

Title: **Gas shortages expected to linger**
 Author: ERIC CONNOR ECONNOR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Gas shortages expected to linger

Fuel providers say they will run out of gas periodically until the pipeline is repaired

ERIC CONNOR

ECONNOR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

The gasoline shortage that has caused a sharp spike in pump prices will continue over the coming days as Upstate fuel providers say they could run out of gas periodically until a broken pipeline two states away can be fixed.

However, on the same day that Gov. Nikki Haley signed an order waiving federal transportation regulations to expedite fuel delivery, providers urged customers to buy gas as normal — don't top your tank, don't fill extra cans — so that panic doesn't create more shortages.

"We at Spinx are working to reduce panic through security of supply at our stores," Upstate gas provider Spinx Co. said in a statement Monday. "Over the next few days, we are likely to see some retail stores run out of product, but we are confident that this situation is only temporary while the distribution system recovers."

Meanwhile, the Colonial Pipeline Co. said in an update Monday it was continuing to repair one of two of its main lines and was trucking gas gathered from the Gulf Coast to try to minimize shortages.

"We continue to be in regular communication with our customers, who are also working on their

own individual contingency plans to minimize supply disruptions," the company said. "This includes trucking and barging fuel from other markets and refineries."

Two Fridays ago, a mining inspector in Shelby County, Alabama, smelled a gasoline odor on mining property where Colonial operates two pipelines nearby. The two lines were shut down and more than 700 people are working to repair the breach.

One of the main lines that runs up to Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and on to New York has been shut down. Colonial is currently building a temporary line to restart the flow of gasoline and has re-purposed delivery methods that transported jet and diesel fuel.

The company doesn't have an estimate on when repairs will be completed.

The largest gasoline providers in the Upstate, who are more apt to run out because of their high volume, were rethinking how to distribute gasoline.

QuickTrip locations in the Greenville area suffered shortages throughout the weekend and continued into Monday. The company has a list of stores on its website that have gasoline in stock.

QT has spread out its supply of gasoline to markets in a way that ensures fuel is available nearby, spokesman Chuck Barton said.

"We have a strategy of geographically trying to keep gasoline available to customers in each market," Barton said. "We'll have stores in areas that do have outages, but we'll have another close by that will have fuel."

The price of gas in Greenville has risen more than 26 cents per gallon over the past week, according to GasBuddy.com, which surveys providers in markets daily. The average cost in the area is \$2.18, still below the \$2.20 national average.

The price is about 40 cents more per gallon than last year, according to the website.

Follow Eric on Twitter and Facebook.

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CHUCK BARTON
 QUICKTRIP SPOKESMAN

Title: **New Barnwell nuclear facility possible**
 Author: BY THOMAS GARDINER tgardner@aikenstandard.com
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New Barnwell nuclear facility possible

Letter announces
group's intentions
to build processing,
disposition facility
not far from SRS

BY THOMAS GARDINER

tgardner@aikenstandard.com

Barnwell County could become the home of yet another nuclear waste repository, if an Aiken group sees its plans come to fruition.

Mike Stake, president of the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group in Aiken, penned a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July.

In the letter, Stake officially announced intentions to apply for licensure that would allow the group to construct and operate a processing and disposition facility near Savannah River Site, just outside of Barnwell.

Barnwell County is already home to the Chem-Nuclear low-level nuclear waste disposal facility, which has been leaking tritium for years.

While the tritium leak may have caused alarm for some people, including multiple environmental groups, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control website, radiation levels from that leak are low level and well below recommended exposure levels.

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission website, "High-

level radioactive waste primarily is uranium fuel that has been used in a nuclear power reactor and is 'spent,' or no longer efficient in producing electricity. Spent fuel is thermally hot as well as highly radioactive."

In his letter to the NRC, Stake wrote, "By this letter Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group (SFR) is serving notice to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, of its intent to store spent nuclear fuel received from nuclear

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power plants in the State of South Carolina."

According to the NRC website, a review of licensure applications can take up to three years, including periods of public comment. At present, commercial nuclear reactors store their

spent fuel on site.

The fuel assemblies undergo a cooling period and are then stored dry in casks.

But, according to Stake's letter, "Nuclear utilities want to reclaim and reuse the remaining fuel that exists in all 'spent fuel,' the promise to recover and

reuse for better economy. This promise should be kept. There is the possibility that highly radioactive waste, from the fission process, could be burned, or transmuted to stable forms. This offers a new prospect: close the nuclear fuel cycle and reduce the amount of high level radioactive waste."

Gov. Nikki Haley has said over and over again that the Palmetto State will not become a dumping ground for nuclear waste. Her office added to that in an email statement, saying that stance would not change, regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it.



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The NRC responded to Stake's letter, but only acknowledged his letter and provided procedural information. The NRC did not express support or disapproval.

In its response, the NRC said, "It would assist our

planning efforts if you would keep us apprised of specific developments related to the timing of your license application, and the number of casks of the proposed facility. I also encourage you to consider holding pre-application

meetings with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff as you get closer to your submittal date."

The NRC also reminded Stake that there are NRC fees for pre-application meetings.

Attempts to reach Stake regarding the letter were unsuccessful.

