



COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION

two states, one future

December 15, 2006

Ms. Angela Sistrunk, Contracting Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
Building 730-B
P.O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Solicitation DE-RP09-06SR22470 – Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Selection of a Management and Operating Contractor for the Savannah River Site (SRS)

Dear Ms. Sistrunk:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject Solicitation. The twenty-two member Board of Directors of the SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) represents five counties in Georgia and South Carolina which are adjacent to or impacted by the SRS. Our appointments are determined by various business entities, County Councils/Commissions, and Congressional delegation members from our region.

First, we commend the staff of DOE-SR and the current M&O contractor team for the contributions they make to our community. The community has historically maintained effective working relationships with both DOE and contractor organizations. We value and applaud their contributions to education and charitable causes across the region. As SRS employment shrinks, we believe that regional economic diversification is becoming equally important.

While some regions have sought closure of their DOE site, we have consistently supported SRS as an enduring site because we recognize its important contribution to national security. We believe SRS missions have benefited by being located in a supportive community. There is no doubt that the presence of SRS has dominated our regional economy since the 1950s. As the Cold War ended, the federal government recognized the need to assist in diversifying the local economy of sites impacted by the DOE downsizing. We note with appreciation the job growth that has occurred in the region as a result of spin-off business from SRS. Although progress has been made, our regional vitality is still closely linked to federal missions at SRS and other DOE sites. On behalf of all our citizens, we believe there must be continued emphasis by the government on assisting the region as it transitions beyond reliance upon federal missions.

