CNTAware September 2015

Leadership change at CNTA

As reported in local newspapers July 2015:

Dr. Clint Wolfe has been appointed Director Emeritus of the organization.

Dr. Wolfe has been CNTA's Executive Director since 2008. CNTA provides education and information on nuclear technology, including nuclear waste management and environmental remediation; energy sources; medical applications of radiation; industrial applications, including food irradiation; nuclear production process; and national security.

Chuck Munns, CNTA Chairman, said that Dr. Wolfe plans to use his emeritus status to focus on communications and building relationships with other organizations.

"Clint has been the consummate professional and steady passionate executive for CNTA," Munns said. "His dedication to nuclear advancement through the presentation of facts and data has brought CNTA to a new era of service. We look forward to him concentrating on even stronger communications with the general public, nuclear advocates and others who desire to know more about all things nuclear."

CNTA is beginning the search for a new Executive Director, and Admiral Wayne Rickman will chair the search committee. Applicants are expected to have a strong nuclear technical background, excellent communication skills, demonstrated management skills and be able to demonstrate visible energy in advancing the CNTA vision and mission. The Executive Director is a part-time position.

Details about applications will be promulgated on the CNTA website www.c-n-t-a.com and will be published soon.

Dr. Wolfe obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from Marshall University and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of New Mexico, with a combined minor in math and physics. He has worked at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and the Westinghouse R&D Center.

In 1988, he joined Westinghouse Savannah River Company, where he managed the Strategic Materials Technology Department in the Savannah River National Laboratory from 1996 until his retirement in 2005.

His expertise has been demonstrated in his technical editorials and networking capabilities, demonstrated by frequently being called upon by persons in national organizations for his opinion and/or support, Munns said.

Dr. Wolfe moved the organization to greater national and international involvement. He developed a close working relationship with the Nuclear Energy Institute, often co-authoring key editorials about nuclear matters.

Recently, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories has modeled a speaker series at their Chalk River Laboratories after the CNTA Up & Atom Breakfast, which Dr. Wolfe helped develop.

Closer to home, he helped launch a very successful teacher education initiative, called "Bringing Nuclear into the Classroom." Co-sponsored by the American Nuclear Society and several companies, this program has already benefitted several hundred local teachers and serves as a successful model for improving awareness of the positive benefits nuclear science.

BREAKFAST REVIEW

UP & ATOM BREAKFAST—July 22, 2015

Mark Schmitz, Chief Operating Officer of Savannah River Remediation, provided an "SRR Update" while Angelica Bergen and Brandon Twite presented "Our Interns Perspective" to 115 members and guests at Newberry Hall. Among the guests were 26 SRR Summer Interns representing several institutions from across the Southeast. Interns worked in a variety of disciplines, including Computer Science, Design Authority, Engineering, Finance, Health Protection, Public Affairs, Human Resources, Legal and Project Controls.

SRR interns, workers and other nuclear officials packed Newberry Hall for a breakfast hosted by Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA); photo courtesy of Aiken Standard.

UP & ATOM BREAKFAST—August 25, 2015

Bill Fox III, President off Technical Services & Nuclear Energy BWX Technologies, Inc., presented "The New BWXT Company" to 65 members and guests at Newberry Hall. The Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W) spun-off the company's Power Generation business in July 2015. Today there are two publicly traded companies: - BWX Technologies, Inc. ("BWXT" is the renamed "B&W" and—Babcock & Wilcox Enterprises, Inc. (was the power Generation Group).

Centerra canines help keep SRS safe

When it comes to meeting world travelers who know multiple languages at the Savannah River Site (SRS), you may not expect them to have four legs and reside at Centerra's K-9 Unit. During a tour of the K-9 kennels with Sergeant Jeff Dumouchel and SPO I Calvin Jeffcoat, members of SRNS Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) Organization learned about daily life for the German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers and Belgian Malinois who call SRS home.

Established in 1986, Centerra's Canine Unit started with four dogs purchased from the military. Today, a full complement of canines assists their handlers at the barricades and throughout the Site's facilities twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

When Centerra buys a new dog for the Canine Unit, the dog is normally between one and three years old because by then, common medical conditions such as hip dysplasia are usually evident. The majority of the dogs come from Europe and cost between $10,000 and $12,000. Some of the dogs currently on the force were surplus military dogs and the Department of Energy received the fully trained and experienced dogs at no cost.

"I've seen the dogs several times over the years, but I didn't know all the ins and outs before the kennel tour – the dogs are trained to detect explosives and narcotics; and, that all the Canines are certified at a national level by the United States Police Canine Association every year," said Allan Hickman, HB-Line Process Engineer.

