

## Stop A New Plutonium Weapons Factory At SRS

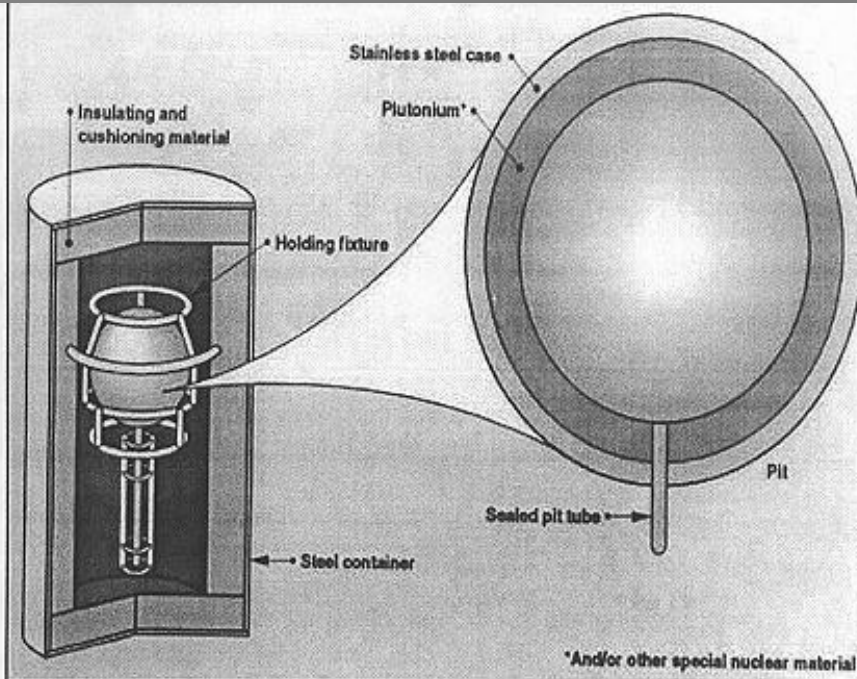


Illustration of a plutonium trigger, or "pit." Source: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), <http://www.md.doe.gov>

### What Are Plutonium Pits?

"Plutonium pits are the triggers in most nuclear explosives. Pits are sealed weapon components containing plutonium and other materials...Pits are surrounded by carefully machined high explosive spheres. When the high explosives are detonated the plutonium is compressed and imploded, thus triggering the nuclear detonation." Don Moniak, *Plutonium: The Last Five Years*, [http://www.bredl.org/pdf/Last\\_Five\\_Years.pdf](http://www.bredl.org/pdf/Last_Five_Years.pdf).

### Does the U.S. Need More Plutonium Pits?

"The United States is nowhere near experiencing a shortage in plutonium pits. Instead, the United States is awash in plutonium and pits, with a large reserve at Pantex of around 13,000-15,000 pits in addition to the current stockpile of approximately 10,700 warheads."

Jim Bridgman, Program Director, Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, October 15, 2002 <http://www.anuclear.org/MPFcomments.html>

### DOE Is Not Telling The Whole Story

The Department of Energy says aging plutonium pits may be unreliable. But an unbiased expert states, "A purely statistical approach shows that defects in nuclear weapons are historically found to accumulate at a rate of less than 1% per quarter century, implying a characteristic lifetime of more than two millennia for these weapons....Indeed, there is now consensus among specialists that the Pu pits in the US stockpile are stable over periods of at least 50-60 years, with the most recent studies suggesting a far longer period. R. Jeanloz, Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship, *Physics Today*, December 2000, <http://www.physicstoday.org/pt/vol-53/iss-12/p44.html#3>

### The Purpose Of The Plant Is New Nuclear Weapons

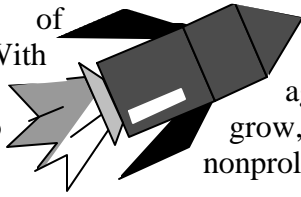
The Department of Energy admits that no plutonium pit problems due to aging have been identified and that a sufficient number of replacement pits can be manufactured at Los Alamos National Labs in New Mexico, but that "the capability being established at LANL will not support...the flexibility to **produce pits of a new design** in a timely manner." Federal Register Vol. 67, No. 184 p.59579, September 23, 2002

## Construction of New Weapons Is Illegal

The U.S. Congress ratified and the President signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty to end the nuclear arms race. The treaty states "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control." Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Article VI, approved by Congress March 1969 and signed by President Nixon November 24, 1969.

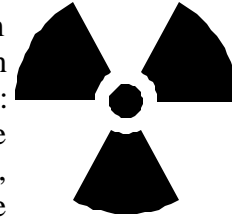
## Plant Would Encourage Spread of Nuclear Weapons

Today, the US State Department says, "The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty remains the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. With over 180 parties, it is the most widely adhered to arms agreement in history. This impressive membership, which continues to grow, is a concrete reflection of the growing international support for nuclear nonproliferation." <http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/treaties/npt1.html>



## Contamination Forced Former Plutonium Plant To Close

Plutonium pits were manufactured by DOE at Rocky Flats, Colorado until 1989. Rocky Flats is infamous for thirty-five years of unsafe operations and costly accidents resulting in massive radiological contamination. Plutonium of groundwater was found to be 27 to 135 higher than background levels (Deadly Defense, 1988). The state of Colorado reports: "Independent analyses of soil samples collected near the plant after the fire confirmed that radioactive materials had escaped off-site....On June 6, 1989, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) raided Rocky Flats to investigate allegations of environmental crimes. That same year, Rocky Flats was placed on the EPA's list of Superfund hazardous waste sites slated for cleanup, and the manufacture of plutonium triggers at the plant ceased." Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment <http://www.cdph.state.co.us/rf/historyofrf.htm>



**No New Nuclear Weapons at Savannah River!**

***CLEAN UP, DON'T BUILD UP!***

**Attend the Public Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2002**

**Sign-up to speak at 6:00 p.m., Public Hearing begins at 7:00 p.m**

**North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Avenue, North Augusta, SC 29841  
Community Center telephone (803) 441-4290**

For more information contact

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