

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford
Oak Ridge

Idaho
Paducah

Nevada
Portsmouth

Northern New Mexico
Savannah River

February 27, 2013

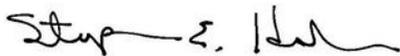
Mr. David Huizenga
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

The Office of Environmental Management's (EM) budget is composed of several components, including costs to maintain the EM complex in a safe 'operations ready' state, out-year compliance costs to meet future regulatory milestones, current-year compliance costs to meet regulatory milestones in the current fiscal year and other costs not directly tied to regulatory milestones.

Included in these costs is funding for the development of new technology that will improve the productivity of cleanup projects across the complex. The enhanced solvent for the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site is an example of a successful research and development (R&D) project.

As the current federal budgeting activities continue to constrain EM cleanup activities, the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) recommends that the Department of Energy not constrain funding in areas of technology R&D. The EM SSAB recognizes that without innovative solutions for the future, the cost and timing of cleanup projects could jeopardize compliance with regulatory milestones and extend cleanup costs beyond reasonable expectations.



Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board



Kathleen Bienenstein, Chair
Nevada SSAB



Carlos Valdez, Chair
Northern New Mexico
Citizens' Advisory Board



David Martin, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB



Ralph Young, Chair
Paducah Citizens
Advisory Board



William Henderson,
Chair
Portsmouth SSAB



Donald Bridges, Chair
Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 11, 2013

Mr. Donald Bridges, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P. O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mr. Bridges:

Thank you for your February 27, 2013, letter offering your continued support for the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) program and your interest in EM's ability to invest in robust technology research and development activities.

As your letter notes, the EM program has benefitted from past and existing technology development investments and needs to fund future efforts to continue progress. We agree with your recommendation and have already taken steps to increase the funding for Technology Development activities.

We believe that investments in technology not only enable EM to enhance and improve existing abilities, but they support innovative solutions to complete our mission. We appreciate your continued strong support and valuable input.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Catherine Alexander, Office of Intergovernmental and Community Activities, at (202) 586-7711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Huizenga".

David Huizenga
Senior Advisor
for Environmental Management

