

**Comments to Blue Ribbon Committee**  
**Donald N. Bridges**  
**January 7, 2011**

- Thank You for allowing me to comment.
- My Name is Donald N. Bridges. I am a member of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board and I am speaking as an individual and a member of the public.
- I first want to point out that I fully support the comments provided earlier today by the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Board.

I would like to make a few additional comments and therein clearly state my and many sentiments that I hear from the public.

- **High Level Waste and low grade waste Plutonium at SRS-**
  - There should be a strong sense of urgency in dealing with the Defense Waste Removal from SRS.
  - A “good faith” effort to remove that waste has been delayed unnecessarily by the decision to stop the Yucca Mountain HLW Repository.
  - While extended storage at SRS is not an immediate safety issue it is clearly undesirable, and could possibly be a long-term safety issue.
  - This decision to cancel Yucca Mountain has undermined confidence in DOE and the Federal Government to manage the national nuclear waste issue.
  - **The actions of this committee should be taken with an emphasis on restoring public confidence relative to HLW removal from SRS in a prompt and efficient manner with a real sense of urgency.**
- **Yucca Mountain-**
  - It is difficult for anyone to understand how a site as “seemingly well-qualified” as Yucca Mountain could be dismissed with so little technical basis and nuclear industry support.
  - The refusal to use Yucca Mountain represents the height of government inefficiency and absolute waste considering a loss of:
    - critical schedule time of approximately 30 years,
    - several billion dollars, and
    - massive talent and industry focus.
  - Prudence would dictate use of Yucca Mountain in some manner and your charter seemingly does not totally disallow such. Use of

Yucca Mountain even as a temporary measure for a period of years or decades should be considered.

- **Please reassess how Yucca Mountain could be a part of the solution in dealing with the nuclear waste issue even if considered as a somewhat temporary measure.**
  
- **Reprocessing of Nuclear Fuel-**
  - The Blue Ribbon Committee could make a real contribution to this nation's energy future by the unbiased study of nuclear fuel reprocessing.
  - Reprocessing represents a potential use of untapped nuclear energy.
  - Reprocessing can be done safely with adequate safeguards.
  - SRS could contribute a great deal in practically any nuclear fuel processing initiative for R&D or practical application.
  - **Please consider:**
    - **The scientific talent base at SRS and specifically SRNL and SREL.**
    - **The reprocessing facilities at SRS such as H Canyon.**
    - **The waste management facilities such as DWPF and Salt Waste Processing Facilities.**
    - **The new facilities under construction such as MOX.**
  
- **Nuclear Friendly Community-**
  - **The communities around SRS are supportive of nuclear activities in general and would welcome any opportunities to support and embrace the concept of reprocessing and use of Used nuclear fuel.**
  - **It is unlikely that you will find a more supportive population for nuclear work in the entire country.**
  - **This community support would give the industry a head start in dealing with any regulatory issues.**