

# Nuclear workforce needs continue

With some 11,000 workers, the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site is the major nuclear employer in the two-state region of South Carolina and Georgia. In fact, only Wal-Mart employs more people in the State of South Carolina. But the region's investment in nuclear technology is not limited to the nation's national security needs at SRS. Nuclear-generated electricity also fuels well-paying jobs and economic growth for the region.

Recently, the Savannah River Site's operations and management contractor reported it has hired 387 workers over the last 12 months to support new missions and is expecting to create a workforce that will go well into the 2030s. Other nuclear employers at SRS are also experiencing the impacts of a retiring workforce and the growing demand for workers to support ongoing missions and new operations.

A large percentage of the newer hires are operators. Other positions include lab technicians, scientists, mechanics, managers, administrative assistants, radiological control specialists and engineers.

Nuclear workforce demand extends widely in the region. About 5,000 people will be employed during peak construction at Plant Vogtle in Waynesboro, Georgia, where two new nuclear power reactors are under construction. The project also creates 800 permanent jobs as the Southern Company plant moves toward operation.

Nearby at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County, as many as 3,000 jobs will be created during construction of SCE&G's two new nuclear plants, and up to 800 permanent positions are being filled to support the plant operations.

In total, nearly 10,000 new workers will be needed in specialized nuclear fields by 2020 according to a study conducted by Booz Allen Hamilton for the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO).

Employers and educators are working collectively as part of the SRSCRO's Nuclear Workforce Initiative to help local citizens develop the skills needed for regional nuclear industry jobs.

See another photo, 8A




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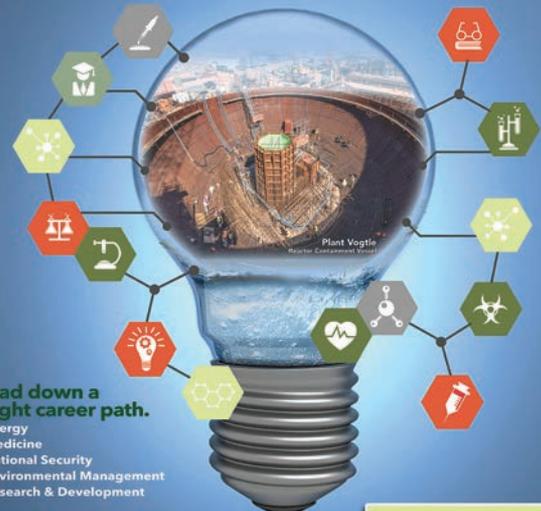
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