



CNTAware



Fall 2022

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Update from our Executive Director

CNTA had an excellent year! Although we are not completely through the pandemic, we were able to hold our major events and get back to a good amount of in-person education and advocacy. Here's hoping to an even better 2023!

Our finances remain strong with approximately a year's-worth of operating funds in reserve (an enviable position for a non-profit organization in case of possible "rainy days"). Unfortunately, our endowment has taken a bit of a hit (as have almost all investment funds) but with patience and prudence, the endowment fund will bounce back.

The financial success of the organization is only possible through the support of our members, company sponsors and your support of our fundraising events – thank you!

In 2022, CNTA awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships to high school and college students. We also awarded five \$500 Educator Grants to middle and high school teachers for innovative activities in their classrooms. We launched the 2023 essay and educator grant contests during Nuclear Science Week in October. Please pass on the news to your teacher and student friends – application information is available on our website.

We continued to support STEM education by participating in several STEM festivals and visits to classrooms. In October, Paul Ebel and I had the opportunity to visit chemistry classes at the SC Governors School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. This was a different audience than we have typically presented to, but we found the students to be engaged and inquisitive. I have a new appreciation for the intersection of the arts and sciences and honestly gained more from the experience than the students! A special thanks to all our education volunteers for supporting our outreach efforts.

We held eight "Up and Atoms" with outstanding attendance – thanks to our excellent speakers. We also conducted three "Tap into Nuclear" young professional mentoring events including a night at an Augusta Green Jackets game.

This fall, we held the Oyster Roast/Low Country Boil at the Palmetto Golf Club. The event, hosted by our Young Professionals Committee, raised funds to offset membership fees for young professionals to join CNTA and mentoring events and educational outreach. We also held the annual Teller Lecture where we honored our many award winners and were provided an insightful lecture from Dr. Katy Huff.

We published the Nuclear Science Week insert in the *Aiken Standard*. Thanks to our Communications Committee for their contributions and to Committee Chair, Lindsey MonBarren, for her leadership and editing skills.

During this season of thanks, we are thankful for all our CNTA members and friends who support the organization. I would like to personally thank outgoing Board Members Roger Burnett and Craig McMullin. Your support has been tremendous and will be missed.

Happy Holidays!

Jim

Education Committee Updates

STEM ACTIVITIES

CNTA volunteers were busy with many fall education outreach activities. A few of them include:

- SEED (Science Education Enrichment Day) at USC-Aiken
- SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, SC
- Leavelle McCampbell Middle School "EEE Committee"
- Aiken County Public School District's FIRE (Fueling Instructional Rigor for Educators) Teacher Conference- three sessions on Nuclear Blitz presentation and radiation fundamentals.
- Williston DIG Future City workshop with teams of students
- Riverside Middle School- Social Studies classes on radiation and Chernobyl
- Future City workshop on 'future energy'



The South Carolina Junior Academy of Science held their Fall 2022 workshop. This year, the event was held at Furman University. There were 150 students and teachers that participated in varying STEM activities. This is the largest number of participants in 10 years. Jon Guy and William Wabbersen participated and presented a Nuclear Science session to a mix of teachers and high school students. Many thanks to them for representing nuclear to these teachers!



Thank you Education Committee Volunteers!

The bulk of the education outreach CNTA does each year is provided by our volunteers. While not a comprehensive list, recent volunteers have included: Marissa Reigel (committee chair), Jon Wickliffe, Heather McWilliams, Valerie Nwadeyi, Carol Wood, Joshua Goldblatt, Kaitlyn Hodges, Spencer Scott, Paul Ebel, Quentin Price, Ken Stephens, Jim Tisarrani, Jim Oldani, Mark Davis, Phyllis Britt, Bob Hinds, George Larsen, John Mills, Lindsey MonBarren, Mel Buckner, Robert Wilson, Bryant Tanner, Sheila Peterson, Jackie Kane, Aherial Polite, Dave Fauth, Vahid Majidi, John Lindsay,



Essay Contest & Educator Grants Program for 2023

The 2023 High School Essay Contest and Educator Grants Programs were launched in October as part of Nuclear Science Week.

The essay contest is open to Juniors & Seniors in high school. Topics and application materials can be found at: <https://cntaware.org/high-school-essay-contest/>. The deadline for entries is February 28, 2023.

The educator grants program has been expanded to include any k-12 educator! Details and application material are at: <https://cntaware.org/educator-grants-program/>. The deadline for entries is January 31, 2023.

Communications Committee Updates

The Communications Committee was hard at work this year putting together another fantastic Nuclear Science Week Insert. This partnership with *The Aiken Standard* reaches over 30,000 households in Aiken and North Augusta and is also available for free online. It was published October 16th in *The Aiken Standard*, and October 19th in the *North Augusta Star*. Many thanks to our Communications committee members (including: Lindsey MonBarren, Dean Campbell, Chris Noah, Gary Bunker, and Colleen Hart) for their incredible work!

The 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019 inserts can be found at: <https://cntaware.org/nuclear-science-week/>. We also have paper copies in the CNTA office if you'd like to stop by and pick some up!



Advocacy & Public Outreach

In addition to the Nuclear Science Week Insert, the Communications Committee helped launch the 2023 Educator Grants Program & High School Essay Contest, wrote eight press releases, and had seven articles published in local news outlets. They organized a Nuclear Science Week themed social media campaign, and coordinated with the other committees to highlight CNTA's many fall activities.

CNTA also had the opportunity to present to the Aiken Newcomers Club in October. Over 70 women attended this luncheon and learned more about CNTA, our activities, nuclear in our community, and the basics of radiation in our world.

CNTA on Social Media

Over the last few years CNTA has become active on a variety of social media platforms. You can now find us on Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In, Instagram, and YouTube all at the handle @cntaware. This year, we've also added Venmo to our options for donating to CNTA or paying for events and membership renewals.

