



July 23, 2021

FOIA Officer
Office of Information Resources
Mailstop MA-90, Room 1G-051
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

**Request for DOE's "plan for executing the Versatile Test Reactor project,"
as Required by Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Act**

To Whom it Concerns:

This is a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act, as amended. Per applicable law and Department of Energy regulations, I anticipate a response to this request within 20 days. If the requested documents are not provided within 20 days please provide the reason why and give a date by which they will be provided to me.

This request is being filed on behalf of Savannah River Site Watch (SRS Watch), a corporation duly registered with the State of South Carolina and a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In addition to many FOIAs filed on behalf of SRS Watch, I have filed many FOIA requests with DOE on behalf of other non-profit organizations, including Friends of the Earth, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, Greenpeace and the Nuclear Control Institute.

I request that any fees that may be associated with this request be waived. The information obtained in response to this request will be used solely for non-profit purposes in South Carolina, Idaho and the United States. The information will contribute to the public's understanding of the manner in which DOE conducts its business and will specifically be used to inform the public about plans for funding of the Versatile Test Reactor. The information obtained via this request will be provided to not only the public but also the media, elected officials and Congress. Over the years, I have demonstrated an ability to use information gathered via FOIA requests in a manner so as to educate the public about DOE and issues it is addressing. I request that the fee-waiver standard that has been applied to my requests in the past be applied to this request.

If any claim is made that any portion of any located documents are sensitive in nature or meet FOIA exclusions, I request that redacted copies of such documents be provided to me and that



a full explanation be provided as to the reasons for any redactions. I note that in the "Division D" Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations report linked below that in a section labeled "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION Act REVIEW REQUESTS" that the "Department is directed to provide sufficient funding to increase the number of classifiers to review document requests submitted to the Department through the Freedom of Information Act."

This request applies to DOE and the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) and their contractors. I request that documents be provided to me as they become available to DOE staff and that the documents not be withheld until all pertinent documents are obtained.

The following language on the Versatile Test Reactor (VTR) was passed on December 27, 2020 along with the FY21 Appropriations Act - in "DIVISION D-ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021," page 86, <https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20201221/BILLS-116RCP68-JES-DIVISION-D.pdf>):

VERSATILE TEST REACTOR

The Department is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act a plan for executing the Versatile Test Reactor project via a public-private partnership with an option for a payment-for-milestones approach.

It is unknown if the required VTR "plan" was delivered as mandated by Congress. It is likewise unknown if a public-private partnership funding plan has been pursued or implemented. I note that on July 16, 2021 the House Appropriations Committee via Energy & Water funding has zeroed out funding for the VTR. Is that because there is inadequate public-private funding? We shall see what happens as the process moves along.

I hereby request:

- **A copy of the "plan for executing the Versatile Test Reactor project via a public-private partnership with an option for a payment-for-milestones approach," as required by Congress to be submitted to the Appropriations Committees around January 27, 2021.**
- **Any attachments to the VTR "plan" requested above.**

Please get in touch if you have questions about this request. I thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Tom Clements
Director, SRS Watch
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