

**Summary of Remarks by David Jameson,
Chairman, SRS Community Reuse Organization
before the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
Augusta, GA, January 7, 2011**

Today, you are meeting in what may be the most nuclear-friendly area in the entire United States. For six decades, our residents have been neighbors to the Savannah River Site.

Though we are separated by a fence and hundreds of square miles of buffer, we consider SRS to be a good neighbor...one that has excelled in its unique national security mission ... holding America's secrets while introducing innovative, new technology and creating thousands of well-paying jobs for the people of this region.

Our group believes it is important for you to recognize that SRS is not a closure site but a vibrant, active contributor to the Nation's nuclear security. The Savannah River Site is one of the crown jewels in America's quest for national security, innovative technology and new energy sources.

SRS knowledge and capabilities in reprocessing of nuclear fuel are unsurpassed. SRS has a proven track record as the "go-to" facility within the DOE complex when it comes to handling spent nuclear fuel. These talents and capabilities can be readily trained on the national dilemma this Commission is now addressing: "*How can we resolve the pressing issue of spent fuel storage and nuclear waste disposition?*"

However, even as we actively promote the unique capabilities of SRS, we are not without concerns. We continue to believe that failure to complete Yucca Mountain is a monumental mistake. If not Yucca Mountain, a permanent repository is needed somewhere for the Federal government to fulfill its obligation to our community. SRS was never envisioned as the permanent home for the defense waste. We are not willing to become the *de facto* permanent repository.

The Savannah River Site and our communities are willing to be proactive contributors to solutions, utilizing unique SRS capabilities and experience and the unsurpassed community support that exists in this region. You need to use these capabilities and support as a resource to help the Commission meet its objective of finding solutions for America's nuclear waste. We firmly believe SRS is the key site for the nuclear future of this country.