The expansion of CNTA's presence on social media is to ultimately inform members and average citizens on the benefits of nuclear technology and drive them to our website to learn more. All of this comes with analytics that the committee and staff track to see how many are seeing our message and ultimately how many people are using the website.

If you have an interest in social media, websites, or web analytics, CNTA could use your help! Contact the CNTA office for the many opportunities we have available.



Up & Atoms

September 29, 2022- "The Road to Completing the SRS Liquid Waste Mission"

- **Dr. David Olson**, President and Program Manager for Savannah River Mission Completion

October 20, 2022- "Apprenticeship- the Pipeline from the SC Technical School System to SRS."

- **Dr. Dorian Newton**: Program Manager, Apprenticeship & Pipeline Training for SRNS
- **Aherial Polite**: Department Chair of Chemistry, Physics, and Nuclear Technology. Nuclear Fundamentals and Radiation Protection Advisor for Aiken Technical College
- **BooBoo Roberts**: Deputy Program Manager, Apprenticeship and Pipeline Training (APT) for SRNS

December 6, 2022- "Capturing History: The Legacy of Savannah River Plant's Early Photographers"

- **Mary Beth Reed**, President of New South Associates and their historian in charge of the Cold War Historic Preservation Program. She has been working with the Savannah River Site's historic photography since 1997.

Copies of previous Up & Atom Speaker Presentations available at:

<https://cntaware.org/previous-up-atom-speakers/>



CNTA would like to thank our volunteers who help the Up & Atoms be possible. Frank Heckendorn, Lyddie Hansen, Joyce Hopperton, John Ekechukwu, Dave Fauth, and Jesus Mancilla have all assisted in these events this year. Thank you!

CNTA COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Detailed information on ALL of our committees available at: <https://cntaware.org/committees/>

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is responsible for ensuring accurate and timely information to the media, stakeholders, and the public and to reflect the goals and objectives of CNTA. They write all CNTA press releases and publish the Nuclear Science Week Insert in the Aiken Standard every year.

Education Committee

The goal of the Education Committee is to educate the public on the benefits, uses, and truths of nuclear technology. They oversee all education outreach activities and organize the Educator Grants Program and Essay Contest.

Young Professionals Committee

The purpose of the Young Professionals Committee is to recruit and engage young professional members by providing them with mentorship and professional development opportunities as well as raising money to make membership free for those under 40.

Golf Tournament Committee

The Golf Committee is responsible for reviewing previous tournaments and planning the next annual tournament. This planning includes raffles, marketing, and food and beverage. The Annual CNTA Charity Golf Tournament is the biggest fundraiser of the year. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event and dozens of day-of volunteers make this event possible.

Young Professionals Committee Update

Fall Young Professional Fundraising Event

The 4th Annual Oyster Roast & Low Country Boil hosted by the Young Professionals Committee on October 15th was a huge success. Attendees enjoyed the food, the atmosphere of Palmetto Golf Club, and the music by Keith Gregory. The event raised over \$9,000 to support the free young professionals membership to CNTA and the Tap Into Nuclear series.

Over 180 people attended the event, which would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors and volunteers. Thank you to all those who helped with this event, including: Sally Bartelmo, Sunny Somers, Alex Somers, Matt McCoy, John Ekechekwu, Holly & Brian Vermeulen, Joshua Goldblatt, Heather McWilliams, Taylor Demeter, McKenzie Woodward, Kenny Lee, Justin Cody, Quentin Price, Taylor Gomillion, Prince Nguyen, Aherial Polite, John & Allison Alexander, Bryant Tanner, Courtney Berge, Stephanie Jacobs, Joy Worrell, and Jennifer Horner.

Plans are already underway for 2023, so keep an eye out for next year's event!

Tap Into Nuclear

The Tap Into Nuclear Series closes out 2022 with a "Night of Giving Back" at the SRS Museum on December 15th. Attendees are welcome to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum while enjoying a drink on CNTA! Donations to area non-profits serving those in need will be collected.

Details are available at: <https://cntaware.org/event/tap-into-nuclear-12-2022/>

The committee will meet soon to begin organizing 2023's lineup of events. Be on the lookout for a launch in late January!

Thank you to our sponsors:

Platinum:



Gold:



Silver:



CNTA Recognizes ATC Nuclear Scholarship Recipient

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is proud to announce that the winner of the Aiken Technical College (ATC) Nuclear Scholarship recipient for 2022 is Brodee K. Stewart.

The recipient of this annual award, funded by CNTA, is a deserving second year student enrolled in a nuclear program at Aiken Technical College (ATC). The award was started in celebration of CNTA's 25th Anniversary in 2016. This scholarship is one of many CNTA provides to students and educators to support STEM education across the region.

Stewart, who is originally from Kahoka, Mo., is majoring in Radiation Protection Technologies at ATC and says he "couldn't be more excited" to start his career in the Nuclear Industry.

Stewart was one of many scholarship and award winners recognized at the 2022 Teller Lecture on November 1, 2022, at the Amentum Center for Performing Arts.

Information on this award can be found at:

<https://cntaware.org/aiken-technical-college-scholarship/>



31st Annual Teller Lecture



Over 200 attendees enjoyed the evening at our 31st Teller Lecture. The keynote speech by Dr. Kathryn Huff (DOE's Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy) at the Amentum Center for Performing Arts was dynamic and the post-event reception at Newbery Hall was well received.

Congratulations to the many award winners who were recognized!

With the support of our members and sponsors, this event raised over \$10,000 to support CNTA's mission to be the voice of truth on nuclear matters.



