

It's Almost Here!

16th Annual Edward Teller Event!



CNTA's 16th

Edward Teller Lecture/Banquet will be held November 29, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel in Augusta. Our very distinguished speaker will be Dr. Dale Klein, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

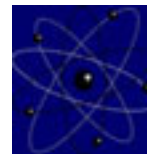
Dr. Klein is in a very key position to assure the safe design and operation of new reactors and uranium enrichment facilities that are planned for the next few years. Also, the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility that is now under construction at SRS will be the first SRS facility licensed by NRC.

Dr. Klein follows 15 other very distinguished speakers in this series. Dr. Edward Teller initiated the series in 1992 and allowed CNTA to name the series in his honor. Subsequent speakers have been:

- Dr. Edward Teller (1992)**
- Dr. Margaret Maxey (1993)**
- Dr. Leonard Sagan (1994)**
- Bill Lee (Duke Power) (1995)**
- Dr. Alvin Weinberg (1996)**
- Dr. James Schlesinger (1997)**
- Richard Rhodes (1998)**
- Senator Howard Baker (1999)**
- Dr. Harold Agnew (2000)**
- Senator Pete Domenici (2001)**
- Corbin McNeill (2002)**
- Dr. John Foster (2003)**
- Dr. Henry Wagner (2004)**
- Dr. Frank "Skip" Bowman (2005)**
- Dr. Nils Diaz (2006)**

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a general reception and a private "Speaker's" reception. Dinner will be served at 7:30 with the ballroom doors opening at 7:15, followed by the speaker's presentation. Various awards will also be presented.

Tickets are still available, however, we do have limited seating for this event. Individual tickets are \$45.00 which includes dinner and the lecture. If you are a Benefactor member of CNTA, then you only have to request your ticket. Tables for 10 are available at a cost of \$600. Deadline for reservations is coming up fast. Call now and join us for a wonderful evening, we appreciate your support! CNTA office: 803-649-3456 or email to: cnta@bellsouth.net.



NON-PIT Pu CONSOLIDATION AND DISPOSITION AT SRS

By Mal McKibben

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) welcomes the long-anticipated announcement September 5 that DOE would consolidate, store, and then process surplus "non-pit" plutonium at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Non-pit plutonium exists as alloys, oxides, and various compounds. It is not coming from "pits", which are metallic components in weapons. The decision to process surplus plutonium from pits at SRS was made several years ago, but the disposition path for surplus non-pit plutonium, sometimes called orphaned plutonium because it had no home, had been under study. With this announcement DOE has resolved the issue and given it a home, i.e., a final disposition path.

This initiative is part of a national plan to consolidate weapons-usable nuclear materials. Essentially all enriched uranium will be consolidated at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, and plutonium at SRS. This plan will be cheaper and safer than storing them at several sites around the country. Continued on Page 3.....

Up & Atom Breakfast Speakers

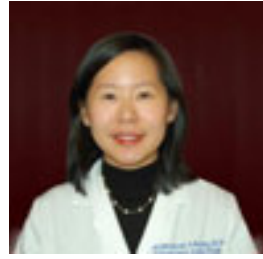


July 30, 2007 CNTA had the pleasure of having guest speaker Dr. Regis Matzie, Senior Vice President of Westinghouse Electric Company. He is responsible for the development, licensing, engineering project management and component manufacturing of Westinghouse's light water reactors. Dr. Matzie spent 30 years in the Navy. The title of Dr. Matzie's talk was "Westinghouse's Advanced Reactor Portfolio—A Look to the Future". Dr. Matzie gave a well received presentation on a look into the future of Westinghouse Electric Co. The breakfast was held at Newberry Hall with attendance over 100 CNTA members and guests.



