

CNTAware



“Savannah Riverkeeper”

By Clint Wolfe

I received an e-mail the other day from one of our members, who was very upset about a newsletter that he had seen called the "Savannah Riverkeeper." A direct *quote*, related to the Savannah River Site (SRS), which moved him to write was "The DOE has for decades, contaminated the Savannah River with radioactive material, and currently has thousands of high-level radioactive material [sic] in inadequate storage, threatening the very lifeblood of our communities." This organization apparently has as its reason to be to protect the quality and quantity of fresh water available from the Savannah River. This is a laudable goal and we wish them success as water availability is one of the rising great issues of our time. So why was our member so upset?

We can only guess that the quote from above was intended to refer to the volume of liquid high level waste stored in tanks, some of which are more than 50 years old. These tanks have been thoroughly characterized, analyzed for structural integrity, and they undergo periodic inspections as dictated by agreements between the DOE and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Some of these tanks either have been or are being emptied according to the environmental clean-up plan for the site. All the tanks have a solid safety basis for their continued use.

Now the first part of the quote from the newsletter is what really got our member going and it is one of the reasons why our organization exists. That reference to DOE contaminating the river for decades with radioactive material conjures up images of a careless neighbor habitually spewing radioactive material into the community water supply. Nothing could be further from the truth. DOE and its contractors have been scrupulously monitoring effluents from the site in both the air and water. Radiation levels in these effluents have always been trivial compared to environmental standards. The results can be found in site environmental quality reports and are supported by independent studies such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) dose reconstruction projects. Even the infamous Christmas 1991 tritium release which caused significant changes in conduct of operations at the site led to post event monitoring that revealed tritium concentrations in the river of less than one percent of the EPA drinking water standard.

Continued on next column →

The Savannah River does not have a SRS related radioactive material contamination problem. I suggest that the Riverkeeper's mission, though admirable, is not well served by false statements and emotional exaggerations.



CNTA MISSION:

TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION ON

- ENERGY SOURCES
- MEDICAL APPLICATIONS OF RADIATION
- INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS INCLUDING FOOD IRRADIATION
- NUCLEAR PRODUCTION PROCESSES
- NATIONAL SECURITY

Up and Atom Breakfast



On February 19, 2008, Jeff Allison, U. S. Department of Energy, Site Manager gave an excellent presentation entitled “SRS Update and Budget Outlook”. Over 130 people attended the breakfast that was

held at Houndslake Country Club. We appreciate Jeff addressing our CNTA members and guests.

Washington Safety Management Solutions sponsored a breakfast on March 25, 2008 at the Aiken Municipal Center with guest speaker Jim Little. Jim is President of Washington Safety Management Solutions, Washington Division of URS Corporation. “The Nuclear Renaissance” was the subject of Jim’s talk and was well received by over 120 members and guests who attended.



NOTICE: We still have a few copies of Alan Waltar’s book, “Radiation and Modern Life—Fulfilling Marie Curie’s Dream”, which articulates the enormous beneficial uses of radiation to society.

Alan was an Up & Atom Breakfast speaker in 2006. His book was well received by the CNTA members with many of them purchasing signed copies of the book. We have four left at a cost of \$25.00 each. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one.

CNTA High School Essay Contestant

Winners Announced

We have three \$1500 scholarships to award. There were ten essays submitted this year. Five essays submitted from 11th graders and five from 12th graders. There was one essay submitted from Richmond County, GA, one essay from Lexington County, SC (a child of a CNTA member) and two essays from Aiken County, SC and six essays from Columbia County, GA (five from one high school). Students had three topics to choose from.

- Nuclear Power’s Impact on Air Quality Worldwide
- Application of Nuclear Science & Technology to Modern Medicine and
- Industrial Uses of Nuclear Science & Technology that affect Everyday Life

Now for the results:

Cecelia Wyrick—11th Grade, Lexington High School—”Nuclear Power’s Impact on Air Quality Worldwide.”

Bryce Cartledge—11th Grade, Evans High School – “Nuclear Power’s Impact on Air Quality Worldwide.”

Isaac Guffey - 11th Grade, Evans High School—”Industrial Uses of Nuclear Science & Technology that Affects Everyday Life.”

The winners will be presented certificates at their ‘awards day’ held at their high school and the schools will receive their \$500 checks right away.

Congratulations to the winners and the to the schools who participated.

A special thanks to Tom Varallo and family and Parsons for joining CNTA as sponsors of this annual award.

If your company or you, as a individual, would like to sponsor this award, please contact the CNTA offices. We hope to expand each year to get more students interested in nuclear technology.

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Speakers Bureau Sets New Record!