Many thanks to our sponsors:

PLATINUM- Amentum, Battelle Savannah River Alliance, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

GOLD- Applied Research Center, Centerra-SRS, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Merrick & Company, Southern Nuclear- Plant Vogtle

SILVER- Longenecker & Associates, Model Performance Group

CORPORATE & NON-PROFIT- Aiken Technical College, Nuclear Energy Institute, Nuclear Workforce Initiative, Savannah River Mission Completion, SRS Community Reuse Organization, University of South Carolina Aiken.

Interactive Isotopes App launches on ANS website

ANS News

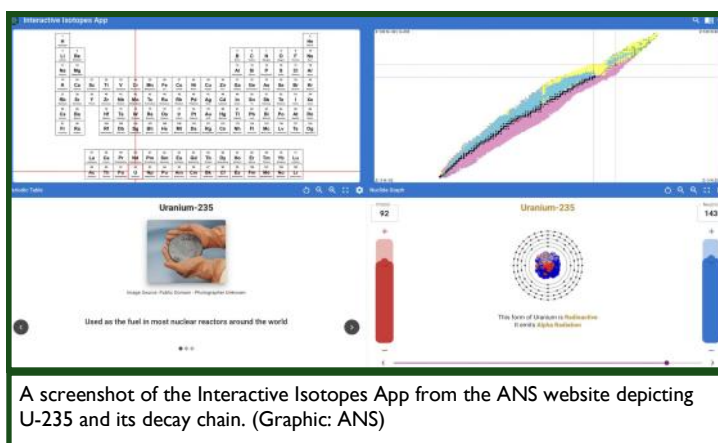
In the summer of 2019, three students from the University of South Carolina–Aiken (USCA) had an idea to digitize the isotope. Wei Zheng, Drake Jones, and Joseph Taylor set out to design an app that would be an interactive one-stop shop for information about any isotope—number of protons and neutrons, whether it is stable or radioactive, its natural abundance on earth, and even its uses. From these ideas, the [Interactive Isotopes App](#) began to take shape.

The app's launch was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic; although it was complete after three years of work and development, the creators sat on it. On October 12, the app at long last went live on the ANS website.

"The process gave us a lot of development experience, despite all the obstacles we had to overcome," said Taylor. "We started the project right before the pandemic, and some of us were still trying to get through classes while working on the project."

The student team worked under Bill Wabbersen, at the time a nuclear engineer at the National Nuclear Security Administration. (Wabbersen retired in September.) "Bill had a goal to create an application that would reach as many users as possible while teaching them about isotopes," said Taylor. "Together with Bill, we were able to achieve that goal." Isotopes are two or more forms of the same element. They contain the same number of protons and so have the same atomic number and position on the periodic table, but they have different numbers of neutrons.

App features: The app features an interactive periodic table. Clicking on an element pulls up specific information in a window that opens, including images (or in some instances, photos of the person who made the discovery) and facts about the uses for their different isotopes. In the absence of known uses, readers are treated to a quip and a bit of history about the element. A nuclide graph that displays all the isotopes of the chemical element is also shown on the main screen for the element selected. In exploring the graph, users can see every known isotope and its position relative to the "line of stability," where isotopes have the most balanced ratios of protons to neutrons. Radioactive isotopes emit radiation as they rearrange their nucleus in order to become more stable, getting closer to the line of stability over time.



When an element is selected, two vertical bars appear in a window that allow a user to change the number of protons and neutrons. Adding or subtracting neutrons moves only the nuclide graph, since the atomic number remains the same. Adding or subtracting protons also shifts both the nuclide graph and the position on the periodic table. If the isotope selected is radioactive, the decay chain is visible in the nuclide graph. U-235, for example, is the highly radioactive fissile isotope used in nuclear reactors. Over hundreds of millions of years, the U-235 found on earth eventually decays into a stable isotope. Using the dials on the app to enter 92 protons and 143 neutrons will reveal the decay chain for U-235.

In use: The nuclide graph is fully interactive as well. Just like with the periodic table, a user can zoom in and double click to retrieve information or use the sliding bars on the chart at the bottom of the screen.

Zheng, Jones, and Taylor are celebrating the launch of the app as a huge success: "The best way to learn is by doing it, turning the idea into a reality," said Zheng, now a senior software engineer at Catalyst Consulting Group. "The knowledge gained during the development process is invaluable, and the sense of achievement as we complete the final piece is immeasurable."

The Interactive Isotopes App started as a project for Android, but when the pandemic slowed development, the team came together and reevaluated the project, ultimately deciding to transition it into an Internet application to reach a wider audience. For functionality, the app can be used either online or offline and is available for desktops and mobile devices. Wabbersen, his colleagues, and volunteers were able to fill in much of the additional isotope data required for the app. The Interactive Isotopes App is available here: <https://isotopes.ans.org/>.

2022 CNTA Nuclear Service Award Winner Announced



Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2022 Nuclear Service Award is Donald (Don) Zecha. This prestigious award was formally announced on Nov. 1, 2022, at the 31st Annual Teller Lecture held in Aiken, S.C.

Don Zecha's contributions to the Savannah River Site (SRS) span nearly 40 years, and during that time, he became and continues to be a champion of nuclear technology. Through his work at SRS and interactions with the public, members of the Nuclear Security Enterprise, and the next generation of engineers he mentors, Zecha's passion for nuclear technology is apparent to all.

Zecha started his career at SRS working in waste management. With direct technical responsibility for the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste, low-level radioactive waste, mixed waste and sanitary waste, he served as an ambassador to regulators, government

officials and the public.

"Don's combination of nuclear expertise and Southern hospitality allowed him to navigate what would be treacherous paths for most individuals, interacting with media, governors, state and federal regulators, and the U.S. Congress," said SRTE Reservoir Programs Engineering Manager Todd Woodsmall. "He ensured stakeholders were informed with accurate information so that sound decisions could be made while working to maintain the public's confidence with the assurance that the Site was safely operated."

