



## ANS-SR TECHNICAL MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2018

**Location:** Savannah River Brewing Company  
813 5th St.  
Augusta, GA 30901  
(706) 426-8212

**Attendance:** 50

**Presenter:** Tim Echols, Georgia Public Services Commission

Tonight's speaker was Georgia Public Service Commission Vice-Chair Tim Echols who spoke to the section about *Why Nuclear Energy Remains Important in America*. Mr. Echols has been a commissioner since 2011, believes in a balanced energy mix, is from Jefferson, GA, and is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

Mr. Echols began with a global discussion citing how nuclear became uncool with TMI and Fukushima, how Germany set the stage for closing nuclear plants (and letting energy costs skyrocket). He countered this citing how France has a good relationship with nuclear which is being passed to the next generation. Finally there was a warning that the U.S. should not let nuclear be led by Russia and China. The countries they seem to may not have the same safety standards and an accident anywhere reflects poorly on all nuclear.

Echols then brought the discussion home focusing on the decision to move forward with Vogtle units 3 and 4. He indicated the positive public support for the program and commented on ways the commission tried to make the decision appealing including penalties if Vogtle is late, a refund to rate payers, and solar projects. The commission always based their decision on the success of Vogtle 1 and 2 which went through a similar issue in their construction. But as Mr. Echols reminded us, there is still opposition in the form of legal protest from groups like Sierra Club and from competition with cheap natural gas. To continue making nuclear cool again the industry must be successful but also advertise – carbon free, sustainable, and safe

Next month's meeting will be on March 22 at Bobby's BBQ in Graniteville. The speaker will be Chuck Georgen discussing the Manhattan Project and the birth of the DOE complex.

The Benjamin Scholarship application period is now open.

Tonight was also the section's first visit to Savannah River Brewing Company and it proved to be a very accommodating venue enjoyed by the group. The catering was provided by French Market Grill.



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