



Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802  
APR 12 2000

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chair  
Savannah River Site Citizens  
Advisory Board  
1103 Conger Drive  
Aiken, SC 29803

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 120 – Fiscal Year 2001  
Budget Deferment of Infrastructure Activities

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the budget for Savannah River Site (SRS) infrastructure restoration activities. The Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates the CAB's interest and shares their concern over the importance of a stable and long-term budget strategy for infrastructure improvements. We agree that infrastructure programs are a foundation for long-range planning and use of the Site and are vital to the continued existence of SRS and the accomplishment of its major responsibilities in a safe and cost-effective manner. However, in the current budget climate, we also recognize that such investments can only be made in the context of deferral of other critically important work such as stabilization of nuclear materials in accordance with commitments to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. At this time, DOE has concluded it most prudent to invest our fixed budgetary resources in those activities to address the most pressing safety concerns at the Site.

DOE Savannah River Operations Office (SR) will continue to try to optimize our budgets and will work to identify and implement productive improvements and more cost-effective technologies and cleanup methods to free up funds for infrastructure. To the extent that we are not successful or only partially successful, SR will seek support from DOE Headquarters (HQ). We have conducted preliminary discussions with HQ to address the issue of infrastructure investments from a complex-wide perspective and will work with them on this approach during the next few months.

SR will brief the CAB relative to our efforts and the results. We will also brief the CAB on the impacts of the activities that would be deferred, if our efforts are unsuccessful.

If you have any questions, please call me or Jim Buice at (803) 725-2263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Rudy", is written over the typed name.

Greg Rudy  
Manager

TB-00-0045

cc: C. Huntoon (EM-1), HQ