In 2000, Zecha took his expertise to the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE). He assumed direct technical and programmatic responsibility for the process development and fielding of new Gas Transfer Systems (GTSs), utilizing advanced weapons technology, to ensure the performance of nuclear weapons. SRTE is the sole provider of GTSs for the Nation's weapons stockpile. "With such an enormous responsibility on his shoulders, the significance of Don's contributions to SRTE, and to the nation's nuclear stockpile, cannot be overstated," said Woodsmall.

Zecha's current role in SRTE consists of continued responsibility for GTSs. His latest contributions include serving as Project Manager and as the SRS representative on the team responsible for the newest weapon modification to enter the U.S. stockpile, the B61-12. Zecha ensured all SRS requirements were successfully met, frequently delivering milestone achievements ahead of schedule and under budget.

"In his role, Don manages his weapons system duties with excellence, yet he still makes time to assist junior engineers and operators within the Tritium facilities," explained Woodsmall. "He goes to great lengths to ensure they, and visitors touring facilities, understand how the work executed in Tritium facilities advances fields of nuclear technology and protects the Nation. This often means that he goes above and beyond to develop products, presentations, and simulations that will guide others in their understanding of these unique weapons systems."

"Don has made a career out of setting a professional example for others to follow, whether it be as a nuclear weapons program engineer, a mentor for engineers new to the Nuclear Security Enterprise, a Tritium facility tour guide, an instructor for hundreds of people in a variety of organizations, or a business, schedule and budget manager," Woodsmall continued. "His expertise has been, and continues to be, a great service to SRS, the Central Savannah River Area, and the Nation."

The Nuclear Service Award is presented annually to recognize accomplishments in applying nuclear technology, advancing education in nuclear technology, increasing public awareness of the benefits of nuclear technology, and in promoting and defending the safe and effective use of nuclear technology.

Information on this award, and a list of previous winners can be found at:

<https://cntaware.org/nuclear-service-award/>

2022 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2022 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award is Dr. M. John Plodinec. This prestigious award was announced on November 1, 2022, at the 31st Annual Teller Lecture and Banquet held in Aiken, SC.

Dr. Plodinec is an internationally recognized expert in nuclear waste characterization and disposition. He influenced every aspect of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) from waste characterization, canister closure proof testing, and the facility's \$40 million product qualification program. He prepared the technical case used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to declare vitrification the Best Demonstrated Available Technology for High Level Waste (HLW) and authored the Waste Acceptance Product Specifications governing all HLW glass products in the United States. He regularly consults with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.



Dr. Plodinec received his B.A. in Chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College in 1968 and his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Florida in 1974. At the Savannah River Site, he held various positions from 1974 to 1997 including Manager and Senior Advisory Scientist in charge of the Glass Technology Group. From 1997 to 2005 he was the Director of Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory at Mississippi State University. From 2005 to 2010 he was a Science Advisor at the Savannah River National Laboratory. Most recently, he served as the Vice Chair for the National Academies of Science and Engineering committee supporting the DOE Environmental Management waste cleanup program and as a Technical Director for the Alliance for National and Community Resilience.

Dr. Plodinec's work is internationally recognized. He organized a team under the US-Argentina Technical Exchange agreement to demonstrate the destruction of reactor ion exchange resins via vitrification; assisted the Indian glass and foundry industry to convert from coal to natural gas to protect the Taj Mahal; and prepared recommendations to the Estonian government for the clean up of contamination at the notorious Sillamae site.

Dr. Plodinec is the author of *Assessment of Science and Technology for the Department of Energy's Defense Environmental Cleanup Program* from the National Academies Press, wrote book chapters in two other volumes, and published more than 250 scholarly articles and government research reports. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Clusters from the U.S. Army, a Fellow in the American Ceramic Society, and the winner of a NATO Fellowship.

"Thanks to John's tireless efforts and others in the central engineering group, we loaded the first glass-filled canister into the glass waste storage building ahead of schedule and under budget," said former DWPF Project Manager David Amerine. "I found his keen insights, affable manner, and quick wit a pleasure as well as a benefit. John is a national treasure."

"In addition to John's many scientific and programmatic contributions, he was also an excellent mentor. In particular, he was an early, and avid, advocate for women in technical positions," said Savannah River National Laboratory Contracts Manager Amy Ramsey. "Many professional women at SRNL, active and retired, benefited from his recognition and support."

The Distinguished Scientist Award is presented annually to recognize regional scientists and engineers who have made exceptional lifetime scientific achievements. The award is in honor of Dr. Fred C. Davison who was Chairman of CNTA's Board of Directors from 1994 until his death in 2004.

Davison was President of the University of Georgia for 19 years where he encouraged math and science education and managed the doubling of graduate enrollment. Davison was also President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Science Center Foundation, President of the Georgia-Carolina Boy Scouts Council, an elder at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, and an active Rotarian.

Information on this award, and a list of previous winners can be found at:

<https://cntaware.org/distinguished-scientist-award/>

SRNS Signs Project Labor Agreement in Support of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility's Workforce Needs

Submitted by SRNS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) entered into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council, which is comprised of 19 local unions, during a signing event held at the International Union of Electrical Workers Hall. The agreement is in support of the construction of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF).

Signing the PLA on behalf of the local unions was Will Salters, President of the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council. Salters served as the council's lead representative during the negotiation process with SRNS and is particularly eager to get started with the construction work at Savannah River Site (SRS). "This project agreement guarantees SRNS access to more than 2,500 skilled trades and craft employees. Any time our local union members can find work here in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), their families and communities benefit as well," said Salters.



SRNS Executive Vice President – NNSA Capital Projects James Toler and Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council President Will Salters sign the Project Labor Agreement.