On the evening of August 21, 2007 at the Aiken Municipal Center Dr. Susan Wood welcomed our guest speaker, Mr. James Rispoli, P.E., Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management. He is responsible for the cleanup of legacy waste and environmental contamination from the nation's Cold War nuclear weapon production and nuclear-related research activities. The Department's cleanup program has a current annual budget of more than \$6.5 billion with operations occurring in over a dozen states.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Rispoli, a licensed professional engineer, held the office of Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Engineering and Construction Management. The value of the Department's facilities and infrastructure is over \$80 billion with a portfolio of 125 capital construction projects which exceeds \$38 billion, ranging from one of a kind nuclear facilities and laboratories to standard office buildings and utilities. Mr. Rispoli has served as the Department's Senior Real Property Office and was a member of the Federal Energy Management Advisory Committee. Sponsored by Washington Group International, attendance at this event was 158!



CNTA joined with the Medical College of Georgia and the SRS National Managers Association (NMA) to have our first Augusta Up & Atom DINNER on October 16, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel. This was a good opportunity to join with MCG to recognize Breast Cancer month. We were fortunate to have two speakers for this evening event. First Dr. Catherine Chang, a physician at the Georgia Radiation Therapy Center at the Medical College of Georgia who gave an excellent talk on the role that radiology plays in treating breast cancer. Our second speaker was Mr. James Lathren, President of the Leadership Institute who spoke on "Leadership in a Challenging Healthcare Industry". We may consider more evening events. We had over 135 people attend.



On October 18, 2007 135 CNTA members and guests welcomed Mr. William (Bill) C. Ostendorff at Woodside Plantation Country Club for breakfast. Sponsored by WSRC Partnership. Mr. Ostendorff was nominated by the President to be the Principal Deputy Administrator on February 26, 2007, and confirmed by the Senate on March 29, 2007. He joined NNSA on April 9, 2007, and was sworn in by Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman.

Previously, he served as Counsel and Staff Director for the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. This subcommittee has oversight responsibilities for the Department of Energy's Atomic Energy Defense Activities, as well as the Department of Defense's space, missile defense and intelligence programs. The attendance at this event was 133 CNTA members and guests.

CNTA DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARDED

By Major Thompson

In May, the selection committee for the CNTA Distinguished Scientist Award sent out requests for nominations to various technical societies, scientific laboratories and universities in Georgia and South Carolina. The committee received two nominations for the award with both nominees being well qualified to receive the award. The committee reviewed the information for each candidate and unanimously selected Dr. Hadyn Williams from the Medical College of Georgia to receive the 2007 award. He is Associate Professor of Radiology in the School of Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and serves as Section Chief of Nuclear Medicine. In addition, he serves as Medical Director for the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program in the Department of Biomedical and Radiological Technologies. He has more than 20 years of research and teaching experience in nuclear medicine and technology. He has published 33 papers in journals with 3 more submitted for publication. He is well known nationally as a leader in nuclear medicine and technology. His most significant contribution since arriving at MCG in 2002 is bringing Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT) to the CSRA. The incorporation of the PET/CT images into the clinical decision making for cancer patients is estimated to change the therapy plans for about one third of the patients scanned in the equipment. CNTA is happy that a member of the staff at MCG is the recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award named in honor of Dr. Fred C. Davidson, former President of the University of Georgia and Chairman of CNTA.

All of the non-pit plutonium will be coming from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, and the Hanford reservation in Washington State. The shipments will be made with strict security in approved shipping casks. The shipping procedure and casks conform to DOE standards and are approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Thousands of such shipments have been made in this way without any incident or problem.

This initiative will create new high-tech jobs at SRS to process this plutonium. DOE plans to process all of it in two, or possibly three, ways. Some will be sent directly to the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility where it will be purified using their aqueous "polishing" process. It will then be made into MOX fuel for commercial power reactors. Some of it will be sent to the H-Area Canyon reprocessing facility where it could either be purified and sent to MOX or sent to the high-level waste system where it would be turned into glass waste at the Defense Waste Processing Facility and subsequently sent to the Yucca Mountain geologic Repository for final disposition. Some of it may be vitrified (turned into glass) at a new facility being designed but not yet built in the basement of the unused reactor building in K Area. If further studies conclude that all of the plutonium can be disposed of using only the first two options, then the K Area vitrification facility will not be built, which DOE estimates will save about \$500 million. In all options, the plutonium will leave SRS and South Carolina after it is processed.

