

# SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 28 February 2006

## SRSRA Annual Meeting April 17!!!

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### VICE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Our Chairman, Dave Cowfer, is now working full time on a higher priority assignment - assisting his wife in her recovery and getting her back home. His wife, Doris, took a tragic fall in January and broke her neck. She had surgery to repair the break at the University of Florida hospital, one of the premier orthopedic hospitals in the country. The surgery was successful; and she now has feeling throughout her body and is gradually regaining use of her arms and legs. She is in a rehabilitation hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. It is likely that she will remain in Jacksonville for at least another month. We all wish Doris a full recovery. Please keep Doris and Dave in your thoughts and prayers. Dave and Doris asked that we thank all those who have sent cards and letters. These have been a source of encouragement during this difficult time.

This has been a busy period for the SRSRA Board members. Our primary focus is to preserve our pension benefits under the new contract at SRS. DOE is currently preparing the request for proposals (RFP) and is expected to issue a draft in the near future. Based on the Acquisition Contracting Strategy issued in December, DOE plans to issue two separate contracts - a Management and Operations (M&O) contract and a Liquid Waste and Associated Support contract. To no avail, the SRSRA and the local press had strongly supported the position that a single contractor for SRS would be more efficient, would add stability, could help control total cost for projects, and avoid potential safety problems. The Acquisition Strategy Summary did not explicitly address pension benefits but did refer to undefined "policies as concluded by the Department" to be used to potentially modify medical benefits. This is of concern especially in light of the large decrease in the Washington Savannah River Site Budget for FY-07. See details of the FY-07 budget later in this newsletter.

One bright spot for retirees is the recent DOE/LANL contract re-bid. During the hearings last year to confirm Mr. Bodman as Secretary of the Department of Energy, Senator Domenici of New Mexico got Mr. Bodman to pledge to keep pensions and health benefits essentially the same for LANL retirees and active employees. We are using the LANL model in working to get a similar assurance for our retirees in the new SRS contract. We have been able to get key members of our congressional delegations to support this approach. See letters at the end of this newsletter.

Members of the Board have also met with Washington Group International, Washington Savannah River Company, Fluor Daniel-DuPont (before DuPont withdrew), and Parsons, who are all potential bidders for the SRS contracts. We discussed our concerns about preserving our pension benefits and how these organizations would treat pensions and medical benefits in their proposals. Details on these meetings are discussed in this newsletter.

The letters and the meetings are the result of hard work by a number of Board members. I would like to offer special thanks from the whole SRS Retiree Association to Dave Cowfer, Mike French, Mayor Fred Cavanaugh, Bill Quinn, Bob Stokes, Sid Curry and Randy Clarke.

In 2005, SRS retirees continued to support the United Way as part of the WSRC campaign. Last year was a new record for contributions – a total of \$10,334 up from \$7,700 in 2004. We have been challenged by WSRC to break our record again in 2006.

In 2005 we grew to 928 active SRSRA members and we are continuing our push to reach our goal of 1000 members in 2006. It is imperative that we continue to grow to show our congressional delegation that we are a strong and active organization. This gives us a louder voice when we request their support. I encourage all present members to continue their membership in the SRSRA and to get their former coworkers, who are not now members, to join. The annual dues of \$15 is a small amount to pay for helping to keep our benefits intact.

I would also like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend our Annual Meeting on Monday April 17. We plan to provide you with the latest information on the SRS contract re-bid. Your presence will also signal to members of the congressional delegation and their staff, who are expected to attend the meeting, that we are a large and active organization.

Nick Kuehn, Vice Chairman  
Savannah River Site Retiree Association

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## **MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE OPTION**