Signing the PLA on behalf of SRNS was James Toler, SRNS Executive Vice President, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Capital Projects. Toler is also looking forward to the partnership between the unions and SRNS. "The PLA signing today represents the accomplishment of a key construction milestone for the SRPPF project and demonstrates SRNS' commitment to move forward in a spirit of collaboration and alignment with the local unions to deliver this exceptional project. I look forward to establishing long term, mutually beneficial relationships as we progress into the construction phase of the SRPPF project," said Toler.

The SRPPF project is ramping up and preparing to begin construction before the end of this year, making today's announcement even more exciting. With approximately 2,500 construction and trade union jobs to fill, this agreement is particularly important for the project. Once the construction of the facility is completed, the enduring plutonium pit production mission will continue to employ approximately 1,800 people.

The plutonium pit production mission is an essential part of the NNSA's long term strategy for nuclear stockpile sustainment. NNSA is responsible for maintaining and ensuring the safety, security, and effectiveness of the national nuclear stockpile. Plutonium pits play a key role in the nuclear stockpile sustainment plan as every nuclear weapon contains a plutonium pit.

Under federal law and to meet national security requirements, NNSA must be able to produce no fewer than 80 pits per year to maintain and replenish the nuclear stockpile. Responsibilities for manufacturing 80 pits per year will be shared between two sites: Los Alamos National Laboratory, which must produce 30 pits per year; and SRS, which will be responsible for producing the remaining 50.

Jason Armstrong, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager, attended the event to show NNSA's support for the PLA signing. Armstrong stated, "Today is a great day for everyone here and for our nation's strategic deterrence capability, which depends on this pit production mission moving forward. Today's event serves to put us all one step closer to the finish line and being able to manufacture 50 plutonium pits a year at SRS."

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor Corporation-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site located near Aiken, South Carolina.



X-energy Selects Constructors for Design and Deployment of Xe-100 Advanced Reactor Fleet in US

Submitted by Burns & McDonnell

X-energy today announced a significant step toward the creation of a unique energy delivery model with the selection of Zachry Group and the combined team of Burns & McDonnell and Day & Zimmermann as constructors to collaborate and work with the company on the next phases of design and deployment of its Xe-100 advanced reactor fleet. To deliver on the anticipated demand for its advanced reactor technology, X-energy selected two world-class constructors able to deliver an optimized construction schedule, standardized advanced work packages, and the latest construction techniques and digital technology. The selection culminates a detailed, year-long process with a host of qualified construction firms having global and scalable experience.

“Selecting and partnering with our constructors this early in the development process is a paradigm shift for the entire nuclear energy industry,” said Clay Sell, CEO of X-energy. “We will collaborate and work side-by-side with these firms to ensure the successful design and delivery of the first and subsequent Xe-100 deployments. This is one of the ways X-energy is leading the new age of nuclear energy, enabling us to deploy safely, with a more cost-effective delivery model for the benefit of our customers.”

X-energy’s Xe-100 is a next generation high-temperature gas reactor built on decades of research, development, and operating experience. Each reactor is engineered to operate as a single 80 MW electric unit and is optimized as a four-unit plant delivering 320 MW electric. The reactor can provide clean, reliable and safe baseload power to an electricity system or support industrial applications with 200 MW thermal output per unit. In 2020, X-energy was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program to deliver a four-unit Xe-100 plant in Washington state, which will make it the first operational grid-scale advanced reactor plant in North America.

Previous new nuclear projects have utilized standard methods of contracting for construction services, with owners often engaging constructors after or in the late stages of project development. Under the X-energy Project Delivery Model (X-PDM), constructors and suppliers work alongside X-energy in all phases of design, equipment supply, fabrication, and construction to develop detailed project costs, project schedules, advanced work plans and four-dimensional modeling prior to the start of safety-related construction. This collaborative approach aims to greatly reduce risk and uncertainty as early as possible.

X-energy selected the two constructors because of their demonstrated commitment to the X-PDM, their use of advanced construction technology, their deep experience in delivering large, complex projects, and willingness to work together and combine their expertise with X-energy to create a fleet of Xe-100 advanced reactors.

“Burns & McDonnell is excited to continue this incredible journey with great companies like Zachry and Day & Zimmermann. Advanced nuclear must be part of our future energy solutions as we decarbonize as a society. The cost of nuclear needs to be competitive in the market and predictable. Bringing advanced construction planning into the development process is the right approach to accomplish the safety, price, schedule and quality needed for this technology,” said Ray Kowalik, Burns & McDonnell CEO.

“In our company’s 120-year history, we have been part of some innovative, groundbreaking projects, but this is one of the most exciting. We believe the integrated, collaborative approach that X-energy has selected is the best model for success and we look forward to working with them and the union Building Trades to safely construct this revolutionary new technology. Day & Zimmermann has long maintained a key role in the U.S. nuclear industry, and we are proud to be part of the team that will deliver the next generation of nuclear technology that will provide reliable carbon-free energy, while contributing to U.S. Energy independence,” said Hal Yoh, Day & Zimmermann Chairman and CEO.

“Zachry Group is excited to build on our relationship with the X-energy team. Supporting the design, development and construction of the Xe-100 fleet is a critical step in decarbonization efforts. We look forward to collaborating and bringing our technology, analysis, engineering and construction capabilities to these next generation, world-class facilities,” said John B. Zachry, Zachry Group Chairman & CEO.