When a new dog joins the Canine Unit, the Centerra handlers train them until they are ready to certify with the United States Police Canine Association. In certain tactical situations, the handler may not be able to safely use voice commands, so the dogs are also trained to respond to hand signals. Centerra trains the dogs to have a "passive response," in which the dog sits or lies down near the drugs or explosives. This minimizes property damage.

Dumouchel and Jeffcoat explained that Site personnel should be aware that all chemicals leave a residual odor. Although a potential threat may not be visible to the naked eye, the canine should be able to detect the odor. Marlon, a drug detector dog, demonstrated how quickly he could find a drug sample in a grassy field.

"Wind is everything with detection," said Jeffcoat. "The dogs will run back and forth trying to find out where the odor is coming from, and he's trained to get as close as he can to the strongest part of the source. In the field, he'll sit right beside it, but if drugs were hidden in the ceiling, he might sit underneath the source and look up at the ceiling.

When the dogs are not training, exercising or patrolling, they live in a climate-controlled kennel with 14 indoor and outdoor runs, where they are fed, bathed and cared for by their handlers. Four times a year, a U.S. Army veterinarian visits the kennels to ensure the health and welfare of the SRS working dogs. The dogs visit an off-site veterinarian twice a year for routine physicals and teeth cleanings.

The Canine Handlers are responsible for feeding the dogs twice a day, scrubbing down the kennels, dispensing medication and bathing the dogs.

On average, the Centerra dogs work until they are ten years old and often "retire" at their handler's home.

centerra
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

USC Aiken, National Lab introduce Scholars

Within the next 10 years, Savannah River National Laboratory Director Dr. Terry Michalske anticipates that nearly 50 percent of the lab's personnel will be new.

Through a partnership with USC Aiken, the Savannah River Nuclear Laboratory will award, in a pilot program, a total of 10 scholarships of $4,000 each to high-achieving students pursuing degrees in the sciences, technology, engineering and math.

"We won't be just rehiring," said Michalske. "We'll be creating the lab of the future."

USCA, SRNL and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions administrators worked together to establish a University Scholars Program. The agreement was formally approved in a brief ceremony Tuesday. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is the management and operations contractor of the Savannah River Site.

The Board of Directors with SRNS is funding the program.

This partnership makes good sense, bringing together USCA faculty, students and SRNL scientists and engineers, said USCA Chancellor Dr. Sandra Jordan.

"It's so meaningful that the lab and SRNS have an unwavering support for K through 12 and higher education," Jordan said. "We're both committed to innovation and research endeavors to benefit our community … and in the case of the national lab, the entire nation."

SRNL has many talented men and women, Michalske said – working on environmental initiatives, securing the nation from nuclear threats and helping the country in developing sustainable energy.

"But it's really about the people," Michalske said. "This partnership will bring new ideas. This is a tremendous scholarship program, giving us the opportunity to build relationships with the university."

Joining Jordan and Michalske at the signing ceremony were Bruce Stanski, the SRNS Board of Directors chairman; and Carol Johnson, the SRNS president and CEO. Following the pilot at USCA, the board has authorized an allocation of $400,000 to extend the program to the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, Georgia Regents University and Georgia Tech.

Three companies make up SRNS, said Stanski – Fluor, Huntington Ingalls Industries and Honeywell.

"This program is an endorsement of all the progress the lab has made," Stanski said in a press release, "… making SRNS an even greater scientific, technical and economic asset to the region."

The scholarships are open to juniors and seniors for two semesters; five students are expected to be selected for the 2015-16 school year. They can match their own research efforts with faculty and with those at the national laboratory. They can apply for summer internships at the lab to work more directly with scientists and other mentors.

The University Scholars Program will make a difference in many ways, said Johnson.

"We have rural areas surrounding us," she said. "For those individuals who get a $4,000 scholarship, it may make the difference in going to school or not. This can advance their lives and careers, to be good citizens and hopefully continue in this area."

Aiken Tech Radiation Protection Technology Program Fills a Local Need

The Savannah River Site (SRS) will have a projected need of more than 162 Radiological Control Inspectors by 2016 and a projected 192 Inspectors by 2017.

These Radiological Control Inspectors (RCI) needs are often filled through Aiken Technical College's (ATC) Radiation Protection Technology program. This program will be called upon for future hires, as well, said Alice Doswell, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Sr. Vice President, Environmental, Stewardship, Safety and Health.

