

Pu Pit Production at SRS – Addressing an Urgent National Need

The nation's defense relies on a reliable nuclear deterrent. According to several recent ***Nuclear Posture Reviews*** completed by the Department of Defense, the nuclear weapons deterrent will require modernization, including the manufacture of plutonium pits for use in new weapons systems.

The current capability in the United States to produce pits is limited and will not meet the demands outlined in these reviews. To meet the need, no fewer than 80 pits per year will need to be produced as soon as possible.

The Savannah River Site, in partnership with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, is the only credible option to address this urgent national need.

SRS is up to the task.

Last year commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Savannah River Site.

For over 75 years, SRS has supported the defense of our nation. The site's tritium mission has continually supported the nuclear deterrent and the Department of Defense from the site's inception – never missing a deliverable milestone.

SRS has also served as a production site for over 75 years. SRS routinely conducts production-scale nuclear operations including plutonium handling and processing. Safety and security are paramount at SRS. As one of the safest DOE sites in the nation, the safety and security record at SRS speaks for itself.

Opponents to siting a Plutonium Processing Facility at SRS have indicated environmental concerns and waste management challenges. Wastes associated with plutonium pit production have established disposition paths as either low level radioactive waste or transuranic waste. No additional high-level waste will be generated at SRS by the siting of a pit production facility!

SRS has been the leader in the DOE complex in environmental remediation and waste management. No one can argue with the successes that SRS has achieved in waste treatment and processing. These environmental cleanup efforts will continue under the direction of skilled site workers.

The experts who will continue to ensure the safety of all missions at SRS live and have families in communities directly surrounding SRS. The idea that this project will have dramatic impacts on our community or the environment is simply not realistic.

And just as important, throughout the past 75+ years, SRS contractors and their employees have been active community partners in our region. The volunteerism of the site employees is second to none, supporting area educators, local nonprofits and community organizations. The site employees (yes, the employees) have donated more than \$100 million, in today's dollars, to the United Way and similar agencies over the site's history.

There is no better place than here at SRS to locate this necessary and urgent mission.

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