



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

NOV 30 2012

Dr. Donald N. Bridges, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizen Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Dear Dr. Bridges:

SUBJECT: Relative to SRS CAB Recommendation #283 - Revising the Department of Energy Websites and Using Plain Language to Communicate with the Public More Effectively
(Your letter, dated 09/24/12)

Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates your subject letter of September 24, 2012, relative to Savannah River Site Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation #283, "Revising the Department of Energy Websites and Using Plain Language to Communicate with the Public More Effectively", and will take this opportunity to further update the CAB on actions taken to date and additional future improvements planned in response to the specific items listed in this recommendation:

- 1) Review www.srs.gov and www.DOE.gov to see how the two websites can be modified so that information about the Savannah River Site is readily available on both sites and vice versa.

The Department of Energy is in the process of transforming its website (www.energy.gov) to a more user-friendly communications tool in an effort to enhance information-sharing and more effectively engage with the general public, increase Federal Government transparency, and achieve cost saving efficiencies through website consolidations. DOE leads the website reform efforts working closely with Headquarters program offices to consolidate public-facing websites into the new Energy.gov platform. So far, 16 sites (and counting) have been added to the platform.

In particular, the Office of Environmental Management (EM) has successfully been migrating its existing website (www.em.doe.gov) content into the new Energy.gov platform as well as implementing a variety of visible improvements to many of the EM web pages. The overall website transition will improve the Department's overall communications infrastructure. The expected launch date of the new EM website will be in late November. For more information on these efforts, please visit <http://www.em.doe.gov/Pages/EMHome.aspx>.

In concert with these DOE-HQ initiatives, as you are aware from previous briefings and discussions, the Savannah River Site external website (www.srs.gov), managed by the Site's contractor, has previously undergone a similar website transformation, with noted improvements from stakeholders, and will continue to be maintained.

It is important to note that the EM, DOE-SR and SRS external websites serve different communication functions. Hence, public information on SRS programs or projects will be posted on the appropriate respective website, contractor or federal, based on content and not double-posted on both websites. For example, with SRS being a subset of EM's programs and missions, the majority of Site-specific missions and functions will be posted on the SRS external site managed by the contractor.

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- 2) Review www.srs.gov and www.DOE.gov and revise as necessary to make all information accessible to all computer platforms.

I am pleased to report that the SRS websites are now accessible to most computer platforms. As the web evolves some browsers are no longer supported, as is the case with SRS websites no longer being maintained to be accessible to older internet browsers in focused efforts to keep its website current with technology advances and mobile platforms.

- 3) Make all documents that are noted in the "Environmental Bulletin" from the Savannah River Site "available online.

An online-inventory of current SRS "Environmental Bulletins" shows up-to-date postings of reference documents (<http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/envbul/ebindex.htm>). Should CAB members find a case where a document cannot be located, please contact the SRS CAB Support Staff who will work the respective program office to resolve the issue, as appropriate.

- 4) Write all documents intended for public use per the "Federal Plain Language Guidelines."

The vast majority of SRS documents for public distribution are developed using "Federal Plain Language Guideline", as prescribed by federal laws and/or regulations governing that particular program (topic). We will strive to write all documents in accordance with Federal Plain Language Guideline.

- 5) Review the "Open Government Directive" to determine to what extent Environmental Management at SRS is in compliance with the intent of the Directive in terms of publishing government information online and to present its findings to the CAB at a full board meeting no later than January 2013.

We are taking measures to continue our good-faith effort to be compliant and will continue to present to you in a clear, open manner as possible.

Again, your time and interest in this important topic is appreciated. DOE-SR affirms these steps explained above fully address the elements outlined in SRS CAB Recommendation #283.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact James Giusti, of my staff, at (803) 952-7684.

Sincerely,



David C. Moody
Manager

OEA-13-1128

cc:

Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2, DOE-HQ
Catherine Brennan, EM-3.2, DOE-HQ
Catherine Templeton, SCDHEC
Gwen Keys, EPA
Albert Frazier, GADNR
Terry Spears, DDFO, DOE-SR
Patrick McGuire, DDFO, DOE-SR