

**Recommendation #252
SRS CAB Input in the DOE-SR Budget Process**

Background

The purpose of the *DOE-EM Five-Year Plan FY 2008-FY 2012* budget planning process is to describe EM's planned strategies, funding and accomplishments over the next five years. This plan summarizes EM progress to date, presents EM performance measures, discusses assumptions and the EM decision-making process, and provides estimated EM funding over the FY 2008-2012 time period (Ref. 1).

EM's five-year planning targets are significantly different from the funding targets that appeared in the *FY 2007-2011 Five-Year Plan*. Site planning allocations that formed the basis for the planned accomplishments contained in this Plan were based on a number of factors, such as risk based priorities, baseline requirements, contract funding requirements, and equity. EM is in the process of independently auditing its cost and schedule baselines. EM continues to refine its out-year planning based on maturing and evolving scope and requirements, audited baselines and cost estimating, and regulator and stakeholder input.

As an example of stakeholder input, on February 6, 2007, the EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) received a memo from DOE's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget regarding "Participation of the EM SSAB in EM Budget Requests" (Ref. 2). This guidance was issued in response to a June 2006 SSAB recommendation to EM-1 that the Citizen's Advisory Boards (CABs) provide input to the budget process. This SSAB recommendation paralleled the SRS CAB recommendation #234 documenting the local stakeholder frustration at not being involved early enough in the budget process (Ref. 3).

In response to the new guidance, DOE requested the SRS CAB provide input to the FY 2009 budget integrated priority list. A response on behalf of the SRS CAB was formally submitted on March 8, 2007 (Ref. 4).

As a follow-up to the SSAB input on the FY 2009 budget, the SSAB recently issued a draft recommendation and comments concerning changes to the guidance for the sites working with the EM budget process (Ref. 5). This new recommendation focused on the need for sufficient budget planning information by Project Baseline Summary (PBS) at the target level and over-target level for the current planning year and for four out-years. The recommendation went on to note the potential uncertainty with out year planning and the inability for DOE to make firm commitments for those years. However, for CABs to address potential trade-offs in light of limited budgets, they need to see the EM *Five-Year Plan* numbers adjusted to reflect validated Project Baselines and the "cradle to grave" costs of each project.

Comment

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) fully endorses the complex-wide SSAB position on the budget process. As stated in previous recommendations, the SRS CAB finds it difficult to set priorities without a clear picture of what's actually been accomplished, what's in progress, and what still needs to be accomplished. Additional performance measures are required, such as requested budgets versus approved budgets, planned expenses versus actual expenditures, or target versus over-target budget requests and work scope. To be better informed, the SRS CAB needs to hear what the funding status is (at a minimum, whether the work is fully funded, partially funded, not funded at all, on schedule, etc), preferably at the PBS level.

The SRS CAB's understanding based upon the previous guidance from DOE's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget, the embargo begins upon submission of the budget request to EM Headquarters, which is sometime in March of each year. We fully expect DOE to conform to this guidance.

Recommendation

The SRS CAB recommends the following concerning the FY09 and FY10 budget process and requests that all information is received on or before February 18, 2008:

1. DOE-SR provide a detailed, validated Project Baseline with a critical-path schedule at a level showing the status of major projects with each Project Baseline Summary (PBS).
2. DOE-SR verify the budget embargo date and share funding performance measures (i.e., fully funded, partially funded, fund reductions, non-funded, on schedule, etc.) with the SRS CAB for the *Five-Year Plan*.

References

1. Savannah River Site FY2007-2012 Budget Briefing, presentation to the Strategic & Legacy Management Committee by S. A. Blanding, CFO (DOE-SR), November 6, 2007.
2. Memorandum for Distribution, February 1, 2007, issued by Mark W. Frei, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget
3. Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 234 (adopted May 23, 2006), "SRS Budget Participation."
4. Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget Priority List letter to Jeffery Allison, Manager DOE-SR from Madeleine Marshall, Strategic & Legacy Management Committee Chair and Karen Patterson, Chairman SRS Citizens Advisory Board.
5. Draft - Recommendation for EM SSAB Participation in the EM Budget Process letter to James A. Rispoli, Assistant Secretary DOE-EM from Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board, September 27, 2007

Agency Responses

[Department of Energy-SR](#)

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Adopted November 27, 2007

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