



Savannah River Site Watch

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**“Nuclear Security Summit Effect” Alert (*causing flurry of plutonium shipments to SRS*)**

**March 4, 2016**

**Ships to Carry Plutonium from Japan to Savannah River Site Sneak into Port of Kobe, Japan but Fail to Avoid Detection; Ships to Soon Depart Kobe to Pick Up Plutonium at Tokai-mura**

**Still No Explanation from the National Nuclear Security Administration or White House as to Why Non-US-Origin Plutonium is Coming to SRS, Where it Will be Stranded**

***Will Import Justification and Disposition Plans be Revealed by the White House/NNSA at the Nuclear Security Summit? We Doubt it Given How Very Badly the Plutonium Disposition Program at SRS has been Bungled by DOE/NBNSA/CB&I AREVA MOX Services but Non-Proliferation Fingers Crossed***

**See photos of Pacific Egret & Pacific Heron at: <http://www.srswatch.org/>**

Columbia, South Carolina – Two British-flagged nuclear transport ships designated to carry 331 kilograms of weapon-usable plutonium from Japan to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site are now in the port of Kobe, Japan. The ships were last detected on February 6 as they left the Panama Canal.

The ships – Pacific Egret and Pacific Heron - will stay in Kobe for some days and then proceed to pick up the plutonium at the Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) at Tokai-mura, north of Tokyo. Once the ships depart Tokai, it will be an approximately 52-day transit to the port of Charleston, South Carolina.

Another ship operated by the same company, Pacific Nuclear Transport Limited (PNTL), the Pacific Grebe has been docked in Kobe since September 20, 2015. All three ships are based in their home port of Barrow-in-Furness, England, located just south of the Sellafield nuclear complex, where over 125 metric tons of plutonium are stockpiled.

As 236 kilograms of the 331 kilograms at the FCA are of UK origin, that material should go back to the UK, according to Tom Clements of Savannah River Site Watch.

“South Carolina is willing to accept plutonium that poses a real nuclear non-proliferation risk but some of the shipments look like nuclear waste dumping thinly disguised as nuclear non-proliferation,” said Clements. “There is no reason that SRS should be the site for shipment of plutonium that originated in nuclear weapon states, such as the UK and France, countries that have massive plutonium stockpiles.”

Both the US DOE's national Nuclear Security Administration and White House have failed to present any non-proliferation reason for bringing plutonium originating in nuclear weapon states to SRS. It is believed that the flurry of shipments now taking place are being conducted in order to claim "successes" at the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit, under what SRS Watch calls the "Nuclear Security Summit Effect." That effect, unfortunately, may have more to do with public relations and nuclear dumping than nuclear non-proliferation, according to SRS Watch.

*More information on the plutonium-transport ships in Kobe, Japan can be provided on request.*

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