

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford
Oak Ridge

Idaho
Paducah

Nevada
Portsmouth

Northern New Mexico
Savannah River

February 27, 2013

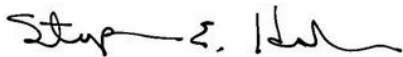
Mr. David Huizenga
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

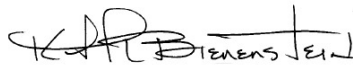
The Office of Environmental Management's (EM) budget is composed of several components, including costs to maintain the EM complex in a safe 'operations ready' state, out-year compliance costs to meet future regulatory milestones, current-year compliance costs to meet regulatory milestones in the current fiscal year and other costs not directly tied to regulatory milestones.

Included in these costs is funding for the development of new technology that will improve the productivity of cleanup projects across the complex. The enhanced solvent for the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site is an example of a successful research and development (R&D) project.

As the current federal budgeting activities continue to constrain EM cleanup activities, the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) recommends that the Department of Energy not constrain funding in areas of technology R&D. The EM SSAB recognizes that without innovative solutions for the future, the cost and timing of cleanup projects could jeopardize compliance with regulatory milestones and extend cleanup costs beyond reasonable expectations.



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cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2