

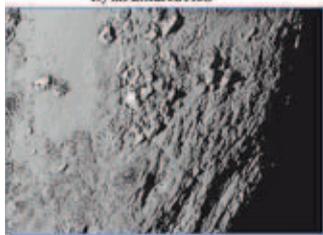
ses history of the site

try, including many in Aiken County. The Museum exhibit shows contents of a typical fallout shelter and includes vintage films from the Office of Civil Defense.

Location of the 300-square-mile plant displaced approximately 6,000 people from their homes and businesses in what was to become the Savannah River Project. The SRS Heritage Foundation is authorized to conduct guided tours of the site of the former community of Elentont. Scheduled tour arrangements will be available in the Museum, starting in October.

The first DuPont staff began arriving in January, 1951, and temporary buildings were begun by February. The construction workforce peaked at 38,582 in January, 1952. The construction force set three world safety records in 1952 while working a 54-hour work week. The entire plant, including five large nuclear production reactors, two large chemical separations plants, a laboratory and numerous supporting facilities, was completed in five years.

Baseline studies of the ecology of the Plant and surrounding area



Civil Defense Exhibit

began in 1951 with Dr. Eugene Odum and Dr. Ruth Patrick. These studies evolved into the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in 1961 and the Site was named the first National Environmental Research Park in 1972.

An experiment in P Reactor by Dr. Clyde Cowan and Dr. Frederick Reines detected the neutrino, a subatomic particle hypothesized in 1930 but unconfirmed until their experiment. The detection, described as “one of the most

significant in modern physics” won a Nobel Prize for Dr. Reines.

Plutonium-238 was produced at the Plant from 1977 until 1991 to provide heat and power sources for deep space exploration. Essentially all US space missions have used Plutonium-238 made at the Savannah River Plant. The New Horizons spacecraft, which recently sent back the first closeup photographs of Pluto, used the last of SRS-produced Plutonium.



Radiation Exhibit

A radiation exhibit describes types of radiation and shows equipment and techniques used to reduce personal exposure. Focal point of the exhibit is a simulated glovebox that will provide hands-on experience in the techniques required to safely handle radioactive materials.

During construction, the Museum will be open to the public on occasional Saturdays. Watch “Upcoming Events” in the *Aiken Standard* for announcements of Museum openings.

1958 – Par Pond provides cooling water for P and R reactors

1959 – First production of Pu-238 heat source. SRP plutonium would first be used in a space satellite launched December 30, 1961.

1961 – AEC establishes a permanent ecology laboratory onsite. The Laboratory of Radiation Ecology will later be known as SREL (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory). (managed by University of Georgia)

September 1963 – Curium 244 produced as a heat source for space exploration. This was the first full scale conversion of an SRP reactor load to nonweapons materials.

1963 – Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuel (RBOF) begins receiving spent fuel from around the world. Fuel will later be processed in canyons.



R-Reactor

1964 – Computers installed in reactors. First known computer process control of a reactor

1964 – R reactor

December 1966 – The AEC Savannah River Operations Office, DuPont, and all subcontractors at SRP completed a full calendar year of operations without a single disabling injury—a feat never previously accomplished at a major AEC installation.

1967 – C reactor reaches a record high power level of 2915 MW

1968 – L reactor is shut down

1968 – The United States Forest Service plants the 100 millionth pine seedling onsite in November.

1969 – Californium-252 is made in a separate production program. SRP also has the distinction of producing



L-Area

2.1 g Cf-252, the most ever produced.

1970 – SRP receives AEC's “Best Ever” award for the largest number of injury-free man hours ever accumulated by an AEC contractor

1972 – Establishment of SRP as a National Environmental Park

1977 – Plutonium Fuel Fabrication facility operational, manufacturing plutonium-238 for space programs

1978 – Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) established on site to perform data analysis of prehistoric and historic sites on Savannah River land (managed by University of South Carolina)

1983 – Ground broken on Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF)

1984 – Wackenhut begins tenure as site security contractor

1985 – C reactor is shut down. This status was made permanent in 1986.