By Steve Sheetz

With the help of a lot of great members, the Speaker's Bureau once again expanded CNTA's outreach on nuclear topics to an ever increasing audience. In fact we blew away last year's high of 1,047 by 82%! With a number that may be hard to beat, our speakers made presentations to over 1,900 folks in 2007.

We really reached out beyond the CSRA this year, giving thirty-one lectures in seven different states. We were invited to spotlight CNTA's efforts at several national and international conferences including, Waste Management 2007, Global 2007 and the Low Level Waste Forum among others.

The highlight of the year was the lecture series we organized for the Hilton Head Lifelong Learning Institute. Twelve lectures were given over 6 weekends on nuclear topics ranging from the basics of radiation, future of nuclear energy, food irradiation and nuclear medicine. This was a well received series made possible by many CNTA members willing to give up their Saturdays this fall.

The most exciting outreach we began last summer is our effort to build "Teacher's Kits" that will be used to reach school aged children. These kits will help teachers, or members of the "Traveling Scientist" program, teach science topics on radiation and nuclear power. We are partnering with the Ruth Patrick Science Center, the American Nuclear Society, the Health Physics Society and the Savannah River Site to make this very important outreach a reality.

As you can see, this was an exciting and successful year for the Speakers Bureau – but we plan to work hard to make 2008 better. Many of our opportunities come by "word-of-mouth", so put your mouth to work in one of two ways. You can either join the Speakers Bureau and talk to the public, or talk to your civic or professional organizations and let your program chairs know we are available to speak on a wide range of topics. Even better, make it your New Year's resolution to do both!



CNTA Member Honored

Dr. Carol Jantzen, international recognized ceramics expert at the U. S. Department of Energy Savannah River National Laboratory, was honored this week at the international Waste Management 2008 Conference in Phoenix, Az. For more than three decades of outstanding contributions to nuclear waste management.

Dr. Jantzen is this year's recipient of the Wendell D. Weart Lifetime Achievement Award, which is sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories to recognize long-term commitment to solving significant nuclear waste management issues.

TELLER INFORMATION—"IMAGES OF EXPLODING NUCLEAR BOMBS gave me nightmares when I was a child. And I would often be startled awake by the roar of fighter jets splitting the sky. Where the Soviets finally attacking Albuquerque, my hometown?"

So begins "POWER TO SAVE THE WORLD, The Truth About Nuclear Energy" by Gwyneth Cravens. Ms. Cravens will be our 2008 Edward Teller Lecture speaker on November 12, 2008 at Augusta Doubletree Hotel. A former anti-nuclear activist, she set about writing a book on nuclear energy and became a convert to nuclear advocacy. This very important book is a must read for those who want the truth. It is well researched and it serves well as a reference book to debunk common unsupported beliefs of anti-nuclear groups.

We are also planning a book signing reception in Aiken the evening before the Lecture. Mark your calendars now to reserve these dates. More information to follow.

Clint Wolfe

What's New With The SRS Heritage Foundation



Just in case you missed the preliminary architects drawing of Bldg. 742-A where the SRS Heritage Center will be.

NEW OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

New officers were announced at the SRS Heritage Foundation's February 15, 2008 Board of Directors meeting. They are as follows:

Bill Mottel—President

Mal McKibben—Vice President, President Elect

Ann Loadholt—Secretary

Chris Verenes—Treasurer

JOIN NOW OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The SRS Heritage Foundation has their own membership drive going on. If you'd like to join this worthwhile cause, please contact Walt Joseph at 803-648-5634 or email your request to qalityprt@aol.com. Your membership in the SRS Heritage Foundation is particularly important as we begin to seek funding for the SRS Heritage Center and other projects. Potential donors ask about public support for our projects and membership is one measure of this support.

Please consider joining, the cost is minimal and the Foundation needs you.

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The Nuclear Power Renaissance

There is no doubt that a renaissance of nuclear power is underway in the U.S. and around the world. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which licenses and regulates commercial nuclear activities, has received expressions of interest for building 32 new reactors. They have received four license applications for combined construction and operation, and several utilities have submitted Early Site Permits, including Southern Nuclear (Georgia Power) and Duke Power. Many other countries are building new reactors or plan to do so, including Canada, Brazil, England, France, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Finland, Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, and many others.

The reason is clear. People have become aware that for several decades, nuclear power has had an incredibly good record of safety, environmental protection, and low costs, and everyone wants a way to produce electricity that does not pollute. A wise person once said, "Facts are stubborn things". Here are some pertinent facts.

