



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
FEB 19 2019

Mr. Gil Allensworth, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Dear Mr. Allensworth:

SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation 360 – Solar Generated Power Use at Savannah River Site [SRS] (Your letter, dated November 27, 2018)

Thank you for your recommendation on the use of solar energy at SRS. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following responses.

CAB Recommendation:

- 1. Investigate/consider the feasibility of using solar panel on the rooftop, or common ground of building(s) to supply renewable energy.*

DOE-SR rejects this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR consulted with SRS solar energy subject matter experts and determined that small-scale solar panels mounted on roofs of individual buildings would not provide an adequate return on investment as compared to small-scale industrial or residential systems that receive tax incentives. DOE-SR determined that the age and unique design, and construction of many of the SRS current facilities would make placement of roof panels cost-prohibitive. For new construction, DOE would follow Leadership Energy and Environmental Design guidelines and would consider utilization of solar panels on roofs. DOE-SR available funding would be more effectively allocated to other energy conservation measures such as light emitting diodes for lighting and higher efficiency heating, ventilation and air condition upgrades for existing facilities.

- 2. Perform a study to determine current and projected costs vs. benefits of solar generated power across the range of facilities within SRS. This study should project a minimum of five years out.*

DOE-SR accepts this sub-recommendation. DOE-SR determined that a study to examine the long-term cost benefits for establishing a large-scale power system on SRS is warranted. Due to the commercial nature and impact to the regional electrical grid, DOE-SR will consult with its electrical provider, Dominion Energy (formerly South Carolina Electric and Gas), to determine a viable approach toward conducting the study. DOE-SR also plans to establish a conceptual alternative by the late spring of 2019 and conduct an analysis of these alternatives by the early fall of 2019, upon which we would present these results to the CAB.

Mr. Allensworth

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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Earl Morrison, of my staff, at (803) 952-8471.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M D Budney".

Michael D. Budney
Savannah River Site Manager

AMIES-19-002

cc:

David Borak, EM-4.32
Kristen Ellis, EM-5.31
Michael Mikolanis, DDFO
Jim Folk, DDFO
Marshall Taylor, Jr., SCDHEC
Matthew Fritz, EPA
Mark Williams, GA DNR