



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

**JUN 28 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 362 – Savannah River Site (SRS)  
National Environmental Research Park (NERP) Support (Your letter, dated March 26, 2019)

Thank you for your recommendation concerning SRS NERP support. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) partially accepts this recommendation and provides the following responses.

**CAB Recommendation:**

In order to fully utilize the scientific knowledge provided by the NERP effort to date, the CAB recommends that the DOE provide additional resources to the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) to allow the laboratory to:

- 1. Reassess the definition and marking of the Set-Aside areas to ensure there is clear continuity in future studies.*

DOE accepts this subpart. DOE will provide additional funding, as budgets allow, to improve the marking and signage delineating the Set-Aside boundaries. If additional funds are not available, DOE will review other SREL activities to ensure this effort has the appropriate level of prioritization and will continue to advocate for funding this important initiative.

- 2. Update the 30-plus baseline studies of the Set-Aside areas to understand current impacts from Site activities. DOE should consider adding a new study of pollinators in the Set-Aside areas.*

DOE partially accepts this subpart. The Set-Aside Baseline Studies were used to document the starting conditions of the Set-Aside areas; therefore, it is not appropriate to update them, as they reflect the status at the time the NERP was established. However, by conducting a comparative assessment to the baseline for Set-Asides and other areas of the Site, it will be possible to determine how Site activities may have affected these areas. Since SREL already performs a wide variety of biodiversity studies in the Set-Asides, including research on pollinator populations, habitats, and impacts, DOE-SR will continue to support and fund these efforts as budgets allow.

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3. *Make sure that this knowledge is more available to the public. The term public should include the scientific community as well as the regional communities.*

DOE accepts this subpart. DOE strongly supports SREL's Education Outreach efforts and will consider additional funding as future budget allocations allow.

The Department thanks you for your recommendation, and values the CAB's position on SRS programs, and, when possible, factors those opinions into Department decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Tony Towns, of my staff, at (803) 952-7822

Sincerely,

  
for

Michael D. Budney  
Savannah River Site Manager

AMIES-19-009

cc:

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