



March 31, 2020

Freedom of Information Office
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, SC 29802

Request for List of "Mission Critical" Operations and Activities at SRS, In Response to COVID-19; National Emergency Necessitates Rapid Response to this FOIA Request

To Whom it Concerns:

This is a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act, as amended. Per applicable law and Department of Energy regulations, I anticipate a response to this request within 20 days. If the requested documents are not provided within 20 days please provide the reason why and give a date by which they will be provided to me.

This request is being filed on behalf of Savannah River Site Watch (SRS Watch), a corporation duly registered with the State of South Carolina and a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In addition to many FOIA requests filed on behalf of SRS Watch, I have filed many FOIA requests with DOE on behalf of other non-profit organizations, including Friends of the Earth, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, Greenpeace and the Nuclear Control Institute.

I request that any fees that may be associated with this request be waived. The information obtained in response to this request will be used solely for non-profit purposes in South Carolina and the United States. The information will contribute to the public's understanding of the manner in which DOE conducts its business and will specifically be used to inform the public about how SRS is responding to the COVID-19 virus threat. The information obtained via this request will be provided to not only the public but also the media, the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (a duly embodied federal advisory panel) and elected officials. Over the years, I have demonstrated an ability to use information gathered via FOIA requests in a manner so as to educate the public about DOE and issues it is addressing. I request that the fee-waiver standard that has been applied to my requests in the past be applied to this request.



If any claim is made that any portion of any located documents are sensitive in nature or meet FOIA exclusions, I request that redacted copies of such documents be provided to me and that a full explanation be provided as to the reasons for any redactions. I request that documents be provided to me as they become available to DOE staff and that the documents not be withheld until all pertinent documents are obtained.

This request applies to DOE and any contractors working for DOE, including Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). This request applies to the DOE's Savannah River Operations Office and DOE's Office of Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration office at the Savannah River Site.

Given the national emergency that we are now operating under, the information requested via this FOIA request must be promptly provided and made public. Lack of response can be construed as withholding vital information from the public, information which may well contribute to public health and safety. It is clear that if pro-active leadership were shown at SRS the information here-in requested would be made public without the need for this FOIA request.

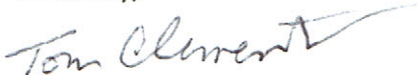
Please see attached news release from the Savannah River Operations Office, dated March 23, 2020, and addressing the decision to transition to "minimum mission-critical activities." On April 1, 2020, SRS stated in a news release that "SRS has transitioned to Limited Operations/Situational Essential personnel for our EM missions."

I hereby request:

1. List of all "mini mum mission-critical activities," jobs and projects at SRS, both of EM and NNSA, as determined under COVID-19 response protocol in March 2020;
2. List of "Limited Operations/Situational Essential personnel for our EM missions;"
3. List of all activities, jobs and projects at SRS, both EM and NNSA, determined not to be critical under the COVID-19 response protocol;
4. All plans, directives and guidelines to implement SRS mission-critical activities and "limited operations" COVID-19 response by EM and NNSA.

Please get in touch if you have questions about this request. Given the urgency of the matter at hand, I thank you for your timely response.

Sincerely,



Tom Clements
Director, SRS Watch

-----Original Message-----

From: amy.boyette@srs.gov <amy.boyette@srs.gov>

Sent: Mon, Mar 23, 2020 4:25 pm

Subject: DOE-SR Update: COVID-19

**SAVANNAH RIVER OPERATIONS OFFICE
AIKEN, SC 29802**

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The safety and health of the SRS workforce --- federal and contractor employees --- is the top priority of SRS leadership. This morning, SRS leadership was notified of its first positive COVID-19 test. As a result and in prudent response to the current situation regarding COVID-19 in the Central Savannah River Area, the Savannah River Site will be transitioning over the next few days to focus on minimum mission-critical activities, to include the maximum use of teleworking. SRS is choosing to take this action out of an abundance of caution.

During this period, activities that support our missions will be limited to those necessary to ensure the safety of the public, our workers, the environment, and critical national security missions. In conjunction with our colleagues across the Department of Energy complex, SRS continues to closely monitor developments associated with the coronavirus. SRS will continue to provide updates as circumstances develop.

The transition to minimum mission-critical activities is being specifically tailored to each facility at SRS and must be conducted in an efficient and safe manner. Affected contractor employees will receive additional guidance from their employers.

Employees are reminded to call 5-SITE or go to the [SRS.GOV](https://www.srs.gov) website and click on the SRS Status & Emergency Information button for updates.