Safety - No one has died from the radiation from power reactors, spent fuel, or radioactive waste except for the Chernobyl accident which could not happen any where else, yet the only competitors of nuclear power, coal and natural gas, each cause several thousand deaths each year, worldwide, from coal mining accidents and gas explosions and fires. In addition, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that 30,000 people die prematurely each year in the U.S. from the emissions of coal-powered plants. Nuclear is safer by a huge margin, and the next generation of nuclear plants, already designed and being built, will be even safer.

Environment – The outstanding environmental record of nuclear power plants is becoming legendary. They have no emissions that make acid rain, smog, global warming, ozone depletion, or heavy metal pollution. For these reasons, many professional environmentalists and ecologists support nuclear power. A partial list includes: Dr. Patrick Moore, founder and past President of Greenpeace, Stewart Brand, founder of the Whole Earth Catalogue, James Lovelock, considered the founder of the environmental movement, Anglican Bishop Hugh Montefiore, Friends of the Earth, and Jonathan Lash, President of the World Resources Institute. And, Environmentalists for Nuclear Power, a worldwide organization, has several thousand members.

Global warming is indeed occurring, and the principal human contributor is carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere from the burning of trees, coal, oil, and gas. Fortunately, we can do something about that without reducing our standard of living by going to nuclear production of electricity and using hydrogen for transportation. It is likely that the cheapest way to make hydrogen will be in nuclear plants.

Cost – The operating cost for making electricity in nuclear plants is lower than any of its competitors; in 2006, nuclear plant operating cost in the U.S. averaged 1.72 cents per kilowatt-hour, coal 2.37, natural gas 6.75 and oil 9.63. Since then, the cost advantage of nuclear over coal has grown in part because coal plants are spending money to reduce their emissions. If construction costs are included, nuclear is already competitive, and is expected to gain an advantage as the price of new nuclear plants comes down, and the cost and time to get licenses is reduced.

Public support – Americans have become aware of these advantages, and are supportive of nuclear power. Several national polls show that 68 to 70% of adult Americans support building more to meet our growing need for electricity. Support among people living near existing nuclear plants is 87%, and among college graduates with a technical degree, 85%.

In spite of this, a small minority of anti-nuclear zealots are mobilized to oppose all things nuclear. For example, they claim that even a tiny amount of radiation is dangerous. If that were true we would all be dead from the 370 millirem annual "background" radiation that we all receive, without harm, from natural sources plus medical and dental x-rays. There is no evidence that our background radiation is harmful.

The anti-nuclear community also exaggerates the problem of used nuclear fuel. When nuclear fuel is removed from a reactor, it is stored in cooling ponds at the reactor site until its radioactivity had decayed enough to be stored dry at the site in large shielded casks on concrete pads. These operations are quite safe, and well protected from terrorist attack.

Ultimately, used fuel will be recycled. That will do several important things – recover the remaining 95% of the energy value that is still there, greatly reduce the radioactivity in the final waste, and allow all of the waste for the next 100 years, or longer, to be disposed of in Yucca Mountain. The cost of disposing of the waste will be greatly reduced. Yucca Mountain geologic repository will be opened eventually, but there is no urgency to do so.

Anti-nukes incorrectly claim, based on a couple of epidemiological studies, that people living near nuclear plants have an increased risk of developing leukemia. The incidence of leukemia varies widely with location. When a location with high incidence happens to be near a nuclear plant the anti-nukes say "Ahah! The nuclear plant did it!" This ignores the hundred of independent and scholarly studies that have concluded the opposite.

The nuclear renaissance is real. It is already occurring. And, folks who want cheap electricity and a clean environment are happy about that.

Dr. Susan Wood

Mal McKibben

Board Chair

Consultant

GOLF TOURNAMENT REMINDER

B & W Technical Services and CNTA will be hosting our
6th Annual Golf Tournament at
Houndslake Country Club on May 9, 2008.

**HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN A WEEK AT PINEHURST, NC
OR
WEEK AT EDISTO?
GET YOUR FOURSOME
SIGNED UP FOR OUR GOLF TOURNAMENT TODAY!**

Here are some photos from the 2007 event



Tournament

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Sign-up now!



CNTA

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness

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DID YOU KNOW.....Japan Steel (a samurai sword maker) has a virtual monopoly on 600 ton forgings which are required for reactor pressure vessels for 1000MW and larger nuclear units.

Japan Steel's annual production of such forgings is 3 to 4 per year.

Nuclear power plants design and construction, once the exclusive province of U.S. firms, now resides exclusively in foreign owned firms.

Procurements for constructing new 1000MW units in the U.S. are 80% from offshore sources.

Have you sent in your membership renewal yet....please do..... we need your support!

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