

How SRS benefits local economy

Though activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS) are largely invisible to the public, the local economic impact of this world-class nuclear facility is immense. Due to the size and skills of its workforce, SRS remains an indispensable economic engine for Aiken County.

According to the 2013 SRS Bi-Annual Headcount by County of Residence, SRS had a workforce of 10,709. Of this total, 6,936 live in South Carolina, of which 5,154 reside in Aiken County.

And since – per a 2011 USC-Aiken academic study – the average job at SRS pays

more than \$80,000 per year. More than \$400 million in payroll within the county is generated from the site.

This economic impact is felt everywhere within the local economy, with money flowing into houses, automobiles, retail shopping, groceries, restaurants, services, utilities and charitable contributions.

These expenditures in turn create more jobs throughout Aiken County. The academic study demonstrated that the economic multiplier for each SRS job is approximately 2.5. Therefore, within Aiken County nearly 13,000 jobs are either directly or indirectly attributable to site operations.

Intangible benefits include fostering sci-

entific, manufacturing, and safety cultures; technology transfers to other industries; leadership in the regional nuclear sector; and the generation of community social capital resulting from shared values and experiences.

SRS employees are the largest single source of locally collected United Way donations. They donate massive amounts of blood. Many are church and civic leaders, elected officials, and volunteers and board members of innumerable local community agencies.

SRS contractors have provided support for the Ruth Patrick Science Center, the URS Center for the Performing Arts, and the Aiken Technical College Manufacturing and

Tech Training Center.

Educational outreach efforts include scholarships, science kits, mentoring and support for local colleges.

SRS is also a major source of local tax revenue, with hundreds of millions of dollars flowing annually into federal, state, and county coffers. This includes \$1.62 million contributed annually to Aiken County as part of the government's payment in lieu of taxes program.

"We wouldn't recognize Aiken without SRS!" proclaimed CNTA Chairman Chuck Munns at the 2013 Nuclear Industries Educational Forum. He's right – SRS remains the jewel in Aiken County's economic crown.

CNTA: Who they are and what they do

CNTA provides factual, objective information on nuclear subjects for the public, students, teachers and elected officials.

We do this to improve the public's knowledge of and comfort with the real benefits and comparative risks of nuclear activities, including the generation of electricity, the practice of nuclear medicine, food irradiation, industrial uses of nuclear materials, nuclear weapons management and nuclear waste remediation.

We also support the activities of regional economic development organizations as they seek nuclear missions for SRS and the CSRA.

Nuclear energy provides 20 percent of our nation's electricity safely and reliably. One in three Americans entering a hospital receives a procedure involving radiation, many of which are potentially life-saving.

Radiation is used to make smoke detectors and ice cream. It powers satellites and helps age ancient artifacts. Despite its ubiquity in our lives, many people do not appreciate the value of nuclear energy or the many ways it enhances daily living – which is one reason CNTA was created.

Founded in 1991, CNTA is a nonprofit, grassroots citizen's organization. We are community leaders, small business owners, corporate managers, elected officials, educators, nuclear-related professionals and others with no nuclear experience.

CNTA provides the public with accurate analyses of nuclear issues using facts from many credible sources, including regulatory agencies, technical experts, university research programs, indepen-

CNTA Initiatives

Here are just a few of our initiatives that describe the broad scope of our activities:



- CNTA is informing the public about the economic importance of SRS to the economy of South Carolina and Georgia and the contributions of SRS employees to the quality of life in their communities. We are doing this at public meetings and through our Speakers Bureau.
- In meetings with state officials, Congressmen, and local elected officials, we have created a sense of urgency to bring new missions to SRS that will replace the programs that have limited life.
- In a cooperative educational effort with the Medical University of South Carolina, CNTA presented a seminar to the members of the South Carolina legislature on radiation and its health effects.
- CNTA representatives participate in public hearings on issues related to SRS and formally commented on DOE plans for the Site.
- CNTA is called upon by the media to offer a counterpoint to anti-nuclear and anti-SRS statements made by adversaries of SRS and other nuclear facilities.
- CNTA speakers discuss the benefits

dent researchers and the considerable expertise within our membership.

Through public forums, presentations, newspaper articles, editorial opinion pic-

tures, and interviews, CNTA participates in discussions about the value and safety of nuclear energy and in support of Savannah River Site missions.

of various applications of nuclear technology and the myths related to them with civic clubs, student groups, church groups, and in media articles.

- We have urged DOE and elected officials to continue the programs studying the health and safety of employees and the population in the vicinity of SRS.
- CNTA sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture, which brings internationally recognized experts to Augusta to speak on nuclear topics. Dr. Edward Teller, the nuclear pioneer and the first speaker in this series, gave CNTA his permission to use his name for the public lectures.

- Our frequent Up and Atom Breakfasts update our members on current nuclear issues. Our periodic newsletter, *Aware!*, keeps our members aware of the activities of CNTA.
- CNTA works for new missions for SRS, and is currently leading an effort to obtain a teaching and research reactor at SRS.

Our most effective outreach is to students, through their teachers. We sponsor an extensive program of nuclear science fundamentals workshops for middle and high school science teachers, and provide them the resources to take the lessons back to their classes.

Over the years we have affected the education of 15,000 students. We offer scholarships to both high school and college students interested in some aspect of nuclear science.

CNTA sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture/Banquet, named for the nuclear pioneer who played a key role in the development of nuclear weapons. Each year the lecture brings a nationally-known speaker to the CSRA.

In 1996, CNTA created the annual Distinguished Scientist Award to recognize significant scientific achievements in the area of nuclear science in the region.

In 2002, CNTA created the annual Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship, now offered by Savannah River Remediation, to recognize an outstanding college junior or senior who is pursuing studies for a career in a nuclear field.

Our monthly "Up and Atom" breakfasts for our members and their guests feature speakers with expertise in a variety of nuclear topics.

CNTA is committed to being a credible, consistent voice on behalf of beneficial nuclear technologies and the Savannah River Site. We need your help to ensure that our voice is being heard. The future of our region and the nation depends on all of us.