

Grants

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Energy Department Awards \$295,000 Grant to Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$295,000 to the Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative (SRRDI), to establish a positive economic development environment that includes job creation, job retention, and entrepreneurial development in high-tech and manufacturing businesses. SRRDI is the community reuse organization (CRO) for the department's Savannah River Site.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative and other community reuse organizations around the country, to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

Sixty-thousand dollars of the grant will be used for image development for the Central Savannah River Area, a major participant in fuel cell and hydrogen-related markets. Another \$60,000 of the grant will be used in a coordinated effort between SRRDI and the Tri-County Alliance, an economic development organization, to fund a Marketing and Strategic Recruitment Initiative in the Tri-County area. Finally, \$175,000 will be used to help fund general administrative purposes to continue other ongoing SRRDI initiatives.

A CRO is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

The Energy Department and the SRRDI have created or retained 6,997 new economy jobs, and estimate that 12,722 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

SRRDI was established in 1993 to mitigate the adverse effects of downsizing DOE's Savannah River Site on the five county area of Barnwell, Aiken, and Allendale counties in South Carolina, and Richmond and Columbia counties in Georgia.
