



Department of Energy
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



June 29, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR MANAGER

SAVANNAH RIVER FIELD OFFICE

FROM:

LISA E. GORDON-HAGERTY

SUBJECT:

Future of NNSA Mission Activities at the Savannah River Site

As Administrator, I must consider how to best position the NNSA nuclear security enterprise for the future to safeguard the missions of the NNSA in a complex environment that is impacted by a number of significant challenges, including producing 80 pits per year by 2030, removing weapons-grade plutonium from South Carolina, and implementing Nuclear Posture Review requirements.

On June 7, 2018, the U.S. District Court in South Carolina issued a preliminary injunction preventing NNSA from terminating the MOX project and moving forward with the dilute and dispose approach to plutonium disposition. That order also had the practical effect of stopping NNSA from beginning to carry out the preferred alternative of repurposing the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS) to produce 50 plutonium pits per year by 2030 to meet U.S. national security needs. In light of this injunction, NNSA must reevaluate the viability to execute enduring missions at the Savannah River Site.

I am directing the Savannah River Field Office (SRFO) to lead a working group with representatives from the Offices of Defense Programs (NA-10), Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (NA-20), Acquisition and Project Management (NA-APM), Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations (NA-50), Management and Budget (NA-MB), Defense Nuclear Security (NA-70), and General Counsel (NA-GC) and others, as needed, to provide an interim briefing in 90 days and a final option briefing no later than December 14, 2018.

At a minimum, the options that should be evaluated are:

- a. NNSA takes landlord responsibility of SRS, to include Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). This option assumes NNSA maintains its ongoing and future mission activities, to include: Tritium Operations, Plutonium Pit Production, and the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program. This option should assume the Department of Energy Office



Environmental Management (EM) will become a tenant and retain responsibility for all EM related contracts and clean-up activities.

- b. NNSA puts in place a separate contract for all mission related activities at SRS. This option assumes NNSA maintains its ongoing and future mission activities, to include: Tritium Operations, Plutonium Pit Production, and the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program. This option also assumes EM retains landlord responsibility of SRS, to include SRNL, and retains responsibility for all EM related contracts and clean-up activities.

- c. NNSA exercises the option within the Consolidated Nuclear Solutions, LLC contract or utilizes a similar consolidated contract strategy to manage Tritium Operations and will consider relocating Tritium activities to another site as infrastructure recapitalization becomes necessary. This assumes that NNSA is unable to proceed with future mission activities, to include: Plutonium Pit Production and the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program at SRS.

SRFO will also continue to work with EM to ensure maximum flexibility for NNSA mission activities in the current acquisition strategy for SRS.

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