Find out more at: <https://x-energy.com/media/news-releases/x-energy-selects-constructors-for-design-and-deployment-of-xe-100-advanced-reactor-fleet-in-us>

Savannah River Mission Completion Cuts Ribbon on New Aiken Office

Submitted by SRMC

Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), the liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site, cut the ribbon on its new office facility at 1070 Silver Bluff Road in Aiken. The facility gives SRMC an Aiken presence, housing employees from the company's operations, including Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Training, and Engineering groups. The facility will also be used to hold training sessions. Holding the ribbon for the event, from left, are SRMC Chief Administrative Officer Mark Barth, SRMC President and Program Manager Dave Olson, Aiken Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David Jameson, U.S. Representative Joe Wilson, and Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker.

SRMC comprises parent company BWX Technologies, Inc. with partners Amentum and Fluor. Its team brings the capabilities necessary to accelerate cleanup at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site through safe nuclear operations, optimized and integrated mission execution, and strong corporate governance.



Centerra-SRS Demonstrates Continued Environmental Program Compliance

Submitted by Centerra-SRS

Centerra-SRS, the security contractor at the Savannah River Site, was recently audited for continued compliance with Environmental Management System Program legal and regulatory requirements.

"ISO 14001 describes the international standard for an effective Environmental Management System, and provides the framework that an organization should follow," said Karrah Phinizy, Centerra's Environmental Protection Specialist. "At Centerra, it includes a family of standards related to environmental management that we follow to demonstrate that our policies, processes and organizational activities are all aligned to reduce operational impacts on the environment."

Centerra has a defined Environmental Management System that describes the Company's commitments to protecting the environment and complying with applicable legal and other requirements related to environmental aspects. It ensures that protection of the environment is firmly embedded in both the Company's and all employees' culture, and even extends to procurement activities.

"We attempt to manage our procurement in a way that coincides with our goals of preventing pollution, reducing waste, and minimizing consumption of resources," added Karrah. "This is a continuous process and we are always seeking to improve our environmental performance."

Centerra has been the SRS security contractor for almost four decades and has a long tradition of using internal and external audits to ensure continued compliance with regulatory requirements and identify ways to further enhance an already robust environmental program.

Recently, the Company was audited by external assessors that reviewed processes and activities throughout the organization to evaluate compliance with the ISO 14001 standards. After the comprehensive audit, there were no nonconformities identified.

The successful ISO 14001 audit validates that the Company is committed to protecting the environment, complying with applicable legal and other requirements to which the Company subscribes that relate to our environmental aspects, and has a Senior Management team that is committed to ensure that protection of the environment is firmly embedded in both the Company's and all employees' culture.

NNSA Mobile Packaging Dark Sleeper Exercise Completed

Submitted by Savannah River National Laboratory/Battelle Savannah River Alliance

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) is responsible for removing and/or securing high-risk nuclear and radioactive materials that pose a potential threat to the United States and the international community. To support this mission, DNN's Office of Material Management and Minimization developed the Mobile Packaging (MP) program.

Working with Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL), and the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), the MP program established and maintains the Mobile Uranium Facility (MUF), the Mobile Plutonium Facility (MPF), and the specialized teams required to operate them. These mobile facilities can characterize, stabilize, package, and remove weapons-usable nuclear materials quickly and safely, and each can be tailored in size to respond to specific material recovery needs.

To stay prepared, the MP program conducts regular training and full-scale exercises with the MUF and MPF, allowing the teams to carry out their missions in diverse environments that require a significant degree of self-sufficiency. This year, NNSA partnered with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence (MOD) to carry out the Dark Sleeper Exercise, which involved coordinating and cooperating with other NNSA offices and U.S. government agencies that would be involved in a real-world deployment of the two systems. The Dark Sleeper Exercise tested a range of disciplines, including:

- Material packaging
- Glovebox operations
- Material accountancy
- Non-destructive analysis
- Nuclear material storage
- X-ray procedures



An overview of the Mobile Plutonium Facility, front left, the Mobile Uranium Facility, front right, and camp area, middle and rear, during Exercise Dark Sleeper



MPF team members assess X-ray images of cans of simulated plutonium.

As the fifth full-scale exercise, Dark Sleeper evaluated the proficiency of the teams and sufficiency of the facilities in an international environment, including their ability to overcome challenges associated with shipping, customs, and other coordination with international partners. Through regular deployments and exercises under real-world conditions, like the Dark Sleeper Exercise, NNSA and its partners continue to adapt and improve their capabilities, so that NNSA is ready to respond on short notice to recover weapons-usable nuclear material anywhere in the world. Previous exercises were held in Florida, Nevada and Alaska.

Dark Sleeper involved approximately 150 individuals from organizations including the U.S. Army's 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Command; Idaho National Laboratory; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Los Alamos National Laboratory; the Nevada National Security Site; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Sandia National Laboratories; Savannah River National Laboratory; the Savannah River Site; and Y-12 National Security Complex. The exercise also involved coordination with NNSA's Uranium and Plutonium Verification Teams, which perform onsite nuclear verification and monitoring activities at nuclear fuel cycle facilities.

Savannah River Site Museum December 2022 Updates

On October 12th, the SRS Heritage Foundation and Museum hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and officially opened the new NNSA sponsored DEFENSE, DETERRENCE, & DISCOVERY gallery. Visitors can learn about the legacy of Savannah River Plant operations, from the facility's ambitious construction to the future goals of the Savannah River Site. This new exhibit space was organized by New South Associates and assembled with the help of the South Carolina State Museum Exhibition Design and Fabrication Department, Parallax, Dallas Austin, and multiple volunteers. A special thanks to Bill Wabbersen and Adam Reese for the design and implementation of the "Heavy Water Interactive".

