



Savannah River Site Watch

July 9, 2026

Ms. Karen B. Manning
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South Carolina Department of Commerce
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This is a request to the South Carolina Department of Commerce submitted under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (S.C. Code 30-4-10). Per the FOIA statute, I request that the requested document be provided to me via an “electronic transmission.”

I hereby request South Carolina’s Response to the United States Department of Energy's “Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus” Request for Information (RFI).

The requested document apparently originated with the Department of Commerce’s SC NEXUS for Advanced Resilient Energy. The document was submitted to DOE on March 31, 2026. The exact title isn’t known.

I request that any fees for the document be waived as the document will be used only in the public’s interest, and, per the FOIA law, “Documents may be furnished when appropriate without charge or at a reduced charge where the agency determines that waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.” SRS Watch has a long track record of informing the public about nuclear projects involving DOE and private industry.

The requested document is a discrete document that can be located with minimal searching. It was submitted to the United States Department of Energy in response to

DOE's "Request for Information on Establishment of Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses," of January 28, 2026. Submissions were due by April 1, 2026. (RFI at: <https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/4e30976204964df3b556ff7149dae444/view>)

Approximately half the U.S. states submitted a RFI and most of those appear to have been publicly released by the states involved. Though the host of programs presented in the document are of utmost interest to South Carolinians, for cost, environmental and energy policy reasons, it is unknown why the submission by South Carolina has been withheld from public scrutiny.

In the RFI narrative by DOE, it was stated (on page 25) that if a confidential submission is made then a non-confidential version should be submitted "with the information believed to be confidential deleted." I request the version marked non-confidential, if a confidential version was submitted. If a non-confidential version was not submitted and a confidential version exists, I request a redacted version of the confidential version.

Ms. Cristina Long Paredes, Executive Director, SC NEXUS, gave a presentation on the RFI to the South Carolina Nuclear Advisory Council on April 13, 2026. In her Powerpoint presentation (<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.sccommerce.com/scdoc-public/inline-files/SC%20Dept.%20of%20Commerce-SC%20NEXUS%20RFI%20Overview.pdf?VersionId=ea72WImSk3.esSJKgNBdaHMSmiDgKbTN>) she presented a number of highly speculative projects that could have potentially significant cost, health and safety and environmental impacts. These things included:

- o Nuclear fuel reprocessing or recycling,
- o 2-5 GW of incremental nuclear power gen from advanced nuclear,
- o Feasibility study on license extensions for SWPF and DWPF for an additional ~40 years beyond 2037 timeframe,
- o AI/Data center construction and ops.

The RFI must be released as citizens of South Carolina must be informed about what the Department of Commerce is up to concerning such costly and impactful projects. Reprocessing alone could result in importation of huge quantities of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel from around the country. Reprocessing is a dirty and dangerous

process that would generate vast quantities of liquid waste (if the PUREX process were used) that would need to be managed and disposed of, possibly in our state. Need by the public to see details of these many proposals is a further justification for full release of the document requested, with a fee waiver being granted.

The RFI outlines the scale of the proposed “lifecycle campus.” A DOE overview of the solicitation merits public scrutiny as to the accuracy of the statement and the implication of named projects for South Carolina, if ever any of them were to ever be pursued. Here’s a section of the overview:

The United States is undertaking an initiative to reestablish global leadership in nuclear energy, guided by Executive Orders signed on May 23, 2025. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE, or Department) seeks input from states interested in hosting potential Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses to anchor integrated, full-cycle nuclear ecosystems that could co-locate and support the entire nuclear value chain while exploring durable pathways for managing used nuclear materials in a safe, secure, and fiscally responsible manner. These campuses must support functions such as fuel fabrication, enrichment, reprocessing used nuclear fuel, and disposition of waste, and could additionally support functions such as advanced reactor deployment, power generation, advanced manufacturing, and co-located data centers, through integrated, forward-looking solutions, consistent with national safety, security, stewardship, long-term and fiscal responsibility goals.

Thank you for providing the requested document in the timeframe specified in the FOIA law. Get in touch if you have any questions about this FOIA request.

Sincerely,



Tom Clements
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