There was never any doubt that SRS was the right place to do this work. Here, plutonium has been safely produced, processed, stored, and shipped since 1954. SRS is where the expertise and facilities are. The entire area will benefit from the jobs that are created to do this work.

DOE and the Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) have prepared well for this day. New facilities with greatly increased security were designed and built in K Area to receive, inspect, and store this newly arriving plutonium until the site is ready to process it. The level of security at this facility is extraordinary, and much of it is confidential for obvious reasons.

Research at the Savannah River National Laboratory showed that some of the newly arriving plutonium can be turned into neodymium glass if the vitrification option is used to dispose of some of it. In that option, the plutonium glass will be put into small stainless steel, welded, cans that will be loaded into racks and put into empty DWPF canisters. At the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) the canister will be filled with molten high-level waste glass, surrounding the small cans of plutonium glass.

These sealed canisters will be stored in an existing, seismic, under-ground vault, the Glass Waste Storage Building, until Yucca Mountain can receive it.

The MOX facility is under construction and will be in operation by 2015. It, like the K Area facility, will have a very high level of security.

Many levels of security will protect and safeguard the plutonium in transit, storage, and processing. Anti-nuclear groups like to claim that terrorists could use explosives to spread plutonium into the environment. Such terrorists may be irrational by western standards, but they are not stupid. They will not choose to attack highly secured armed fortresses. If they do, they will fail. Our Wackenhut security forces at SRS are the highest rated in the country.

Two anti-nuclear groups filed a petition with the NRC stating that processing any of the non-pit plutonium through the MOX plant or the H-Area Canyon would raise new environmental issues that make the existing Environmental Impact Statement flawed. This, of course, is a problem easily solved by amendments, if necessary. So, our opinion is that their petition is not likely to delay or otherwise affect the plans to proceed.



Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness maintains a library of selected books, reports, and multimedia. This collection is not all-encompassing, but it is growing. Some of the categories are listed below. Contributions are welcome!

- Author Archives
- Chemistry
- Contracts
- Decommissioning
- Ecology
- Environmental Impacts
- Environmental Reports
- Fuel Cycles
- History
- Hydrogen
- Isotopes
- Magazines
- Materials Disposition
- Nuclear Facilities
- Nuclear Power
- Nuclear Research
- Nuclear Security
- Physics
- Radiation Science
- Reference
- Risk Assessment
- Safety & Health
- Society & Regional
- Spent Fuel
- Waste Management
- Waste, High-Level
- Weapons





CNTA Welcomes Aundrie Blanchard

The second graduate of the South Carolina State University's Nuclear Engineering Program and one of CNTA's newest members is Aundrie Blanchard.

Aundrie received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering from South Carolina State University in December 2006 and also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Biology. She was a Department of Energy Nuclear Engineering Scholarship recipient, on the National Dean's List and was appointed Vice President of the American Nuclear Society, South Carolina State Student Section.

Aundrie joined Washington Group International on January 8, 2007 and works in the Operations Planning Organization at the Savannah River Site. She is engaged in assignments that involve nuclear materials management planning for DOE's surplus nuclear material inventories and other SRS nuclear related assignments. Aundrie is also assisting the Center for Hydrogen Research in a project to determine the commercial and technical viability of regenerative fuel cell systems as advanced backup power systems and to assess their advantages and technical needs to support the US electric delivery system. This involves determining the normal and abnormal backup power and energy requirements for a representative or typical cell or emergency tower application. Also, testing and evaluating the system to determine its performance in various simulated and real-world backup power situations.

Aundrie is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and now resides in Augusta, Georgia. She enjoys watching sports and movies, reading books and shooting pool.

Welcome Aundrie!

Dear Member,

As a CNTA member, we encourage you to contact people you may know that would help the CNTA grow. As in Aundrie's case, the CNTA is working hard on our members behalf to educate the public on nuclear related activities and to provide a pro nuclear voice to counter inaccurate portrayals of the many positive impacts nuclear related activities can have on our lives. Please encourage co-workers and friends and family to become a part of our organization and when you get your membership renewal in the mail in January, please return it to the office at your earliest convenience.