Experience the DEFENSE, DETERRENCE, & DISCOVERY exhibit Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

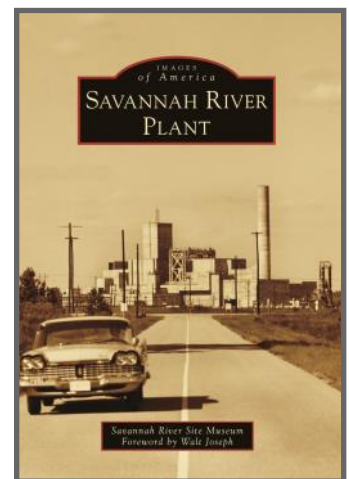
To schedule a group tour, please call or email the museum at
803-648-1437 or srsmuseum@gmail.com



The SRS Museum is also celebrating the newly published image-book, SAVANNAH RIVER PLANT! Published through Arcadia Publishing, this book features 172 never-before-released historical images from the Department of Energy - Savannah River Site photographic collection. The SRS Historic Preservation Team, including SRS Cold War Curator, Melissa Hanson, SRS Museum Director, Kelly Brown, SRS Museum Education Specialist, Evelyn Berry, and SRS Historian, Josh Blackmon co-wrote the book in 2022. SRS Museum founder, Walt Joseph, wrote the forward.

This insightful book is the perfect gift for the retired or current nuclear worker in your life! You can purchase this book at the SRS Museum for \$26.00; it is also available online at Arcadia Publishing (<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467108751>) or at local bookstores.

All proceeds of book sales benefit the SRS Museum!



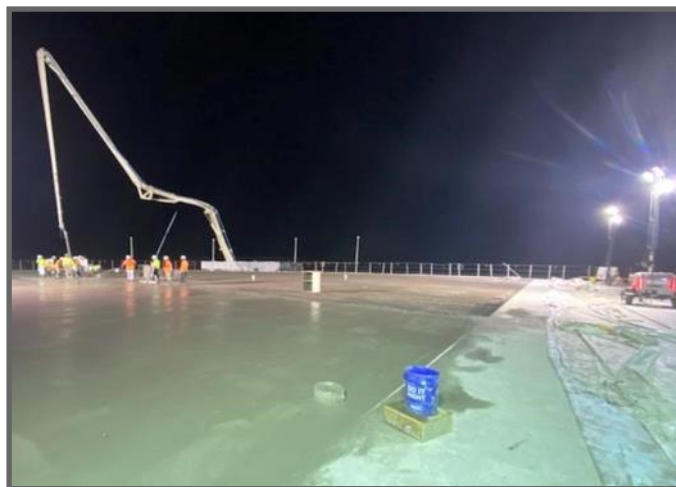
Savannah River Site Delivers EM 2022 Priority with Disposal Unit Progress

Submitted by SRMC

The liquid waste contractor at Savannah River Site (SRS) met a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (EM) 2022 priority with the recent completion of concrete placements on Saltstone Disposal Unit (SDU) 9. The construction team for Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) performed the work ahead of schedule and under budget.

SRMC SDU Project Manager Tim Hammond praised the effort of the liquid waste construction team for safely meeting the priority within the specified timeframe.

“Completing our concrete placements on SDU 9 is another major accomplishment for the overall SDU Program,” Hammond said. “These units continue to be a success story, and I am proud to be part of a great team. Achieving this priority while moving forward with other construction projects demonstrates our team’s dedication to doing our job — and doing it safely and doing it well.”



Savannah River Site liquid waste contractor Savannah River Mission Completion has achieved an EM 2022 priority by completing all concrete placements on Saltstone Disposal Unit 9.

SDUs are massive, 34-million-gallon units that hold a grout that’s a mixture of decontaminated salt solution (DSS) combined with dry materials called slag and fly ash. This grout hardens like cement. SDUs are the final disposal location for the decontaminated waste stream and are integral to closing the remaining liquid waste tanks at SRS.

DOE-Savannah River Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Jim Folk said construction of SDUs is crucial to the liquid waste mission.

“With the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) processing rates continuing to increase, these larger SDUs will be needed to keep up with the increased output,” Folk said.

SWPF has processed more than 900,000 gallons of waste since July.

An SDU closely resembles a large, cylindrical water tank that sits on the ground. Construction includes the placement of 25 wall sections, 208 support columns and seven roof sections — all made of concrete. Altogether, more than 20,000 cubic yards of concrete is needed to build each SDU, using approximately 700,000 total labor hours.

Before the SDU is ready to receive DSS, several additional tasks must be performed. Among the major work yet to be performed in SDU 9 is wrapping the SDU in high-strength cable, spraying it with concrete and installing top-of-tank pipes and electrical wiring.

Afterward, the tank will be tested for leaks and final construction punch-list items before being given clearance to operate. Remaining tasks are expected to be completed within the next year, ahead of schedule. The first large-volume SDU built at SRS — SDU 6 — began receiving grout in 2018 and the second began receiving grout in October last year.

SDU 9 will be the fourth mega-volume unit to be built at SRS, with construction of units 10, 11 and 12 just getting underway. SRS has five smaller SDUs that hold about 3 million gallons each.

SRMC is also constructing SDU 8, entering the final stages before the new unit is tested for leaks.

To be most efficient, SDUs are being built “in series.” As a construction team finishes its specific task on one SDU, the group moves to another SDU and performs the same work. In-series construction saves on demobilization costs and capitalizes on ordering materials and equipment in bulk.

BWXT to Build First Advanced Microreactor in United States

Submitted by BWXT

BWXT Technologies, Inc. (BWXT) will build the first advanced nuclear microreactor in the United States under a contract awarded earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO). The Project Pele full-scale transportable microreactor prototype will be completed and delivered in 2024 for testing at the Idaho National Laboratory.

SCO has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy to develop, prototype and demonstrate a transportable microreactor that can provide a resilient power source to the DoD for a variety of operational needs that have historically relied on fossil fuel deliveries and extensive supply lines. Transportable microreactors deliver clean, zero-carbon energy where and when it is needed in a variety of austere conditions for not only the DoD, but also potential commercial applications for disaster response and recovery, power generation at remote locations, and deep decarbonization initiatives.

