



Savannah River Site Watch

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SRS Watch to Join with Sister Organizations to Meet with Congressional and Administration Offices to Represent the Public Interest in DOE Funding and Policy Matters, including Savannah River Site

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's (ANA) Annual "DC Days" Includes Release of "[Accountability Audit](#)" Report on Ways to Reduce Costs and Risks in the DOE Complex, Including Cutting MOX at SRS

Columbia, SC – Savannah River Site Watch is headed to Washington from May 21 to 24 to join with non-profit public interest groups from across the country to advocate for prompt clean-up of DOE sites and a shift in the growing nuclear weapons budget to projects protecting workers and public health and the environment.

SRS Watch will collaborating with about 70 colleagues from about 15 non-profit groups from a dozen states who are participating in the 29th annual Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) "DC Days." During visit, the groups will distribute copies of ANA's new report "***Accountability Audit: Reducing risks and saving billions across the US nuclear weapons complex,***" a 20-page plan for reducing risks and saving billions of dollars across the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. The *Accountability Audit* report is posted here: <http://bit.ly/accountability-audit>.

As it concerns the Savannah River Site, SRS Watch and others will support increased funding for high-level nuclear waste management, termination of the mismanaged plutonium fuel MOX project and an increase in funding to improve crumbling infrastructure. As the DOE budget for Fiscal Year 2018 is possibly to be presented to Congress on May 22 or May 23, the DC visit is of particular pertinence. (Unfortunately, the new DOE administration has not announced the usual budget "roll-out" to present the budget to public stakeholders who attend in DOE HQ.)

The groups will meet with leading members of Congress, committee staffers, and top administration officials with responsibility for U. S. nuclear policies. The goal of the meetings is to advocate for DOE programs, policies and funding that better serve taxpayers and the sustainability of DOE sites, while reducing their environmental impact.

"During our visit in Washington and throughout the year, the groups in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability will advocate for responsible spending priorities and sound policies that place the public interest above that of DOE contractors, said Tom Clements, director of SRS Watch. "ANA continues to be a voice for protecting the environment and worker and public health around DOE sites, while tirelessly working to curtail wasteful programs that primarily serve to benefit special interests."

The *Accountability Audit* report is divided between nuclear weapons and nuclear waste issues, with an emphasis on cuts in nuclear weapons levels, transparency, the importance of holding DOE and contractors accountable and the necessity of meeting clean-up milestones and standards at DOE sites.

The section in the *Accountability Audit* entitled “**MOX: A case study in waste**” – on page 19 – includes four main recommendations on the future of MOX and plutonium disposition: 1) halt funding for the MOX facility; 2) require an environmental study of non-MOX plutonium disposition alternatives and new uses of the MOX plant; 3) hold DOE and contractor CB&I AREVA MOX Services accountable for massive cost overruns and project management failures and 4) a new plutonium agreement should be negotiated with Russia, including International Atomic Energy Agency verification of plutonium disposition activities.

Clements will also distribute copies of the recent SRS Watch report entitled “**A PROJECT IN DISARRAY: MOX - Chronic Funding Problems and Construction Challenges have Determined the Project’s Fate.**” (Report linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/z5h67gz>)

ANA is a network of over thirty local, regional and national organizations, which represent concerns of communities near U.S. nuclear weapons sites. (Member groups are listed on the last page of the *Accountability Audit*.) SRS Watch has been an ANA member since the organization’s inception in 2014 and Tom Clements, director of SRS Watch, has regularly participated in ANA activities and DC Days since 1989.

As part of DC Days 2017, ANA will sponsor an Awards Reception honoring leaders of the movement for responsible, cost-effective nuclear policies on Tuesday evening, May 23. Congressman Ted Lieu of California will be recognized for his efforts to [restrict the first use of nuclear weapons](#). The reception will take place in Room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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