



EPRI Director Corbin McNeill to Speak at 11th Annual Teller Lecture

We are very pleased to announce that the speaker at our 10th Teller Lecture/Banquet will be the Honorable Pete Domenici, (R) of New Mexico. This will be held at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta on Monday, November 12, 2001. Tickets will go on sale early in August.

Senator Domenici is the Senate's leading spokesman and advocate for rational nuclear policies. He has submitted a bill that would breathe new life into the nuclear business. Our Congressman, Lindsey Graham, submitted the companion bill in the House. It would, among other things, fund the Advance Accelerator Applications program, which we will attempt to locate at SRS. It will also expand research and development on a broad front and streamline NRC licensing procedures for commercial reactors.

Senator Domenici is the ranking minority member of the Budget Committee and a member of the Energy and Natural Resources and Governmental Affairs Committees. Few, if any, Senators are as widely respected as Senator Domenici.

This will be his first visit to this area, and he has expressed

CNTA

AWARE!

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Special points of interest:

- *Mark your calendars! The next Up and Atom breakfast has been set for Tuesday, August 14th, 7:30 a.m. at Newberry Hall. Andy Kadak from MIT will be our speaker discussing the development and demonstration of the pebble-bed reactor.*
- *The Tenth Annual Teller Lecture is set for Monday, November 12th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel. Tickets are on sale from August 1st through October 31st.*
- *Check out our new and improved website at www.c-n-t-a.com! Our webmaster has been hard at work and we think you will like the improvements.*

Energy Park

The following is an Op-Ed piece by CNTA Chairman, Fred Davison, which was published recently in both The State and the Augusta Chronicle.



Here's a figure that may surprise you. Two-thirds of Americans now support building more nuclear power plants. That's an increase of more than 20 percent in the last year and a half. California is once again a trendsetter for the rest of the nation – the trend, in this case, being this upsurge in approval of nuclear power.

It's a cliché, but it's true: some things are easier said than done. While Americans (including the President) may say that nuclear energy is an important fuel of the future, it's the “getting it done” part that will be the accomplishment.

Some in the Congress, including South Carolina's Strom Thurmond and Lindsey Graham, have offered proposals that represent a different way of getting reactors sited. Pending legislation would allow the possibility of using DOE sites, like SRS, as locations to demonstrate and operate the next generation of American commercial nuclear power plants.

We support SRS as a commercial nuclear site. If we're serious about nuclear energy, there are some obvious advantages to a location like Savannah River. Consider:

- SRS may be the most characterized site in the country, an enormous existing advantage where licensing is concerned.

- Despite the fact that SRS no longer operates reactors, much of the infrastructure to support a nuclear power operation is already in place: environmental monitoring, training facilities, emergency preparedness, physical security, etc. Significantly, skilled craft and technical staff are already here.

- The CSRA is centrally located amidst universities that have nuclear engineering school resources – South Carolina State, North Carolina State, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia Tech, and Clemson. These universities would supply the engineering talent that would be necessary to support the operation of these reactors.

- We're in proximity to the southeastern power grid. This would help forestall energy supply problems in the southeast.

Most significantly, using SRS offers the best chance to avoid the common “not in my backyard” syndrome. The Savannah River Site has been in our backyard for 50 years. Communities around the site have actively supported the site's work and missions throughout that period. Sixty percent of the electricity in South Carolina, and about 20% in Georgia, comes from nuclear plants.

Certainly, there are those in the U.S. who will continue to oppose anything nuclear, anytime, anywhere. However, in the long term, we cannot run this country without nuclear power if we want to maintain our

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Energy Park (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

standard of living. Unlike other methods of energy, nuclear contributes virtually nothing to acid rain, smog, heavy metal contamination of our environment, or global warming. And, it releases less radioactivity to the environment than a coal plant of similar size.

The time for nuclear technology is here, and SRS is the right place at the right time.

Fred C. Davison, Chairman
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness

Nuclear Summit

Mal McKibben attended a Nuclear Summit held in Washington, DC, along with various people from nuclear proponents and congressional staffers. A large group of key people were in attendance to discuss what could be done to help congress get bills passed, i.e., Murkowski Bill, Bingaman Bill, Energy Policy, Domenici Bill, Lindsey Graham Bill, etc. CNTA will be writing congressmen to support the various bills.

There does not appear to be any utility company ready to invest for nuclear power, but they are interested in further investment into infrastructure, education, R&D, etc. that will help to make it easier to get licensing. Discussion was held on what congress can do to help reduce the financial risk. There are very aggressive activities for the pebble bed reactor by Corbin McNeill, however licensing may not happen until there is a demonstration reactor in the U.S. Idaho Falls and SRS are the logical choices for the demonstration reactor.

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For more information, please call Ben Burnau at 725-1664 or email b.burnau@srs.gov.