"The Radiation Protection Technology program at Aiken Technical College provides a qualified local workforce to fill essential jobs at SRS." Doswell said. "The nuclear industry is changing and anticipating a significant number of new hires as well as retirements in the coming years, which means this program will provide an excellent feeder system to replace these critical workers."

Since 2010, SRS has hired more than 40 ATC graduates into RCI positions, a number of them kick starting their careers at SRS during their last semester of the program by fulfilling a final internship requirement, an experience that gives the students a "real-world" opportunity to apply the theories learned in the classroom.

Josh Cash, a 2012 ATC graduate, said he finished the program with a firm knowledge of how to do the job that would be expected of him.

"The program set me up for success in the job market," said Cash, an RCI for SRNS. "Students get a high-quality education in two years in a field that has a high demand for employees."

The Radiation Protection Technology program is essential to current and future missions at SRS, as the projected need for RCIs continues to rise due to healthy attrition rates and future work scopes, said Mark Schmitz, Savannah River Remediation (SRR) Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Project
Manager.

"Safety is of the utmost importance at the Savannah River Site," Schmitz said. "And Radiological Control Inspectors are a necessary part of safely executing our mission."

The two-year, 70-credit hour program leads to an Associate's degree program in applied science. The program supplements students' previous education by providing the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to evaluate a work site requiring radiological controls.

Students become certified RCIs after completing 180 application hours, through on-site internships, at a nuclear site. Other than SRS, internship site options include VC Summer near Jenkinsville, South Carolina, or Plant Vogtle in Waynesboro, Georgia.

Alandria Johnson—who just completed her internship at SRS this summer and will soon be a new hire—calls the Radiological Protection Technology program "the best two-year program around."

"Radiological Control technicians will always be needed, especially in this area," said Johnson, a Midland Valley native. "It's a growing field and has a good growth in salary. You really can find safety in a career at SRS—in terms of personal safety and job safety."

Aiken Tech has a high placement rate: During the 2012-13 school year, the latest year data is available, nearly 97 percent of graduates found employment in their field of study or chose to continue their education, said Nikasha Dicks, ATC's Marketing and Public Relations Manager.

"Of the 16 institutions in the South Carolina Technical College System, Aiken Technical College has the highest placement rate," Dicks said.

Path Forward on Salt Waste Process Facility

The key players in the Savannah River Site's Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) construction project are refining respective responsibilities and the project's path forward to achieve safe, successful start-up operations ahead.

Department of Energy (DOE), Parsons and Savannah River Remediation (SRR) are teaming up to get the SWPF project ready for DOE's Operational Readiness Review (ORR) set for December 2018.

SRR's primary responsibility in this project is tying SWPF into existing liquid waste facilities. This includes the below grade pipes that will transfer liquid waste to and from SWPF; seal plates and valves along the piping; conducting general operations and maintenance; as well as nuclear safety interface. Ultimately, SRR is responsible for the delivery of waste and receipt of SWPF discharge.

Parsons is the prime contractor to DOE responsible for the design, technology development and demonstration, procurement, construction, commissioning and the first year of operations for the SWPF project.

Construction of SWPF is currently 89% complete, and commissioning is currently 17% complete. Ultimately, Parsons is responsible for the SWPF project delivery and initial operations. Construction of SWPF is on track to be completed in May 2016, followed by testing all system components to ensure it is ready to safely operate. SWPF radioactive operation is scheduled for December 2018, subject to the ORR completion.

Pamela Marks, DOE's Federal Project Director for SWPF, said establishing the physical and operational responsibilities between the contractors is an important step in the long-term SWPF project.

"Understanding the boundaries of our operations and the scope of our readiness preparations is important to our success in getting SWPF operational in a timely, seamless and efficient manner," Marks said. SWPF will be a key facility for accelerating waste tank closure at the Savannah River Site

"SWPF is being built to process high-level waste from our waste tanks at a much faster pace than we are doing today," Marks said. "Removing the waste faster allows us to step up our tank closure schedule, which reduces the risk the waste poses."

SWPF will process approximately 90 percent of the some 37 million gallons of Cold War legacy waste in the underground waste tanks at SRS.

The salt waste is currently being processed by SRR's interim salt processing facilities, Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU), which process about 1 million gallons of waste per year. SWPF will increase the amount of waste able to process 6 million gallons per year.

SWPF will separate the salt waste into a low-volume, high radioactivity fraction for vitrification in the Defense Waste Processing Facility and high-volume, decontaminated salt solution to the Saltstone Facility for disposal as solid, non-hazardous waste. The new facility will use similar processes of ARP/MCU, but on a larger scale.

