority list based strictly on health and safety risks to workers, the public, and the environment.
2. DOE-SR provide to the Board a justification of the differences between the traditional budget list and the ranking of items based strictly on the greatest threat to the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment.

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#)