Recommendation 330
Funding Increases for Processing Materials at SRS

Discussion

Much of the receipts of foreign nuclear materials are controlled by legislation such as Atoms for Peace from the Eisenhower administration. This and other legislation controls definitions of materials which can be brought in from foreign countries, cost of receiving these materials, and associated protocols.

The funds that SRS receives for taking the foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel was negotiated and managed by NNSA. However, NNSA does not incur costs associated with these fuels once they reach the SRS boundary. EM is then fully responsible for the costs to store these fuels as well as ultimate disposition. The funds that EM receives from these NNSA-negotiated rates do not come close to covering EM’s liability for these fuels. Also, EM receives no funding to receive, store, and disposition foreign SNF from non-high-income countries.

Recommendations

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board recommends that the Department of Energy:

1. Work with appropriate agencies to increase the rates for any SNF and materials shipped to SRS to allow for cost recovery by EM.
2. Request NNSA to provide funding to EM for the processing and disposition of any SNF, especially for SNF from the other-than-high-income countries.
3. Apply resulting funding income to repair, replace and improve infrastructure at SRS, which store and process said nuclear materials.