Keith Harp, SRR's Program Manager for SWPF Integration, said SRR's support of the SWPF project intensifies as the construction of SWPF finalizes.
"It is imperative that all of the Salt Waste Processing Fa-

Path Forward on Salt Waste Process Facility—continued

cility-related liquid waste scope be completed and operational prior to the startup of SWPF to allow the boundaries of the facility's Operational Readiness Review to be clearly defined," Harp said.
Frank Sheppard, Parsons Vice President and Project Manager for SWPF, said it is never too early to establish clear communication and discuss the key functions that will ultimately lead to the startup of this critical facility.
"I am very encouraged by the cooperative nature of all the key players and the professionalism and expertise demonstrated in teaming together to achieve successful operations," Sheppard said.

"25 in 25" Production Milestone at Saltstone

A "25 in 25" milestone for processing decontaminated salt waste has been achieved with the Site's Saltstone facility recently reaching 25 million gallons safely disposed in its 25-year operational lifetime.

Salt waste in SRS tanks makes up about 90 percent of the waste volume. The low-activity salt waste being grouted and safely stored in saltstone disposal vaults supports the Department's (DOE) overall risk reduction priority to clean and operationally close liquid waste tanks.

Since beginning operations in 1990, the Saltstone facility has safely disposed of 25 million gallons of grouted decontaminated salt solution. Nearly 15 million gallons of the 25 million has been safely disposed of by SRR.

Jim Folk, DOE-SR Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition, said continuing to remove salt waste from the tanks and safely dispositioning the inventory means the Site is reducing the risk of this waste. "Processing salt waste helps protect people and the environment, and is essential for our mission to close tanks," said Folk. "The salt processing technologies and other innovations utilized by SRR have proven very effective in safely executing the liquid waste mission at SRS."

SRR continues to treat and dispose of an inventory of approximately 37 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste through separate waste processing and dispositioning facilities, the Interim Salt Disposition Process (ISDP) facilities, along with the Saltstone Production Facility and Saltstone Disposal Units (SDUs), where the grouted waste is ultimately stored.

The Saltstone facility receives decontaminated salt solution from ISDP and mixes it with cement powders to form grout. This grout is then pumped into SDUs for permanent disposal at SRS.

"This most recent liquid waste milestone is a testament to the hard work of SRR employees," said SRR President and Project Manager Stuart MacVean. "It took a lot of perseverance by numerous people across our combined facilities, and I sincerely appreciate the effort and determination shown by everyone."

Placed into operations in April 2008, the ISDP, which consists of two separations facilities – the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and the Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU), removes nearly all radioactive isotopes from the salt waste and separates the salt waste into highly radioactive and decontaminated waste streams for dispositioning. The highly radioactive waste goes to the Defense Waste Processing Facility and the resulting decontaminated salt solution is transferred to the Saltstone facilities.

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TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION ON APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING:

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Nominating Committee

September is the month when the CNTA Board Chair puts together a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of candidates for the members and officers of the 2016 Board. The slate will be presented to the current Board at the meeting on October 29, 2015. Current Board members will be polled regarding their willingness to continue serving and an alternate list of new candidates will be comprised.

The CNTA by-laws state that additional names of candidates, including officers, can be nominated by petition bearing signatures of any ten (10) Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, Inc. members including at least one member of the Board of Directors. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee at least ten days before the Board of Directors October meeting. Therefore, this year that date is October 19. If you have any questions regarding this procedure please don't hesitate to call the CNTA office or contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

CNTA Endowment Fund

A great way to make year-end charitable tax deductible contributions to support the CNTA mission. Call the office for details and learn more about making supporting CNTA even easier than ever.

"The Citizens Nuclear Voice"

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Membership Renewal 2015-2016

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Upcoming Events

October 16	**Teacher's Workshop – "Bringing Nuclear into the Classroom"** **Ruth Patrick Science Education Center**
October 19-23	**Nuclear Science Week sponsored by Nuclear Workforce Initiative (NWI)** **- Education Days** **- STEM Career Connections Day** **- Site Visit Days** **- Education Activities** **- Community Activities** **- Local High-Tech Training Opportunities**
October 19	**24th Annual Edward Teller Lecture** **- Admiral Cecil Haney – guest speaker**
October 28	**Up & Atom Breakfast** **- Dr. Ben Greenspan, Medical College of Georgia**
November 17	**Up & Atom Breakfast** **- Frazer Lockhart, SN_3 (Stoller Newport News Nuclear)**
December 2	**Up & Atom Breakfast** **- Dr. Terry Michalske, SRNL**

Contact the CNTA office for additional details:
(803) 649-3456; cnta@bellsouth.net

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