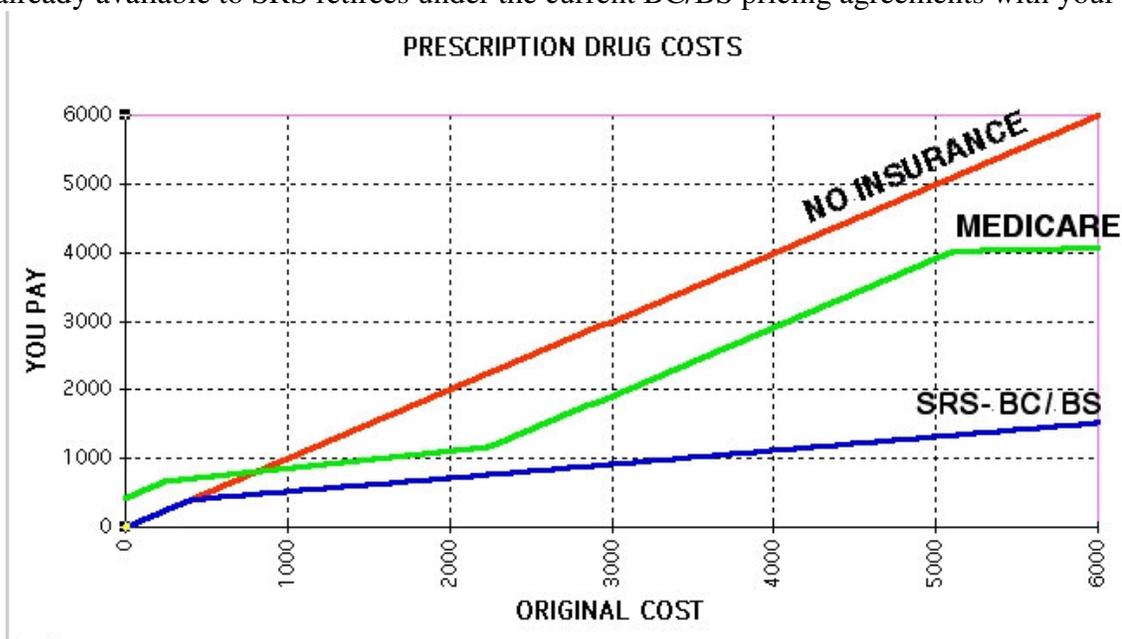
**SRSRA RECOMMENDS KEEPING YOUR CURRENT WSRC/BSRI PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE. DO NOT ELECT THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN D PROGRAM.**

Prior to signing anything, SRS retirees are advised to very carefully compare their current WSRC prescription drug benefit with those being offered by vendors under the new Medicare Part D program. There will be no need to rush a decision within the Medicare signup window. As was stated in your WSRC 2006 Health Choice enrollment booklet, the WSRC drug benefit is at least as good as Medicare Part D. The WSRC Team plan meets the Medicare standard for “credible coverage”. This is important for two reasons: (1) For almost every possible prescription cost scenario, it is less expensive to stay with the WSRC prescription drug program; (2)

Even if WSRC revises its prescription drug plan in the future and it can no longer claim **“equal to or better than”** Plan D, you can sign up for Medicare Part D with no financial penalty as long as you act within 63 days of that WSRC change.

As part of the Health Choice booklet for 2006 enrollment, WSRC Benefits personnel mailed all retirees information they need concerning prescription drug benefits provided under the current WSRC/BSRI Health Benefit and how those benefits compare to the new Medicare Part D. Pay close attention to pages 11 and 12 of that booklet and particularly the note at the bottom of page 12. **More recently, WSRC has mailed out a letter to its retirees on Medicare that lists specific prescription drug Questions and Answers that may help you decide the proper choice for you. Review that document carefully also!**

This graph does not reflect the current prescription drug CARD being sponsored by Medicare through many companies. But, those card programs do not provide any better cost reduction for prescription drugs than is already available to SRS retirees under the current BC/BS pricing agreements with your drug providers.



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## **FY-06/07 PENSION SHORTFALL**

WSRC made a \$166 Million contribution to the Site Pension Plan in early Fiscal Year (FY) 2006. WSRC plans to make a contribution of approximately the same amount in early FY 2007 (in the October to December 2006 time frame). By making these contributions early in the Fiscal Year, it allows more time during the year on which to earn a return on the investment. WSRC believes that, comparable contributions for a couple of years combined with the projected investment earnings, will result in the Pension Plan being on a very solid financial basis.

The WSRC Plan has always been very conservatively managed. The fund has had an investment target strategy of investing 55% of Plan funds in equities and 45% in fixed income instruments. The Pension Committee does have the flexibility to vary these percentages by up to +/- 5% of the targets. Pension Plan investments have also

been restricted to US investments. This WSRC policy is in contrast to many other plans which permit investing of up to 100% in equities and no restrictions on where or what type of equities in which they may invest. The WSRC Plan has only had two years in which its investments did not have an overall positive investment return. However, the additional demand placed on the Plan due primarily to the historic low interest rates used in the Plan actuarial valuation and additional funding charges required due to the 2000-2002 market downturn in investment earnings, resulted in the Plan experiencing a need for additional contributions the past few years.

