

## Energy and Water Subcommittee Testimony

Rep Rick W. Allen (GA-12)

I want to thank the committee for allowing me to provide this testimony and highlight issues that are critical to the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Georgia. My district is home to many constituents that work at the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy Environmental Management site right across the river in South Carolina. The Savannah River Site is home to many critical missions, including H-Canyon, the nation's only hardened nuclear chemical separations facility, the Tritium Extraction Facility, tank closure, and the Savannah River National Lab, to mention a few. The President's budget request includes full funding for the Radioactive Liquid Tank Waste Stabilization and Disposition account, and I urge the committee to do the same. To ensure that the Site Risk Management Operations can proceed uninterrupted, especially H-Canyon's mission of safely processing highly radioactive materials, I request that the subcommittee fund this account at a total of \$597,405,000 for Fiscal Year 2020, an additional \$50 million above the President's budget request.

Additionally, the Nuclear National Security Administration (NNSA), has recommended the Savannah River Site as the most viable location for the proposed two-site solution for plutonium pit production. I support this decision, and ask the committee to fully fund the Directed Stockpile Work account, which would support the design of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility Project. The President included this recommendation and full funding in his budget request. The Savannah River Site has repeatedly answered the call to safeguard our national security, and we must ensure we meet the Department of Defense's

requirements for plutonium pit production and aggressive timeline for a modernized nuclear inventory.

Georgia's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is also home to two nuclear power plants, Plant Vogtle and Plant Hatch, and the first two nuclear reactors to be built in thirty years are currently under construction at Plant Vogtle. We have thousands of spent fuel rods being held in spent fuel pools and dry cask storage containers on site—and with the next two reactors set to come online, the amount of spent fuel will increase. We must have a permanent geological site, like Yucca Mountain, to manage our nuclear waste. I urge the committee to support the President's budget request for FY2020 for nuclear waste disposal.

Finally, just south of my district is Savannah, Georgia, home to the fastest growing port in the United States-- the Port of Savannah. The Port of Savannah is in the midst of a multi-year deepening project—one that will add approximately \$282 million in annual economic benefits when completed. The President's budget for FY2020 recommends full funding for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project at \$130 million, and I urge the subcommittee to support and allocate that amount in their FY2020 Energy and Water bill.

All of the issues I have highlighted today have strong, bipartisan support. I want to thank the House Appropriations Committee for their work, and I look forward to working with them to provide the funds necessary for these projects. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my input.