The prototype will be built under a cost-type contract valued at approximately \$300 million, depending on options selected, by BWXT Advanced Technologies LLC in facilities in Lynchburg, Virginia and Euclid, Ohio. Over the next two years, BWXT expects that approximately 120 employees will work on the project, including roughly 40 skilled trades, engineers and other positions that will be hired to support this effort and other projects.

The high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) will operate at a power level between 1 and 5 MWe and will be transportable in commercially available shipping containers. It will be powered by TRISO fuel, a specific design of high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) fuel that can withstand extreme heat and has very low environmental risks.

“We are on a mission to design, build and test new nuclear technology to protect the environment while providing power, and we are thrilled with this competitively bid award after years of hard work by our design and engineering team,” said Joe Miller, BWXT Advanced Technologies LLC president. “The entire nuclear industry recognizes that advanced reactors are an important step forward to support growing power needs and significant carbon reduction imperatives.”

About BWXT

BWXT is a Fortune 1000 and Defense News Top 100 manufacturing and engineering innovator that provides safe and effective nuclear solutions for global security, clean energy, environmental remediation, nuclear medicine and space exploration. It is one of the parent

Artist's rendering
of BWXT's Project
Pele transportable
reactor modules
arriving for set up



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SRS Completes Deactivation in Building Used to Produce Fuel for Space Program

Submitted by SRNS

Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Workers at the Savannah River Site have completed deactivation of a former material storage building containing residual hold-up of plutonium (Pu)-238 oxide, once used to power deep space missions.



Aerial view of 235-F Facility

The two-story, blast-resistant, windowless, reinforced concrete building, known as Building 235-F, has been inactive for more than 25 years. One section of Building 235-F, known as the Plutonium Fuel Form (PuFF) Facility was used to make fuel spheres and pellets out of Pu-238 to provide heat to electrically power long-term, deep-space missions, such as Galileo, Ulysses and Cassini.

“Deactivation of 235-F began in 2019,” said Building 235-F Project Manager Jeff Hasty. “Deactivation will prepare the facility for Long Term Safe Storage, which is an end state relatively free of non-radiological hazards, with acceptable radiological risks, and minimal continuing surveillance and maintenance.”

Hasty also explained that the deactivation will also prepare the facility for eventual decommissioning. “The deactivation project included the reconfiguration/shutdown of the ventilation system; isolation of all utilities (water, steam, power, etc.); removing contamination or using a permanent coating, called a fixative, that prevents contamination from spreading outside of the process enclosures and removing non-radiological hazardous material (i.e., lead, oils, process water, etc.) This shutdown/isolation will greatly reduce the cost for surveillance and maintenance (S&M) of Building 235-F during Safe Storage.”

The DOE and SRNS have worked with the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize plans for the decommissioning of Building 235-F. The end state determination is complete and includes approval from both US EPA and SCDHEC. Based on the risk to the workers, protection of human health, environmental impacts, and cost, it was decided that grouting the process areas and emplacement of a durable sloped roof was the recommended disposition path. Decommissioning will be a multi-year project that is planned to commence in fiscal year 2023. The decommissioning of 235-F will be similar to decommissioning of the former reactor facilities in P and R areas at SRS.

“We are pleased to see another SRS facility nearing decommissioning,” said DOE Nuclear Materials Program Manager Bert Crapse. “This helps further the Department of Energy’s mission of footprint reduction at SRS and reduces risks to workers, the public and the environment.”

Thank You Business Members!

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Mission of CNTA

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, Inc., is an education and advocacy group promoting the safe and effective use of nuclear power, nuclear research and nuclear medicine.

We provide education, networking, and a voice of understanding from a technical perspective in a world often influenced by **inaccurate and unwarranted fear**.

CNTA membership encompasses individuals, families, and businesses who support the use of nuclear science and technology for many applications, including: energy, national security, nuclear medicine and diagnostics, and industrial applications.

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Young Professional : Free for 1 year, and free renewals until age 40.

Membership Information is available online at:
<http://cntaware.org/join-us/>

All membership levels include invitations to breakfasts/dinners, other events, quarterly newsletters and opinion letters/editorials. Benefactor and Member Plus also receive one free private reception ticket and one free Teller Lecture banquet ticket when dues are current.

YOUR DUES SUPPORT PUBLIC OUTREACH
 Federal ID# 57-0953103

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a charitable, non-profit organization, CNTA can ALWAYS use help.

Opportunities include:

- Donate Items for Raffles/Auctions
 - Donate to Our Community Gift Card Program!
 - Donate to CNTA as a charitable non-profit (<https://cntaware.org/about-us/>)
- Volunteer your time
 - Get involved with a CNTA Committee (*committee information on page 4*)
 - Help the CNTA Education Committee update our educational outreach
 - Help CNTA expand their reach on social media
 - Volunteer to help in our Office (there is always work to be done there!)
 - Be an event-specific volunteer
 - Be an education committee contest judge or outreach volunteer
- Sponsor a 2023 Event or Education Outreach!

For information, email Allison at office@cntaware.org

Visit Us At:

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CNTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **December 15, 2022-** Tap into Nuclear. “Night of Giving Back”. 5:30-7pm at the SRS Museum in Aiken SC.
- **February 9, 2023-** Up & Atom. Dr. Fred Beranek, Director of Engineering, Fluor Nuclear Power. 7:30am at Newberry Hall in Aiken SC.
- **March 28, 2023-** 11th Annual Members Mixer. “Annual Report & Membership Appreciation Night”. 6-8pm at Newberry Hall in Aiken SC.
- **May 12, 2023-** 21st Annual CNTA Charity Golf Tournament! Shotgun start at 8:30am. Held at Houndslake Country Club in Aiken SC.

