



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

Mrs. Phyllis P. Britt
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mrs. Britt:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 384 – Annual Compensation for Communities Hosting Temporary Storage of High-Level Radioactive Waste (Your letter dated, January 30, 2024)

Thank you for your recommendation about compensation for communities that host temporary storage of high-level waste. The Department of Energy (DOE) - Savannah River Operations Office (SR) does not accept this recommendation and provides the following response.

CAB Recommendation:

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board recommends the Department of Energy implement an annual compensation structure for communities hosting DOE sites utilized for temporary storage of high-level waste. This compensation should be provided annually until a federal nuclear waste repository is operational.

The subject of compensation for communities surrounding DOE sites is not new. It has been the subject of conversations with communities and their representatives that began decades ago, well before the first Site Specific CABs were established in 1994. In general, any direct compensation from the Federal Government, payments to communities, requires an application from the community, review and approval by DOE that the community meets the criteria, and authorization and appropriation from Congress. This compensation takes the form of Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes and is based on DOE policy that derives from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act, enacted in 1976. Today, payments under this policy are uncommon. To be eligible, communities must demonstrate a burden imposed on the community that is not offset by other benefits resulting from DOE's activities in the community. Because direct funding of this sort is subject to budgetary constraints, DOE established policy in its Department of Energy Acquisition Regulations to require its contractors to propose and implement Annual Community Commitment plans. The policy states: It is the policy of the DOE to be a constructive partner in the geographic region in which DOE conducts its business. The basic elements of this policy include: (1) Recognizing the diverse interests of the region and its stakeholders, (2) engaging regional stakeholders in issues and concerns of mutual interest, and (3) recognizing that giving back to the community is a worthwhile business practice. Accordingly, the Contractor agrees that its business operations and performance under the Contract will be consistent with the intent of the policy and elements set forth above.

DOE's contractors at Savannah River Site (SRS) identify meaningful actions and activities in surrounding communities that provide tangible benefits. Those benefits include such things as educational outreach, training programs, regional purchasing/small business procurement

programs, and sponsorship of community actions and events, to name a few. In addition, DOE's missions bring substantive economic benefits to surrounding communities that include job creation, highly competitive salaries, and related business growth.

Considering fiscal restraints on DOE budgets and the many community benefits derived from DOE's SRS activities, the Department cannot implement an annual compensation structure for communities hosting DOE sites utilized for temporary storage of high-level waste.

If you have any questions, please contact Bert Crapse at (803) 208-8404.

Sincerely,

Edwin R. Deshong, III
Manager
Savannah River Operations Office

AMNMS-25-0005

cc:

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