WSRC forecasts that the projected additional funding, when combined with a slightly more aggressive investment strategy, will result in overcoming any potential shortfall in the Fund. The SRSRA will continue to monitor the funding of the Site Pension Plan.

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### **SRSRA 2006 ANNUAL MEETING**

**The 2006 SRSRA Annual meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 17, at the Playhouse on Newberry Street in Aiken. The event will begin with check-in registration and socializing at 12:00. The meeting will start at 1:00 P.M. sharp so allow some time to register and visit with friends. Mark your calendar to keep the date available.**

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### **SRS RE-BID FOR SITE CONTRACTS**

In mid December, DOE/HQ issued its SRS Recompensation Acquisition Contracting Strategy Document. The Department has determined that the appropriate strategy is to replace the existing contract with Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC), formerly Westinghouse SRC, and award two separate major contracts. The first solicitation will be for all site work, except liquid waste and some associated activities, and will be labeled as the Site Management and Operating Contract. It is projected that the annual operating budget for the new M&O contract will be about \$800M and should employ 6,000 people. This contract will also be responsible for “managing benefits”. The other contract will be entitled Liquid Waste & Associated Operations including DWPF. The Liquid Waste contract is being estimated to have an annual budget of around \$500M and is expected to employ 4,000 people. This contract will be bid after the M&O contract, and DOE has already stated that WSRC will be given an extension to continue this operation until the new contract is awarded. The latter contract is scheduled to be in place by December 2007. The Site Management Contract is estimated to be in place by the end of 2006, although indications are that it will not be until a later date. It should also be noted that the draft RFP for this procurement has not yet been issued for comment, so it would be very difficult to meet this schedule. It is somewhat disturbing that DOE has not addressed retiree pension and medical benefits in the Acquisition Strategy, but hopefully it will be addressed in the draft RFP.

As you may be aware, SRSRA and the local Press are strongly opposed to a Multi-Contractor approach because of major potential problems that could occur. Such problems include numerous interfacing and operations problems that could delay schedules and cause budget overruns. In addition, it would dilute current accountability resulting in items “falling through the cracks”, potentially resulting in a variety of safety issues.

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## **CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SRS RETIREE BENEFITS**

We worked closely with Sen. Graham's staff to develop language for a letter to be sent to DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman requesting that our pension and medical benefits be maintained at current levels in the upcoming rebid for the SRS contract. We also recommended that other key members of the Georgia and S. Carolina delegations cosign the letter. Attached is the January 19, 2006, letter sent to Sec. Bodman. It is cosigned by 6 members from the 2 delegations. Sen. Isakson (GA) was unable to sign the letter at that time, so he issued his own letter, which is also included at the end of this newsletter. We feel that the two letters sent to Secretary Bodman on our behalf are a major accomplishment for SRSRA. In addition, we understand that, in the near future, a meeting will be held on this issue by the signees of the letters and Secretary Bodman.

We also worked with staffers of Governor Sanford of South Carolina and Governor Perdue of Georgia to develop and issue similar letters to Secretary Bodman. Governor Sanford's letter is attached as well.

**To SRSRA members living in States other than SC and GA, please contact local staffers of members of your congressional delegation and request that they develop a similar letter to send to Secretary Bodman.**

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## **PROSPECTIVE SRS CONTRACTORS**

Three prime organizations that are likely to be bidders for the new contract(s) had requested that SRSRA meet with them so that they could hear about our concerns and, in turn, inform us about their capabilities and interests. We have already met separately with WGI/WSRC senior staff and Parsons. We were scheduled to meet with Fluor Daniel/DuPont executives until DuPont decided to withdraw from the bidding. We spent almost 2 hours with Pres Rahe (WGI President) and WSRC Manager Bob Pedde and members of their staffs. The biggest news from that meeting was Bob Pedde's statement that WSRC has strongly defended the current retiree and employee pension and Medical benefits with DOE and believes they have been successful in this defense. He further indicated that the WSRC pension, based on Benefit/Value analysis, is right at market and medical is somewhat above market, but provides good service coverage at reasonable cost to WSRC/DOE. Bob Pedde was obviously quite proud of this.

