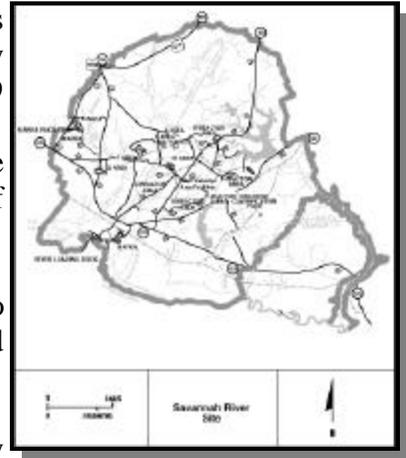


The 300 square mile Savannah River Site was created by the United States Atomic Energy Commission in 1950 and operated by DuPont until 1989 to manufacture tritium and plutonium-239 for hydrogen bombs. During forty years of the Cold War the AEC (later the Department of Energy) spent \$30 billion at SRS to produce half the plutonium and most of the tritium in the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The core of the industrial complex at SRS included five heavy water nuclear reactors, a fuel and target fabrication plant, and two chemical plants to separate plutonium and tritium from irradiated fuel.



Over a decade ago revelations of poor management, shoddy practices, and cover-ups resulted in two changes: Westinghouse for DuPont and Savannah River *Site* for Savannah River *Plant*. **But what else has changed?**

The Southern Anti-Plutonium Campaign

Five years ago the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League launched the Southern Anti-plutonium Campaign. BREDL opened offices in Aiken, SC and Augusta, GA and hired staff to organize communities in the Central Savannah River Area. Presently, we have a technical consultant, Don Moniak, and a community organizer, Rev. Charles Utley, working on the Southern Anti-plutonium Campaign.

We stand in opposition to proposals to build new nuclear facilities at Savannah River including the proposed plutonium fuel factory. As part of the campaign, BREDL intervened to stop the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility construction permit at SRS and the Catawba and McGuire nuclear power plant license renewals near Charlotte and Rock Hill. This year the DOE clean-up budget at SRS was slashed by \$95 million. We oppose "Expedited Cleanup," the DOE's quick-and-dirty environmental remediation program and call for real public health protection.

Early in the campaign we saw that some of the techniques and facilities needed to manufacture commercial nuclear fuel from weapons-grade plutonium could also serve to make new weapons. This year the Department of Energy announced it would begin work on a new 2-4 billion dollar pit facility to manufacture plutonium for nuclear weapons. SRS is a leading contender.

for more information contact

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

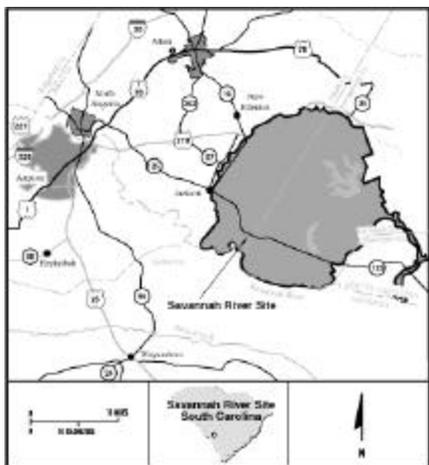
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The Toxic Legacy of Atomic Weapons at Savannah River

More than 30 reactor accidents occurred while DuPont operated the old Savannah River Plant: environmental disasters involving melted reactor fuel and widespread radiation releases. Over 1,000 facilities at the Savannah River Site may be contaminated with radioactive and hazardous substances. Less than half have been evaluated by federal agencies. Decontamination work could take 40 years, a time equal to the period of weapons production.

A Witches Brew of Radioactive and Toxic Chemicals

Toxic contamination at SRS caused by development, testing, and manufacture of reactor fuel includes *trichloroethylene*, *tetrachloroethylene*, *arsenic*, *cadmium*, *chromium*, *mercury*, and *lead*. Five nuclear reactor sites are contaminated with these toxics plus radioactive *strontium-90*, *cesium-137*, *cobalt-60*, and *tritium* which were caused by accidental releases and routine operations. In addition, 262 waste sites used to have all these *uranium*, *plutonium*-Underground tanks liquid high-level the sand hold 16 level radioactive thousands of cubic stored in temporary Energy estimates waste will be alone.



radioactive and hazardous dump liquids, solids, and ash poisons plus *thorium*, *238*, and *plutonium-239*. store 35 million gallons of radioactive waste, trenches in million cubic feet of solid low-waste, and hundreds of feet of transuranic waste are facilities. The Department of that 2.6 million cubic yards of generated by the clean up

Public Health Hazards Threaten Four States

The groundwater at SRS is contaminated with tritium, plutonium-239, and cesium-137 that may spread to the Tuscaloosa aquifer, a water source for Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Radioactive tritium has already been found in drinking water 70 miles downstream from

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