

From: Sen. Tom Young <tom@tomyoungforsenate.com>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 3/24/2014 11:31:13 AM
Subject: MOX Project Lawsuit Filed and DSS Hearings Continue -- Update from Sen. Tom Young
– March 18 to March 24, 2014

MOX Project Lawsuit Filed and DSS Hearings Continue -- Update from Sen. Tom Young – March 18 to March 24, 2014

I hope that you find this update helpful and informative. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and for allowing me to serve our District!

SRS – MOX Project Update

State Files Lawsuit: Last Tuesday, Attorney General Alan Wilson filed a lawsuit on behalf of the State of South Carolina against the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Secretary Ernest Moniz, and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) in regards to the MOX project at SRS. The lawsuit alleges that the Department of Energy cannot stop the project without an approved alternative disposition method for the plutonium unless DOE receives Congressional authorization. It also alleges that DOE and the Executive Branch can only spend money on what Congress authorizes. Because Congress authorized funds for the construction of MOX in this year's budget, the DOE cannot override Congress in that area either. According to the lawsuit, not moving forward with the project violates a 2002 federal law that committed funding for the project every year. The lawsuit also cites the loss of jobs at the MOX facility and the fact that 13 metric tons of weapons grade plutonium, which will be converted into commercial nuclear fuel, remains at the site.

Plutonium Stored at SRS : There is approximately 13 Metric Tons of plutonium already stored at SRS -- most of which was brought there in anticipation for use after completion of the MOX project. Currently, DOE officials have not provided specifics on a plan to dispose of these materials in the absence of an operational MOX facility. Further, the MOX facility was being built as a part of an international agreement with Russia to dispose of weapons grade plutonium. The Russians have already down-blended some of their weapons-grade plutonium into an estimated 56 fuel

assemblies for nuclear reactor fuel. The failure to proceed with the MOX facility leaves open questions as to (1) how will the federal government honor the United States' end of the agreement with Russia?; (2) what will the costs of other alternatives be when compared to the price tag of finishing the MOX project?; and (3) will those other alternatives cost even more money after further delay? In short, we need a clear path forward for the disposition of weapons grade plutonium stored at SRS and elsewhere in the United States.

Costs of MOX Project : DOE reports that the MOX project is 61% finished. It may take until 2019 to finish -- three years past the original construction schedule at a price of approximately \$2.8 Billion more than originally planned in 2003. If it is completed and converts the plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel, the estimated amount of electrical power that can be generated from the converted fuel assemblies is \$102 Billion. It would take \$60 Billion in oil to produce the equivalent amount of electricity.

State Senate News

DSS Oversight Subcommittee : Last week, I chaired a third meeting for a Senate subcommittee charged with hearing testimony about child protective services and foster care services at the Department of Social Services. This has become a significant issue of statewide importance. Director Lillian Koller has not been able to testify before our subcommittee because of a medical condition arising from a stroke that she suffered in December. I have made it very clear to her, the media, and others in the Senate that our subcommittee will continue to hold hearings; that we expect Director Koller to appear when she is medically cleared; and that we will keep pressing on the issues even if we step on some toes. On Friday, I learned that Director Koller can appear on or after April 7. The subcommittee has set a hearing for April 16. The subcommittee will also meet again this Wednesday at 10 am. If you have an experience in this area that you would like to share with me, please let me know. I am committed to pressing forward so that our subcommittee can make the best possible recommendations to the General Assembly to better protect children in our state. To learn more about last week's hearing, go here: <http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2014/03/20/coroners-slam-sc-dss-in-hearings-senators-press-koller-to-testify/>

South Carolina and the Affordable Care Act : Last May, the House sent a bill to the Senate that originally started as a bill to nullify the Affordable Care Act (a/k/a Obamacare) in South Carolina. Because the House bill had significant constitutional questions, Senator Tom Davis was appointed to chair a subcommittee charged with exploring constitutional ways to lessen the impact of the new law in South Carolina. After three weeks of debate this month, a filibuster was ended last Wednesday afternoon. Before the vote on Senator Davis' amendments, a point of order was raised that the amendments were not germane to the original bill. As the presiding officer of the Senate, the Lt. Governor agreed resulting in all of the amendments prepared by Senator Davis and his subcommittee to be ruled out of order. A motion was made to override the Lt. Governor's decision. I voted in favor of overriding but the motion failed. The Senate then voted not to pass the House bill. The Senate will

vote during the budget in May on whether South Carolina will expand Medicaid under the new law. Last year, the Senate voted not to expand. I plan to vote not to expand again this year.