We met with Charles Terhune, Senior Vice President and SWPF Project Manager for Parsons, together with his staff. We informed them of our concerns regarding our benefits under the new contract. Mr. Terhune was sympathetic to our concerns and indicated that it was his belief that DOE would not reduce our benefits in the new contract. They also gave us a presentation about Parson's overall expertise and then focused on their large contract at the Site, namely the Salt Waste Processing facility, which feeds material to DWPF. We believe that Parsons will probably only bid on the Liquid Waste contract. Note: The Parsons' SWPF project will cost taxpayers an additional \$1 billion ostensibly because DOE didn't move fast enough in implementing a PC-3 redesign. There will also be a 2-year delay before it comes on line.

Fluor Daniel still wants to meet with us in the near future. We believe that they will bid on the Site Management contract.

On February 10, a fourth company, Energy Solutions, announced that they will bid on the SRS contract in either a prime or sub role. The company didn't even exist a month ago, but after a string of pending purchases and mergers, it is a company with broad-based nuclear waste experience. The four companies being merged are Envirocare of Utah, Scientech D&D, Durateck Inc. (which owns the Chem-Nuclear radioactive materials burial ground), and BNG (formerly BNFL) which handles low level waste at SRS and is currently a member of the WSRC team. This adds additional "interest" to the bidding for the new SRS contract!

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## **WSRC and WGI EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

From time to time, we are asked by WSRC if there are retirees willing to work on a temporary basis. Such a question has been asked again and suggests that there may be employment opportunities at WSRS as well as other Washington Group International locations that require specific skills. These opportunities may be suitable for members of our SRSRA who have a desire to work. If you want to be considered for such employment, please send your resume to the SRSRA address at the top of this page and mark it to the attention of Charlie Sessions. There are no guarantees that such work will materialize, but we would like to be in position to connect you to such opportunities if you are interested. We have no detailed job descriptions as yet.

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## **PRELIMINARY FY-07 BUDGET INFORMATION FOR SRS**

The FY-07 Federal Budget was released on February 7 and the preliminary evaluation is **not good news for SRS**. The WSRC Environmental Management (EM) budget section alone is down by approximately \$94M to \$1.084 billion - an 8% cut - compared to the current FY-06 level of \$1.178 billion. The situation is even worse when we realize that this funding also has to cover the cost of our Pension Plan payment and inflation. We are informed that it is too early to tell how the Defense Programs will be broken down per site. WSRC and the members of the two congressional delegations have some hard work ahead of them to obtain additional funding and bring it close to this year's budget. Maybe SRSRA members can help!

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## **SRS ACTIVITIES**

Two devices developed by Savannah River National Laboratory researchers for collecting and analyzing airborne particles, including chemical agents and microorganisms, have recently been issued patents. Both the Aerosol-to-Liquid Particle Extraction System (ALPES) and the Aerosol Contaminant Extractor (ACE), which collect particles so they can be analyzed, could have wide application in homeland security and law enforcement. The ALPES uses a liquid to concentrate particles, and the ACE deposits the particles on a charged plate for off-line analysis. Both are highly efficient, portable devices that are able to collect most any aerosol, including chemical agents; radioactive particles; microorganisms (such as spores, bacteria, and fungi); residual substances from explosives; and byproducts of manufacturing processes (such as lead in a battery factory). An array of such units, deployed throughout a public or private facility, could be a vital part of an anti-terrorism alert system.

On February 6, 2006, Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman announced plans for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, a program to evaluate the potential for commercial nuclear fuel recycling in the United

States. Commercial nuclear fuel recycling in the US (i.e., Allied General Nuclear Services, Barnwell, SC) was halted by the Carter administration in the early to mid 1970's on the basis of preventing nuclear materials proliferation and possible resulting nuclear terrorism. Japan, France, Germany, and United Kingdom have reprocessed/recycled and/or used recycled commercial nuclear fuel for many years. Current laws prohibit DOE from recycling commercial nuclear fuel; however, the SRS F Canyon decommissioning has been placed on hold pending the determination of its potential use in any program for recycling of commercial nuclear fuel. Recycling used nuclear fuel back into fresh fuel for nuclear power plants (instead of burying it as waste) can help reduce long half-life nuclear waste and ease US dependency of foreign oil.

