

June 7, 2012

To: Hanford Advisory Board
From: Shelley Cimon

News from around the DOE Complex:

The Savannah River Citizens Advisory Board has developed a position statement, of support for the cleanup program at the Savannah River site. cab.srs.gov/srs.html

Budget update: (From the SSAB Chairs' call, June 6, 2012)

The House mark-up, which should have passed yesterday, stands at 5.544B. The Senate mark-up (which should see final passage soon) stands at 5.734B. Our Government is expected to operate on a Continuing Resolution through January 2013. DOE will continue at the 5.5B level.

About the process for the 2014 budget – The Integrated Priority List has been revised for all sites and is at Headquarters for a review which is on-going right now. There is a new “Mission Review Team” which is tasked with focusing on Compliance and a delivery schedule of Thursday, June 7th to the Deputy Resources Board and the Chief Financial Officer for DOE. They have two weeks, (June 28th) to juggle the IPL and deliver a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy. We can expect a decision back from him by July 23rd. All of this effort focuses on building a case for the Office of Management and Budget which is due for delivery to them on December 10th, 2012.

This concept of a Mission Review Team has changed the way DOE has developed their recommendations. The complexity of the process necessitated many “Budget 101” sessions internally, bringing many more voices to the development of the recommendation and created, through greater transparency, a “better, defensible, budget”. It probably will be January of 2013 before we will have an understanding of the 2014 budget.

Mission and priorities:

I just took a look at a presentation Mark Gilbertson, (Deputy Asst. Secretary for Site Restoration), gave to the Secretary of Energy's Environmental Management Advisory Board on May 31st. It focused on Risk and Clean-up Decision making. It seemed important, to me, for us to remember what priorities define the Environmental Management mission for DOE:

- Activities to maintain a safe and secure posture within the EM complexity
- Radioactive tank waste stabilization, treatment and disposal
- Spent nuclear fuel storage, receipt and disposition
- Spent nuclear material consolidation, processing and disposition
- High risk soil and groundwater remediation
- Transuranic and mixed/low-level waste disposition
- Soil and groundwater remediation
- Excess facilities deactivation and decommissioning