Thomas Gardiner covers energy, technology and science topics for the *Aiken Standard*. Follow him on Twitter @TGardiner_AS.

Title: **Haley is forming new advisory committee on veterans' issues**
 Author: ASSOCIATED PRESS
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STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Haley is forming new advisory committee on veterans' issues

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley is forming a new committee to advise state and local leaders on veterans' issues.

An executive order signed Monday creates the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee. A similar veterans' study committee created by state law dissolved after issuing its report earlier this year.

The new, 15-member group will make recommendations at least annually to the state's 30-member Military Base Task Force on policies that can best serve veterans' needs.

South Carolina is home to 10 military installations. According to Haley's order, more than 400,000 veterans live in South Carolina.

The new advisory group will include legislators, state agency directors, veterans and members of the Military Base Task Force, which is tasked with coordinating efforts to maintain South Carolina's military presence and advising the governor and legislators.

A dozen people hurt in wreck on Interstate 85

TOWNVILLE — About a dozen people have been hurt when a church bus wrecked on Interstate 85 in Anderson County.

The wreck happened about 10 a.m. Monday about nine miles from the South Carolina-Georgia state line.

AnMed Health hospital spokesman Ross Norton said

13 people were brought to his hospital. Norton said several people had critical injuries.

Multiple media outlets reported that the bus was carrying members of Homeland Park Baptist Church in Anderson. The church's website said a senior adult trip was planned Monday, leaving at 9:30 a.m. to go to Unicoi State Park in Helen, Georgia.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol said the wreck involved a pickup truck with the bus. A witness said the bus was changing lanes when it collided with the truck and the bus overturned.

Victim in shooting in Lowcountry identified

NORTH CHARLESTON —

Charleston County authorities have released the name of a man shot and killed in North Charleston.

Deputy Coroner Sara Senn told local media that 47-year-old Ivan Greene, of North Charleston, was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital in Charleston after he was shot Friday night.

Police spokesman Spencer Pryor said officers were called about 11:30 p.m. Friday and found a man who had been shot.

Pryor said witnesses told investigators they saw an SUV pull in front of a house and shots were fired from the vehicle, hitting the victim.

No arrests have been reported.

Title: **Haley welcomes barrel maker to Bamberg**
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STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Haley welcomes barrel maker to Bamberg

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAMBERG — A new company will soon be rolling out the barrels in Gov. Nikki Haley's hometown.

Media outlets report the governor returned to Bamberg on Wednesday where she helped cut the ribbon at Black Water Barrels LLC.

The new company, which is creating about 60 jobs, will make white oak barrels in which to age bourbon. The company is investing \$3.6 million to start the operation in an old automotive plant.

Black Water President Greg Pierce thanked local officials for the support they have given the endeavor.

Deputies: Man killed wife, fled to Georgia

MONCK'S CORNER — Authorities said a Berkeley County man killed his wife and then fled to the Savannah, Georgia, area where he was arrested.

Chief Deputy Mike Cochran told local media outlets that 40-year-old Vanessa Ruth Hilton was found dead in her home in the Sangaree area Wednesday. Authorities said she had been beaten to death.

Hilton's 39-year-old husband Shon Hilton was arrested later Wednesday on federal property near Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Cochran said Hilton is being held on unrelated federal charges and is being charged with murder in South Carolina.

Popular boardwalk

set to be extended

MYRTLE BEACH — The popular oceanfront boardwalk in Myrtle Beach is being extended by another block.

The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reported that the north end of the boardwalk is being extended past where a developer is putting up a new oceanfront hotel.

City planning director Carol Coleman said the new hotel was approved with some zoning exceptions in exchange for a public benefit for the city.

The developers of the Hilton property will give the city the money to extend the boardwalk. An oceanfront park will also be built as part of the project.

The boardwalk now extends more than a mile along the oceanfront in Myrtle Beach.

Opposition mounts against Google plan

MOUNT PLEASANT — Local officials in South Carolina are worried about a proposal by internet giant Google

to draw water from an aquifer to cool a server farm.

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported Google has applied to draw 1.5 million gallons of water a day from the

aquifer to cool its servers in Berkeley County.

Mount Pleasant Town Councilman Mark Smith said the Google plan is a threat to public health and safety.

Title: **Haley calls on MUSC board to pay for its pricey meals, hotels**
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Haley calls on MUSC board to pay for its pricey meals, hotels

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON — Gov. Nikki Haley wants members of the board of the Medical University of South Carolina to reimburse the school for expensive meals and hotel stays during their board meetings.

Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said the governor has already asked her appointee to the school's governing board, Dr. Harold Jablon, to repay more than \$20,000 he was reimbursed for the meals, wine and luxury hotel rooms.

"We asked Dr. Jablon to repay the Medical University of South Carolina, which he has agreed to do, and his colleagues should do the same,"

Adams said.

The MUSC board spent about \$560,000 since 2011, largely on hotel rooms and food, at their six meetings per year in Charleston.

Dr. Donald Johnson, chairman of the MUSC trustees, has ordered a review of the board's spending.

"I have called for the immediate review of the board spending policies in order to define and align with best practices as we move forward," Johnson said in a letter to a newspaper.

According to Johnson, the review will include two board members, university finance, compliance and legal officers as well as two external members.