Wild Turkey Hunting Season : We have a lot of turkey hunter enthusiasts in Aiken County. The Senate Fish and Game Committee reported favorably to the full Senate a bill that implements a statewide uniform turkey season for hunting male turkey, to be March 20th through May 5th. The bill sets a statewide youth turkey day to be the Saturday before March 20th; sets a uniform bag limit (archery and lawful firearms) for male turkeys at 3, with an additional bird allowed upon the purchase of an "archery only turkey tag"; requires DNR to conduct a turkey study within 180 days of the conclusion of the third turkey season after the bill becomes effective; and increases the fine for violating the article. Currently, the turkey season for all game zones in the state is April 1 through May 1 except for Game Zone 6 which starts March 15.

Other News of Local Interest

Update – Crumbling Road Surface on Portion of I-20 : I reported on this issue in the February 10 update. Portions of the road surface on the westbound portion of I-20 between exit 22 and exit 11 are crumbling. SCDOT has contracted repair work and it is scheduled to begin on April 21. The milling of the road is to be done by May 31 and the overall completion date is the end of July.

Hammond Hill Elementary Students in Columbia : Recently, the third grade students from Hammond Hill in North Augusta visited the State House. Rep. Bill Hixon and I were able to visit with them for a few minutes. We enjoyed their visit!

Hitchcock Woods Foundation : Congratulations to the Hitchcock Woods Foundation for being named a 2013 Angel non-profit by the SC Secretary of State. Out of over 10,000 active public charities in the state, only ten are given this recognition on an annual basis.

Hitchcock Woods Newsletter : To see the current newsletter, go here: http://www.hitchcockwoods.org/media/newsletters/winter_2014.pdf

SRS Public Information Session : On Thursday, March 27, at the Odell Weeks Center in Aiken, information sessions about SRS will be provided from 5 to 8 pm by the Department of Energy and several of the site contractors. To learn more, go here: <http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140317/AIK0101/140319487/0/SEARCH&slId=1>

News Related to Ice Storm

Timber Damage – Information : The SC Forestry Commission released information last week to provide guidance to landowners who have questions about what to do with their ice-damaged trees. To learn more, go here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3k7lr70a32wbc9y/SCFC%20Ice%20Damage%20Response.pdf>

Debris Removal – City of Aiken : The City of Aiken is posting information on

Facebook, Twitter, and the City of Aiken web site and as to debris removal. The City also has provided this link: <https://www.cityofaikensc.gov/index.php/storm-debris-pickup-schedule-map/>.

Debris Removal – City of North Augusta : The City of North Augusta is posting information about debris removal on the City's facebook page. In addition, residents may email city manager Todd Glover at tglover@northaugusta.net.

Debris Removal -- Aiken County : Aiken County continues to pick up debris. The County has 1100 square miles to cover with debris pickup. As of last Wednesday, the County had removed 216,000 cubic yards of debris. If you have questions about the schedule, call the County Administrator's office at 642-2012.

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorscheuse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information : Congressman Wilson now represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

Speaking with Groups Around the District : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

Facebook: I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please "like" the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Tom Young's Website : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go to <http://sccommerce.com/south-carolina-business-network>.

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go to <http://www.FutureScholar.com/parents>.

Child Passenger Safety : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go to <http://www.bucklebuddiessc.org/>. The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Request a Flag : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430. If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you.

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, visit <http://www.tbredcountry.org>.

Email Updates : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at 641-7665 or Aiken County at 642-1532 to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
649-0000 (o)
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate

This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

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