



## SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

### Recommendation No. 79

March 23, 1999

### FY 2000 Budget for SRS

#### **Background:**

The President's FY 2000 budget and the Savannah River Site (SRS) budget were released to the public on February 1, 1999. Jim Buice, Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR) presented the SRS budget to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Risk Management and Future Use subcommittee, on February 9, 1999.

The SRS FY 2000 budget is \$1,523 million versus \$1,507 million for FY1999. This budget will allow SRS to meet regulatory agreements, maintain progress toward meeting the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board commitments, support receipt of Rocky Flats plutonium, meet all tritium recycle commitments, and support receipt and storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel. While the FY2000 budget is only one percent above the FY1999 budget, there is an increase in work requirements (i.e. alternate salt processing needs and new technologies for spent fuel management). Accommodating additional requirements has resulted in further postponement of infra-structure upgrades, contributed to a delay in construction of the Actinide Storage and Packaging Facility, resulted in a lack of sufficient funds for expedited development and evaluation of alternatives to the In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) salt feed preparation process (\$40 million is in budget but need \$70 million), and decreased the annual Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) canister production rate from 250 to 100 per year.

Removal of high-level waste (HLW) from the SRS HLW tanks, vitrifying in the DWPF and shipping to a permanent repository is one of the highest priorities for the CAB so we are particularly concerned about insufficient funding for development of the ITP replacement and the reduction in the production rate of DWPF canisters. Insufficient funding now increases the total costs of HLW management.

#### **Recommendation:**

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is concerned about the FY 2000 budget being insufficient to meet the SRS needs. We recognize that the budgeting process is always one of balancing funds among various needs and is continually in a state of flux until the budget is finally approved. However, because of the CAB high priority on removing the HLW, we strongly recommend that the FY 2000 budget include:

1. An additional \$30 million above the FY2000 budget request to permit expedited development and evaluation of alternatives to the ITP salt feed preparation process.
2. An additional \$25 million above the FY2000 budget request to operate the DWPF at 250 canisters per year. This will ensure meeting the annual average rate of 200 canisters per year required by the Federal Facility Compliance Act Site Treatment Plan as the DWPF will occasionally have shut downs for maintenance and melter change.
3. DOE should continue to work aggressively with the State of South Carolina regulators and elected officials to ensure waste management goals established for SRS are in accordance with expectations of the State particularly in terms of funding and schedule and that the progress to meet those goals is acceptable to the State.

#### **Agency Responses**

[Department of Energy-SR](#)