Plutonium Bomb Plant: Risky Project Targeted for Savannah River

Public Forum
Aiken Municipal Building Auditorium, 7-9 p.m.
Aiken, South Carolina
June 14, 2019

Tom Clements
Savannah River Site Watch
www.srswatch.org
Columbia, SC
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Union of Concerned Scientists
Plutonium “Pit” – the trigger or the “primary” of a nuclear weapon

**Plutonium pits: Nuclear weapon triggers**

A modern thermonuclear weapon consists of “primary” and “secondary” components.

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<th>PRIMARY</th>
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<td>Plutonium pit</td>
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<th>SECONDARY</th>
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<td>When conventional explosives in the outer shell of the primary go off, it causes the plutonium pit to implode, which triggers X-rays that cause the rest of the nuclear weapon to detonate.</td>
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**SOURCE:** Nature
Current DOE nuclear weapons complex; minus the first pit production site – Rocky Flats, closed 1989
It’s all about preparing for nuclear war
Rocky Flats Plant, Colorado – pit production plant, closed 1989

Speaker: Dr. Rose Hayes
Plutonium fuel (MOX) plant, December 2018
Where are investigations into fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement? Needed before “repurposing.”
Pantex: nuclear weapons assembly, disassembly and pit storage
NaGonal Defense AuthorizaGon Act for Fiscal Year 2015

SEC. 3112. PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION CAPACITY. (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) the requirement to create a modern, responsive nuclear infrastructure that includes the capability and capacity to produce, at minimum, 50 to 80 pits per year, is a national security priority
The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020

Repeals 2015 language on pit production. A summary of the bill states:

“Prioritizes achieving capability to produce 30 pits per year by 2026 and repeals the requirement for the National Nuclear Administration to demonstrate the capability to produce plutonium pits at a rate of 80 per year for 90 days in 2027.”

Amendment by Rep. Joe Wilson to override this language was defeated
Federal Register, June 10, 2019: “Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Plutonium Pit Production at the Savannah River Site”

Please attend DOE meeting on June 27, 5-9 p.m., North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Ave. North Augusta, SC 29841 – to comment on “need” for the Plutonium Bomb Plant (PBP) at SRS and potential environmental and health impacts from plutonium processing and nuclear and chemical waste streams
35 million gallons of high-level nuclear waste in 40 tanks remain - focus must be on this
Don’t dump Rocky Flats on South Carolina!
Stay tuned in 2020 – author of books on Rocky Flats disaster has agreed to come to South Carolina