



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

JUL 21 2017

Mrs. Nina Spinelli  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mrs. Spinelli:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 345 – Pollinator Land Use for the Savannah River Site (SRS) [Your letter, dated 05/24/17]

Thank you for your recommendation on Pollinator Land Use for SRS. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following responses.

**CAB Recommendation:**

- 1. Work with the Forest Service and Savannah River Ecology Lab to be represented in the Pollinator Health Task Force to learn more about how space at SRS could be used for pollination.*

DOE-SR accepts this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR is familiar with the goals of the Pollinator Health Task Force and has been taking steps to meet those objectives since the President's 2014 Executive Order was issued. The task force is co-chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a branch of the USDA, the United States Forest Service (USFS) has taken a lead role in implementing programs to study and promote pollinator health and diversity at SRS. Also, the Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL) conducts ecological research on pollinator health and habitats at SRS.

The USFS has studied pollinator populations across a wide diversity of habitats to determine those best suited to meet pollinator needs. Through forest thinning and prescribed fires in the 65,000 acres established as Red Cockaded Woodpecker Management Areas on SRS, the USFS has created large swaths of ideal conditions for pollinators. In addition, USFS has planted pollinator-attracting plants along SRS powerline right-of-ways to increase the available acreage of suitable habitat.

- 2. Collaborate with the Region IV Environmental Protection Agency to develop a plan for pollination, including funding, management and sustainability.*

DOE-SR accepts this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR is interested in providing flowering plants to enhance pollinator populations in support of the Presidential Initiative on Pollinator Health. In addition to the measures described in the previous answer, DOE-SR, EPA, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), along with SREL and USFS, have met to discuss possible opportunities for adding pollinator habitats to SRS, and we look forward to future discussions with EPA and SCDHEC on that topic.

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3. *Given that funding may be a concern, consider working with local gardening clubs and associations that may be willing to assume some costs of the projects.*

DOE-SR partially accepts this sub-recommendation. As a government agency, DOE is unable to accept gifts towards pollinator projects from local gardening clubs and associations, pursuant to both the DOE ethics guidelines and Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2635.203 (2011). However, DOE is looking at innovative ways to partner with the SRS Community Reuse Organization to increase and improve pollinator habitats at SRS.

4. *Based on feasibility, test the honey produced for contaminants.*

DOE-SR does not accept this sub-recommendation. As a component of the planning for pollinator habitats at SRS, DOE would consciously limit the establishment of pollinator habitats to non-contaminated areas of the Site. By providing pollinator habitats in non-contaminated areas, SRS is confident that local honey analysis is unnecessary. The SRS Environmental Monitoring Program already samples and analyzes more susceptible food products surrounding the Site as part of the SRS Environmental Monitoring Program.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Tony Towns, of my staff, at (803) 507-4437.

Sincerely,

*for* 

Jack R. Craig  
Savannah River Site Manager

AMIES-17-015

cc:

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