Recommendation #292 SRS Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI)

Background

In February 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established a Task Force on the Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI). To quote the ARI specifically, "The purpose of the Task Force is to facilitate discussion among the DOE, communities around DOE sites, nonprofit organizations, tribal communities, the private sector, and other stakeholders to identify reuse approaches as environmental cleanup efforts reach completion."

In October 2011 a report was presented to the SRS CAB of the Phase I conclusions of the DOE ARI Task Force and the linkage between the ARI work and the Enterprise SRS Strategic Plan. Reuse opportunities lie with the involvement of the local community to define and advocate for new industrial uses and land development that supports open spaces, recreation areas, and nature preserves.

The SRS CAB continues to feel strongly that we are an important local community resource to understand the progress that the DOE ARI Task Force has made. Specific recommendations by the DOE ARI Task Force were outlined to the SRS CAB in October 2011. One recommendation calls for outreach and active planning by engaging the private sector on a national and site-specific basis. The SRS CAB would like to participate in and advocate for the ARI work and understand how this links to the Enterprise SRS Strategic Plan.

The ARI specifies eight (8) assignments for the Task Force. To understand the next steps for the ARI and the CAB recommendations to follow, the 8 assignments from the ARI are listed below:

- Develop a corporate definition of ARI.
- Assess the private sector, community, and stakeholder interest in, and resources available for, ARI.
- Inventory the potential for ARI projects at DOE sites.
- Identify and address potential policy, financial, legal, procedural, and programmatic issues that could impact ARI implementation.
- Recommend a transparent and efficient process to prepare and respond to ARI proposals.
- Establish protocols for involving stakeholders in ARI activities after DOE has established an internal policy on how to proceed with asset revitalization.
- Engage other DOE program offices and the sites to inform the community, other federal agencies, and other stakeholders about ARI task force recommendations.
- Prepare a strategy and business plan within six months of the date the Task Force was established.

The Task Force is scheduled to present the results of this work and a set of recommendations to the three DOE Under Secretaries. DOE envisions a second Task Force phase that would implement those recommendations approved by senior management.

Currently, the SRS has an Asset Revitalization Program underway. It includes a SRS Excess Asset Program and the good practices used by the SRS in working with the Community Reuse Organization (CRO):

Personal Property Excess Program

- 38,500 items released to the CRO (60% of the items excessed).
- Good Practice- Allow the CRO to pick-up property at locations across the site; which eliminates multiple material movements.
- Chemical excess program
- 44,000 lbs released to CRO (30% of chemicals excessed).
- DOE partnered with the CRO to help them establish a Chemical Handling Facility
- Good Practice- Chemicals that were previously disposed of are now an asset utilized by others.
- Installed Real and Related Personal Property
- Allows CRO to enter the site, disassemble, and remove installed property.
- Asset Transition Plan revised to include new process and first real estate license is in draft for steam and rail lines.
- Good Practice- utilization of real estate license to temporarily release the disassembly area /location to CRO for work performance period.
- Good Practice CRO allowed to primarily work to meet OSHA standards.
- Good Practice ability to transfer real and related personal property as personal property once removed.

Recommendations:

The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

- 1. Provide to the SRS CAB a progress update in the 2nd half of 2012 addressing the 8 assignments accepted to further develop the ARI. The 8 assignments are stated above and were taken from section 7 of the ARI report to Congress, August 2011.
- 2. Share and explain how ARI recommendations will be implemented with the SRS CAB as early as practical.
- 3. Establish a mechanism to consider input from the CAB relative to reuse and utilization of existing EM facilities consistent with the interests of the Asset Revitalization Initiative.