



Savannah River Site Watch

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Media Advisory

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DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration has Posted Performance Evaluation Documents for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions for FY 2019; "Award Fee" Bonus Again Inexplicably High

[Bonus Documents Released in Advance of DOE Budget Request to Congress for FY2021, on February 10 – See Advisory from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability of What to Look for in the Budget](#)

Columbia, SC – The private company that manages nuclear-weapons and security related projects at the Savannah River Site has earned a large and unjustified bonus for operations in Fiscal Year 2019, according to the public interest group Savannah River Site Watch (SRS Watch).

The DOE's National Security Administration (NNSA), which oversees nuclear weapons, non-proliferation and nuclear materials management has given Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) a bonus ("award fee") of \$16.1 million out of a possible bonus of \$18.8 million, or 85.5% of the amount possible. The "award fee scorecards" appear to have been quietly posted in the last few days. Fiscal Year 2019 ran from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

See [documents linked here](#) and below, in "notes."

"The financial awards for meeting or exceeding contract obligations have long been controversial and DOE and NNSA have offered little explanation as to why simply meeting obligations results in high monetary reward for DOE contractors," claims Tom Clements, director of SRS Watch.

"It is unknown what happens to the bonus money given to SRNS but we have always wondered if most of it goes to top management," said Clements. "The relationship between NNSA and its contractors

remains overly cozy and the annual bonus awards are seen as a gift between friends, at taxpayer expense,” he added.

Of note, SRNS earned a bonus in two areas in “repurposing” the ill-constructed MOX plant into a Plutonium Bomb Plant. The award fee document states that “SRNS’s team met all cost, schedule, and deliverable requirements related to the proposed – Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) conceptual design development.” Though the Plutonium Bomb Plant project received \$410 million from NNSA’s “plutonium sustainment” account in FY2020, the project is far from certain and will face challenges during the authorization and funding process in Congress.

“Over the years, we have learned that NNSA rarely releases the performance evaluations without being pressured, or via FOIA requests,” said Clements. “Every year we see NNSA drag its feet concerning release of the documents and every year we file FOIA requests for them as we firmly believe in the public’s right to know how NNSA has conducted the evaluations,” added Clements.

As NNSA had been late in posting the performance documents, SRS Watch and other public interest groups in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability filed Freedom of Information Act request for them in late January 2021. The SRS Watch FOIA request of January 28 posted here: <https://srswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Initial-request-for-PERs-by-SRS-Watch-Jan-28-2020.pdf> “We still expect a release of the more detailed award fee determinations, which have not been publicly posted,” said Clements.

The award fee documents by DOE’s Office of Environmental Management were released earlier and are [linked here](#).

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Notes: To find PERs for SRS and other NNSA sites

Go to DOE’s Office of Acquisition & Project Management:

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/leadership-and-offices/acquisition-and-project-management>

Under “Contracts, modifications, and performance evaluations for NNSA's sites, go to:

“Learn more about NNSA’s M&O PEMP, PERs, and contract modifications. The sites managed by NNSA:”

- [Kansas City National Security Campus](#)
- [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#)
- [Los Alamos National Laboratory](#)
- [Naval Nuclear Laboratory](#)
- [Nevada National Security Site](#)
- [NNSA Production Office - Y-12 National Security Complex/Pantex Plant](#)
- [Sandia National Laboratories](#)

- [Savannah River Site](#)

SRS PER documents for NNSA programs managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions:

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/savannah-river-site-contract>

FY 2019

[FY 2019 Performance Evaluation Report Summary, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC](#)

[FY 2019 Strategic Performance Evaluation and Measurement Plan, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC](#)