SRS continues in its role of supporting local education in the engineering and scientific fields of study. In honor of National Engineers Week, the Savannah River Site sponsored Technology Days 2006, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 14-15, at the National Science Center's Fort Discovery, Augusta, Ga. Technology Days is designed to interest middle school students in pursuing careers in science, technical or engineering fields. In another community program, the Future City Competition™ is being sponsored at the regional level by Washington Savannah River Company LLC, Bechtel Savannah River Incorporated, BNG America, CH2 Savannah River Company and BWXT Savannah River Company, in partnership with the University of South Carolina Aiken's Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. The event is sponsored nationally by the National Engineers Week organization. Students first create their cities on computers using *SimCity 3000* software, and then build three-dimensional scale models of the city, write the essay and an abstract.

Bechtel officials held a ceremony at the Savannah River Site in January to recognize the safety achievements of Construction workers. Recently, the site's "direct hire" construction department surpassed 17 million hours worked without losing any time due to a job-related injury or illness. The last lost-time injury occurred in June 1998.

As a member of the Washington Group International team, John Head, a resident of Aiken, S.C., and his four teammates, recently won a nationally telecast Intelligent Sport™ adventure race. They outsmarted and outraced 30 other teams from corporate America to win the inaugural US Challenge competition, held over Oct. 27-30 in Asheville, N.C. The event consisted of two days and one night of heart-stopping, grueling competition that tested the participants' endurance, skills and the ability to cooperatively solve problems. The race culminated with a bike sprint to the finish at the famous Biltmore House.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Our membership at the end of 2005 was 928! That is the highest membership the SRSRA has ever had, but help us do better in 2006! It is a critical year for retirees of SRS.** We have started a new year and we already have 837 members signed up for 2006. That number includes 128 new members. But, there are still 219 of last year's membership who have not yet renewed. They may have been waiting for the new year to start and will be rejoining soon. **We hope to reach our goal of 1,000 members this year.** We are well on our way to that goal so help us out by asking your SRS retiree friends and neighbors if they have joined yet.

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## **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

We still experience incorrect e-mail addresses and bounced communications to our membership. If you have an active e-mail address, or changed your address recently, and are not receiving SRSRA communications by e-mail please contact [membership@srsretirees.org](mailto:membership@srsretirees.org). Our e-mail program has allowed us to reach members more quickly; with quicker distribution of the Newsletter; and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies to nearly 600 people. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your Newsletter by e-mail.

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## **SRSRA WEB SITE**

**WHEN IN DOUBT, LOOK TO THE SRSRA WEB SITE!!** The SRSRA web site is intended to be a useful source of current information of special interest to all its members. Let us know if it is--or is not--meeting your needs!

The home page gives information about how to join the SRSRA; tells where the meetings of the Board of Directors take place; and invites any SRSRA member to attend those meetings. It also enables sending email to the BOD. In addition, the home page usually focuses on a topic of current interest to all members. For example, the current home page gives recent guidance (extracted from a previous SRSRA Newsletter) about the Medicare drug program. It also includes links to some government web sites that provide more information on that subject. The home page also provides access to the rest of the site.

We are continuing to revise, restructure and update the web site. If you have found useful links pertaining to any aspect of our focus on Retiree Benefits that are not already on our web site, please tell us so that we can add them to the site. Just send an email to: [webmaster@srsretirees.org](mailto:webmaster@srsretirees.org).

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## **BOARD MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION**

The SRSRA Board of Directors is meeting at 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the Hampton Inn on Whiskey Road/Route 19 South near the Aiken Mall. The meeting dates for 2006 are: March 7, April 11, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 12, October 3, November 7, and December 5. Association members may attend and participate but may not vote on Board issues. If you plan to attend, be sure to contact a BOD member to confirm the meeting date and time have not changed.

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Stan Smith, Treasurer

The following summarizes financial activity fiscal year to date:

Opening balance (July 1, 2005)	\$20,402
Income (July 1, 2005-February 20, 2006)	\$8,447
Expenses (July 1, 2005- February 20, 2006)	\$3,036
Balance (February 20, 2006)	\$25,813

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All income was derived from membership dues. Expenses since the last Newsletter were associated with general overhead (board meeting room, website, and membership enlistment) and Volume 27 Newsletter printing and mailing. The balance shown above includes a \$15,000 CD that matures in September 2006.

