

K Area Complex

The K Area Complex plays a crucial role in nuclear materials management and nonproliferation through its receipt, secure storage, and management of plutonium in accordance with current EM Operations and NNSA missions. In addition, K Area is a component of the U.S. commitment to international nonproliferation efforts to store plutonium in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The Savannah River Site (SRS) is the recognized leader for managing the plutonium surveillance program throughout the Department of Energy (DOE) Complex.

The KAC is DOE's only Category 1 SNM storage facility designated for interim safe storage of plutonium at SRS. The principal operations building formerly housed K Reactor, which produced nuclear materials to support the United States during the Cold War for nearly four decades. It was the DOE's last operating production reactor, shutting down in 1992. The facility was chosen as the premier DOE Complex plutonium storage facility for several reasons:

- It underwent stringent, well-documented seismic and structural upgrades during the early 1990s.
- It is a robust building, constructed of concrete walls many feet thick.
- Much of the security infrastructure was already in place.
- Necessary modifications were relatively minor, compared to the alternative of constructing a new building.

SRS has assisted the DOE Complex in saving millions of taxpayer dollars through the consolidation of surplus plutonium from SRS' FB Line, as the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado, the Hanford Site in Washington, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in California. In addition, K Area has received highly enriched uranium (HEU) from the Y-12 plant in Tennessee, Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico, LLNL, and LANL.

In recent years, significant infrastructure and security upgrades have been implemented in the KAC to ensure the continued safe storage of SNM. KAC is currently performing a plutonium downblending mission.

