



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

April 1, 2020

Mr. Gil Allensworth  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mr. Allensworth:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 368 – Department of Energy (DOE) Support for Savannah River Ecology Laboratory [SREL] (Your letter, dated November 19, 2019)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning Savannah River Site (SRS) SREL support. The DOE Savannah River Operations Office (SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following response.

**CAB Recommendation:**

The CAB recommends that DOE-SR provide SREL with additional base funding to increase the stability of the laboratory and allow it to:

1. *Continue to fully implement its missions, including tasks involving:*
  - a. *Radioecology and Low Dose Radiation Effects,*
  - b. *Metal and Radionuclide Ecotoxicology,*
  - c. *Radionuclide Fate and Transport Studies, and*
  - d. *Radionuclide Outreach and Education Programs.*
2. *Invest in facilities, equipment, and staff (safety, administration, and research support) in support of its missions.*
3. *Continue to grow the SREL's scholarly productivity.*
4. *Maintain and grow graduate student enrollment and other academic opportunities.*
5. *Maintain and expand the SREL Outreach Program, which is dedicated to outreach to the public and scientific community.*

DOE partially accepts this recommendation. DOE strongly supports SREL's independent research, academic opportunities, and education outreach efforts, and will consider additional funding as future budget allocations allow. However, the complexity of the budget approval process prevents DOE from making a firm commitment to providing additional funding.

Mr. Allensworth

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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 me or have your staff contact Tony Towns, of my staff, at (803) 507-4437.

Sincerely,

**MICHAEL**  
**BUDNEY**

Digitally signed by  
MICHAEL BUDNEY

Date: 2020.04.01  
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Michael D. Budney  
Savannah River Site Manager

AMIES-20-006

cc:

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