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## **ORA ITEMS of INTEREST**

**Junior Achievement Golf Lovers Card** - The ORA is selling the 2006 Junior Achievement Golf Lovers card. This year the card contains discounts at 20 courses in the area. The cost for these cards is \$25 through 2006.

**ORA's Off Site Web Page** is available from your home computer, go to: [www.srs-ora.com](http://www.srs-ora.com) .

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## **BC/BS AND MEDICARE COORDINATION ISSUES**

**Helpful Hints for Getting Your Health Care Expenses Reimbursed by Insurance:** In the complex world of getting reimbursement for your Health Care expenses, the following Helpful Hints will help you get the correct insurance reimbursements due you under the WSRC Health Benefit Plans.

1. In general, **Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS)** won't consider your claim for payment until they have the related **Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)**. Most providers will file Medicare for you. In case they don't or won't, it is up to you to file for Medicare payment, even if the amount to be paid by Medicare is zero or small, because **BC/BS won't consider your claim unless they have the MSN**.
2. If you have a provider who lives in your state of residence, the provider will in most cases file Medicare for you in the state of residence; and Medicare will send the Medicare MSN to BC/BS in your state of residence, thus enabling BC/BS to provide you with payments under the contract.
3. If the provider is outside your state of residence, the provider will in most cases file Medicare for you in the provider's state, not your state of residence; and in general, neither Medicare nor the provider will file the MSN with your state of residence BC/BS. It is therefore generally **up to you to forward the MSN to BC/BS in your state of residence in order to receive appropriate payment**.
4. **If a provider does not accept assignment under Medicare Part B for a Medicare covered procedure, then provider charges are capped by law at 15 % above Medicare Part B payments.**
5. For claims to BC/BS where there is a dispute whether services rendered are under medical or mental health coverage, BC/BS generally won't consider your claim for payment until they have the related **Medicare Summary Notice** and a **Statement of Denial** from Value Options (VO), the mental health coverage carrier. This Statement of Denial is a formal letter stating VO's refusal to pay.
6. In South Carolina, both WSRC BC/BS claims and Medicare claims are handled by separate organizations in South Carolina Blues (BC/BS). When you or your spouse become Medicare eligible, you should **alert BC/BS that you want to "piggy-back" the efforts of these two South Carolina Blues groups**. That will ensure that Medicare Summary Notices will be forwarded internally between them, and an evaluation of secondary coverage by your WSRC BC/BS will be automatic when your provider files South Carolina Medicare claims.

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## **BC/BS SERVICE CONCERNS**

We have many letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Most of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in SC). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to both:**

**John Church, Medical Benefits Committee**  
**SRS Retiree Association**  
**P.O. Box 5686**  
**Aiken, SC 29804**

and to: **Kaye Bozeman, Major Service Representative**  
**I-20 at Alpine Road AV-100**  
**Columbia, SC 29219**

or e-mail your information to: [KAYE.BOZEMAN@bcbssc.com](mailto:KAYE.BOZEMAN@bcbssc.com), or fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call toll-free at: 1-800-288-2227 x44452, or as a last resort, call her at 803-264-4452

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## **BENEFITS CONTACTS**

**People Support Service Center (a one-stop service for most HR and payroll activities and questions).**

- ◆ **803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)**
- ◆ **800-368-7333 (long distance)**
- ◆ [service-center@srs.gov](mailto:service-center@srs.gov) (e-mail contact for this new service)

### ◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Becky Proveaux PS Svc. Ctr. #  
Rosalee Bennett PS Svc. Ctr. #  
Greg Murray 803-725-0531  
Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004

### ◇ **Pension**

Pat Smith 803-725-7722  
Viola Best 803-725-1900

### ◇ **Internal Medicine Partners** 706-792-5075 (Annual Physical Examinations)

### ◇ **WSRC/BSRI Savings Plan** 800-360-2747 <http://resources.hewitt.com/wsrc>

### ◇ **Westinghouse Corp. Pension** 800-581-4222

### ◇ **Safety Eyeglass Office**

Tom Cuny 803-725-3379

### ◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** 800-325-6596

[www.southcarolinablues.com](http://www.southcarolinablues.com)

