



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

OCT 20 1998

Ms. Ann Loadholt, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P. O. Box 365
Barnwell, SC 29812

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

SUBJECT: Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Number 65 Regarding Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Funding Requirements


Thank you for your recommendation regarding the Savannah River Site's (SRS) FY 2000 funding requirements. The activities of concern to the CAB described in this recommendation are also very important to the Department of Energy (DOE). They represent significant aspects of SR's cleanup mission and, in some cases, support the cleanup of other DOE sites. They also support DOE's accelerated cleanup strategy and the goals of the Environmental Integration Plan. The Department has communicated the importance of funding these activities in its FY 2000 budget submittal to the Office of Management and Budget.

SR is continuing to work with DOE Headquarters to secure adequate funding for these activities in the Department's FY 2000 budget. We are also continuing to look for ways to improve efficiencies, increase productivity, and complete as much work as possible within limited budgets. To the extent that sufficient funding is not provided, or additional efficiencies are not achieved, SR will reassess its work activities. In any reassessment of work activities, SR will continue to emphasize the health and safety of the public and SR workers, protection of the environment, the safeguard of SRS facilities and nuclear materials, compliance with legal obligations and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board commitments, and meeting nuclear nonproliferation objectives. Also, as in the past, SR will solicit the CAB's input into any such reassessment process.

With regard to your recommendation to provide more Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) funding, SR is assessing the Site's facility disposition efforts including D&D activities as well as facility deactivation efforts, infrastructure capital upgrades, maintenance, and facility repairs. Our efforts will help provide the basis to justify funding for facility disposition activities. Additionally, SR is working with DOE Headquarters to identify novel ways to fund these activities, including the retention and use by SR of monies recouped through the sale of assets or scrap materials resulting from D&D activities at the site. We look forward to briefing the CAB on the site's facility disposition activities in the near future.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me or John Pescosolido at (803)-725-5590.

Sincerely,


Greg Rudy
Manager

TB-99-0006