

**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
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Aiken, South Carolina 29802  
**RECEIVED**  
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MAIL CONTROL

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chair  
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Patterson:

**SUBJECT:** Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 238 – Department of Energy (DOE) Budget–Stakeholder Participation Consistency (Your letter, 9/27/06)

Thank you for submitting the subject recommendation regarding the participation of Savannah River Site (SRS) stakeholders in the planning and budget formulation processes and reestablishing a consistent process by which the stakeholders can be more involved in these processes.

**Part 1. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 and all outyear budgets, DOE Savannah River Operations Office (SR) provide a briefing to the SRS CAB in March of each year on the status of the fiscal year budget currently being formulated for the SRS.**

As noted in the enclosed letter (Rispoli to Patterson) dated July 31, 2006, DOE Headquarters' (HQ) Office of Environmental Management's (EM) Budget Office (EM-31) has been requested to assess processes that involve the Site Specific Advisory Boards in the development of future site budget requests. HQ-EM is preparing a survey that will identify how information is currently shared with the Boards in an effort to develop a consistent process across the DOE complex for sharing budgetary data. Following HQ-EM's analysis of the surveys' data, guidance for consistent sharing of budget information with the Boards is anticipated to be provided to all field offices.

**Part 2. For FY 2007 and FY 2008, DOE SR provide to the SRS CAB a priority funding list and their relative risk rankings identifying the status (i.e., fully funded, partially funded, fund reductions, non-funded, etc.) of all SRS projects.**

DOE management will brief the CAB on FY 2007 and FY 2008 EM priorities during a future CAB meeting. Site personnel will coordinate an appropriate briefing date.

**Part 3. HQ reconfirm the length of the budget embargo and potential alternatives to shorten this period to provide stakeholders more time to provide meaningful input in the budget process.**

The need to ensure confidentiality of pre-decisional budget information is described in the enclosed Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Memorandum M-01-17 dated April 25, 2001. Section 22 of OMB Circular A-11 dealing with the confidentiality of

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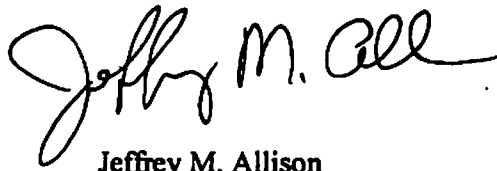
budget deliberations, is also provided as a reference. The timing of the budget embargo is controlled by these documents.

**Part 4. SR ensures that all program presentations to SRS CAB committees have a budget component that addresses the budget and expense history of each project.**

As noted in the response to question 1, HQ-EM is in the process of developing consistent guidance for the field for sharing budgetary data with the CAB. As soon as that guidance is available, the Chief Financial Officer will work with the project staff and the CAB to develop a budget slide that addresses the financial history of the Project Baseline Summary.

Questions from you or your staff may be directed to me or Sarah Blanding, of my staff, at (803) 952-6564.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Allison  
Manager

BD-07-0001

3 Enclosures:

1. Letter (Rispoli to Patterson) dated July 31, 2006
2. Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-01-17 dated April 25, 2001
3. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, Section 22

CLOSERS MC #06/2007