



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dr. Gregory Murray
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Dr. Murray:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation #374 – Planning to Preserve and Establish Savannah River Site (SRS) L-Reactor as a National Historic Site, (Your letter dated, September 27, 2022)

Thank you for your recommendation about the preservation and future use of L-Reactor for public tours. The Department of Energy - Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following response.

CAB Recommendation:

- 1. The SRS CAB recommends that DOE immediately begin planning to preserve this facility as a National Historical Site and to keep it in a state to enable public tours to the facility once it has completed its mission, similar to what has been done at the Oak Ridge and Hanford sites.*

DOE-SR partially accepts this recommendation. DOE-SR recognizes the historic value of many buildings on the Savannah River Site and has identified over 200 Cold War resources as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, including the L-Reactor, which is classified as “highly significant.” The SRS Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) lays out the process for the management of those historically significant resources.

While L-Reactor Disassembly Basin has a current, ongoing mission to securely store Spent Nuclear Fuel for all aluminum-clad used nuclear fuel from research reactors across the United States and around the world, DOE-SR believes that your recommendation to plan today to preserve the historic integrity and consider public tours of the L-Area complex in the future has merit. As defined in the Site’s CRMP, DOE-SR will add the scope to prepare a Preservation Plan that will review the feasibility and historic integrity for L-Area to future budget requests, to be executed when financially feasible. In addition, when possible, and in keeping with the safe execution of the mission, DOE will keep future historic preservation goals in mind prior to initiating any modifications to the facility.

Having a building or area designated as a National Historic Site is typically performed by the National Park Service (NPS), and so far, the NPS has focused on Manhattan Project sites, not Cold War era resources.

Dr. Murray

2

However, with the burgeoning interest in Cold War history, NPS is likely to expand those protections to include additional properties in the future. If that happens, DOE-SR will work with NPS to add any appropriate SRS facilities.

The Department thanks you for your recommendation, and values the CAB's position on SRS programs, and, when possible, factors those opinions into Department decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact Avery Hammett at (803) 952-7805.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Budney
Manager
Savannah River Operations Office

AMIES-23-009