



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

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

Dear Dr. Murray:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 377, Funding for Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) (Your letter dated, January 24, 2023)

Thank you for your recommendation about providing SREL with sufficient additional resources to conduct the proposed National Environmental Research Park (NERP) Scholars Program. The Department of Energy - Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) accepts this recommendation and provides the following response.

CAB Recommendation:

The CAB views the benefits of such a program to be of significant value to DOE, to the local communities that surround Savannah River Site (SRS), and to SREL. As a result, the SRS CAB recommends that DOE-SR:

- *Provide SREL with sufficient additional base funding to conduct the NERP Scholars Program and allow it to help local communities and DOE address inequities stemming from Environmental Justice issues by:*
 - *Conducting an annual 10-week undergraduate learning program on SRS specifically for students from local communities and minority serving institutions, including formal training and experiences toward employment and career opportunities, as well as the possibility of graduate education in areas related to the needs of DOE Environmental Management and DOE National Nuclear Security Administration on SRS.*
 - *Funding for hiring new personnel to support recruitment, logistics and mentoring activities associated with the operation of the NERP Scholars Program, and*
 - *Investing in instructional and research equipment and infrastructure that enhances its ability to deliver state of the art experiential learning and research opportunities to students from disadvantaged communities around SRS.*

Thank you for your interest in DOE-SR and your input into our work scope priorities. This information will be included for consideration into the next budget development cycle.

Dr. Murray

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If you have any questions, please contact Andy Horcher at (803) 952-6206.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Budney
Manager
Savannah River Operations Office