Option 1 for Medical

Option 2 for Dental

Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

### ◇ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227

### ◇ **Medicare Web Site**

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

### ◇ **Value Options** (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 800-333-6557

Carolina Medical Review (CMR) is the Quality Improvement Organization for South Carolina's Medicare program. They have a variety of useful data available either at their web site <http://www.MRNC.org> or by calling the national 24-hour customer service number **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. There is a QIO in every state, and that listing is at: <http://www.medqic.org/content/qio/qio.jsp?pageID=4> Members on the Internet can also visit <http://www.medicare.gov>. If members have a state-specific question, the customer service representative at that number should be able to refer members to the state-specific Medicare number. (**The one for South Carolina is 1-800-583-2236.**) This may be a useful starting contact to resolve Medicare issues if the regular Medicare office of your state is not providing satisfactory service. For further information, contact:

Andrea Fuller, Outreach Specialist  
Carolina Medical Review  
250 Berryhill Road, Suite 101  
Columbia, SC 29210  
Telephone: 800-922-3089 (Toll Free); local 803-731-8225; Fax: 803-731-8687  
e-mail: [afuller@SCOIO.sdps.org](mailto:afuller@SCOIO.sdps.org)

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Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

January 19, 2006

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
Secretary, Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

As the Department of Energy continues to draft a Request for Proposals for the upcoming Savannah River Site (SRS) rebid, we encourage you to treat the SRS retiree benefit package in a manner that is fair and consistent with the Department's previous practice at other sites such as the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

We are grateful for the role that employees at SRS have played in protecting our national security since the start of the Cold War. These individuals often risked their health by handling some of the deadliest materials on earth to protect our nation.

While cognizant of the budgetary constraints the Department operates under, we ask you to honor the commitments made to SRS retirees.

We look forward to working with you in the future to ensure the continued well being of the employees and retirees at SRS.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senate



Jim DeMint  
United States Senate



Saxby Chambliss  
United States Senate



J. Gresham Barrett  
House of Representatives



Charlie Norwood  
House of Representatives



Joe Wilson  
House of Representatives

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804

Phone: 803-641-1056; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

WEB PAGE: <http://srsretirees.org>

JOHNNY ISAKSON  
GEORGIA

U.S. SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3643

ONE OGDON PARK  
3825 CUMBERLAND BOULEVARD, SUITE 970  
ATLANTA, GA 30339  
(770) 981-0909

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 25, 2005

HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE  
SAFETY, CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

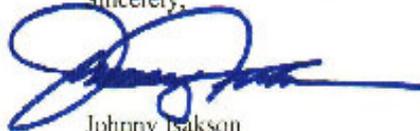
Dear Secretary Bodman:

As the Department of Energy continues to draft a Request for Proposals of the upcoming Savannah River Site (SRS) rebid, I encourage you to treat the SRS's retiree benefit package in a manner that is fair and consistent with the Department's previous practice at other sites such as the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

I am grateful for the role that employees at SRS have played in protecting our national security since the start of the Cold War. These individuals have often risked their health by handling some of the world's deadliest materials in an effort to protect our nation. While I am cognizant of the budgetary constraints the Department is operating under, I ask that you honor the commitments made to SRS retirees. I am sure you will agree that not honoring these commitments is unacceptable.

I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure the continued well being of the employees and retirees at SRS. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Michael Quiello on my staff at 202.224.3643.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



## State of South Carolina

### Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12287  
COLUMBIA 29211

February 10, 2006

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

As the Department of Energy continues to develop its Request for Proposals for management of operations at the Savannah River Site (SRS), I am writing to you regarding retiree benefits for employees of the site.

SRS and its employees have been a part of developing our Energy Cluster in the Aiken-North Augusta area. In addition, the employees of SRS have played an important role in our national security since the beginning of the Cold War. Given the material that has been handled at the site, these employees have often risked their health to fulfill that mission.

In the course of putting your RFP together, we urge you to treat the SRS retiree benefit package in a manner that is fair and consistent with the Department's previous practice at other sites such as the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

We understand the budgetary constraints under which the Department operates, but we believe it is important to maintain the commitments made to SRS retirees.

We look forward to working with you in the future to ensure the continued well being of the employees and retirees at SRS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/se