Thank you

Craig Martin, CNTA Membership Chair

The Speakers Bureau Preps for a Busy Fall

By Steve Sheetz

While the summer doldrums usually carryover to the number of presentations the Speakers Bureau makes, it didn't mean we weren't busy. We gave several presentations to local civic groups and were invited to discuss Public Advocacy with the Low Level Waste Forum held outside of Chicago. We prepared for a full schedule this fall with a 6 week series on several nuclear topics for the Hilton Head Island Lifelong Learning Institute and 2 presentations to the Aiken Institute for Lifelong Learning.

The most exciting thing we are doing is partnering with the Ruth Patrick Science Center's Traveling Science program, the American Nuclear Society and the Health Physics Society to develop a better way to "expose" (pun intended) our students to nuclear topics. The Speakers Bureau has been trying to become more active in the schools, but after meeting with Ruth Patrick, it made more sense to partner with them, utilizing the well developed Traveling Science program, than to recreate a parallel program. We will be working to develop interesting and easy to use teaching kits with lesson plans that local educators can sign out and use to present nuclear topics. In addition, trained presenters with the Traveling Science program will also be able to use the kits and teach the topics at a higher technical level. The kits will contain demonstrations, experiments and instruments that can be used in an interactive way to pique the student's interest in nuclear science. The goal is to be flexible enough to reach elementary, middle and high school at appropriate levels of detail. CNTA vice-chair, Dean Sackett, has volunteered to help guide the development of the program. We would like to have at least two more CNTA members interested in educating our children volunteer to help identify the topics, develop the kits and help prepare the lesson plans. This is a great opportunity for you to become more involved with CNTA.

As always, please remember the CNTA Speakers Bureau when your civic or professional organization is in need of a presentation for one of your meetings – word of mouth continues to be our number one source of speaking engagements.

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**CNTA HIGH
SCHOOL ESSAY
CONTEST**

Information will soon be sent to area high schools in Georgia and South Carolina for our 2nd annual \$1000 Scholarship High School Essay Contest for 2008. This contest also award the winner's school \$500. Sponsors for this award are CNTA and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Varallo. Our goal is to have a minimum of three or more awards each year. If you are interested in sponsoring this worth-while cause, please get in touch with the CNTA office. The purpose of the CNTA Essay Contest is to promote a better understanding of nuclear technology among high school students. It also provides an incentive for the development of communication skills that are vital to those entering the workforce and American business.

Topics this year are:

- Nuclear Power's Impact on Air Quality Worldwide
- Application of Nuclear Science and Technology to Modern Medicine
- Industrial Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology that Affect Everyday Life.

**Robert Maher Memorial
Scholarship Winner**



We are pleased to announce that Matthew Presson of Reidsville, NC is this year's winner of the Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship.

Matthew is a Junior at the University of South Carolina in Columbia with a 3.468 GPA. He is pursuing a PhD in Engineering. He would like to do research in Nuclear Science and Nanotechnology.

He is currently working on a project which is investigating a possible method for use in coating uranium fuel within a shell of carbon. This carbon-coating is done in order to create a more resilient form of fuel for use in nuclear power plants.

You can meet Matthew at the Teller Lecture, he will be acknowledged at the event.

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DID YOU KNOW....Radioisotopes can be attached to the drug being studied, and the exact location of the drug can be traced through the body by an array of detectors surrounding the patient. It is estimated that over 80% of all the new drugs eventually approved for medical use in the U.S. employ radiation techniques as a crucial component to their success.

Nature of Uranium—Long thought to be an extremely rare substance, uranium ore, originally known as pitchblende, was first used to color ceramics in Renaissance Europe. At that time, and for centuries to come, the only known source was from the Joachimsthal mines in what is now the Czech Republic. The heaviest natural element on earth, uranium is radioactive, but not strongly so, and can be handled without special protection.



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