

Sponsor(s) : County Council
Committee Referral : N/A
Committee Consideration Date : N/A
Committee Recommendation : N/A
Effective Date : March 6, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 19-03-35

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR AIKEN COUNTY

Supporting the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration's Efforts to Create a Plutonium Pit Productions Facility at the Savannah River Site.

WHEREAS:

1. Aiken County has hosted the Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site's (SRS) critical national security missions for nearly 70 years; and
2. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which is tasked with safeguarding national security through the military application of nuclear energy, has identified SRS as the location for a new facility to produce plutonium pits for the Department of Defense (DOD); and
3. SRS has a world-class safety culture and a talented workforce with proven expertise in nuclear and chemical manufacturing plant operations, including a record of meeting its legacy environmental cleanup commitments; and
4. SRS has extensive experience in nuclear material processing, and a secure, 310-square mile production complex to safely complete both current and future national defense-related missions and its ongoing cleanup efforts; and
5. The Savannah River National Laboratory at SRS has a history of directly supporting plutonium operations both at SRS and across the United States; and
6. SRS has continued its tritium war reserve production mission since the 1950s, and this plutonium pit production mission will complement NNSA's continued SRS investment in this critical nuclear production mission; and
7. The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review emphasized the need for "an effective, responsive, and resilient nuclear weapons infrastructure [that can] adapt flexibly to shifting requirements," and NNSA investing in facilities at both SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory provides redundant production capability and more confidence to its DOD customer that critical production goals can be met; and
8. SRS is partnering with the Los Alamos National Laboratory in a shared effort to produce these new plutonium pits for our national defense at both locations, and is actively sharing technical expertise and personnel to create a needed, enduring two-site manufacturing capability; and
9. The re-use of the partially completed and now discontinued Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) at SRS will help meet the tight schedule requested by DOD for new plutonium pits; and
10. The plutonium pit production mission is critical for our national security and important for both the future of SRS and for sustaining the economy in Aiken County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AIKEN COUNTY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Aiken County Council hereby supports the Department of Energy's NNSA's decision to use the Savannah River Site as one of the two sites for its plutonium pit production mission; and
2. The Aiken County Council requests that South Carolina's Congressional delegation make every effort to ensure that funding through DOE is secured for this new mission; and
3. Aiken County Council finds that the plutonium associated with pit production is a national asset and will have beneficial use in our nation's nuclear deterrence.

Adopted at the regular meeting of Aiken County Council on March 5, 2019.

ATTEST:


Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

SIGNED:



Gary Bunker, Chairman

IMPACT STATEMENT:

COUNCIL VOTE: Unanimous