Reed Johnson
Retired UVA Faculty
April 23, 2015 - Rt. 64 Comfort Inn Monticello, Charlottesville, VA at 5:30 PM

The History of Nuclear Energy in Virginia

The Commonwealth of Virginia has had an active, many-faceted engagement with the nuclear enterprise since the days of the Manhattan Project. Our state has seen the development of a major reactor vendor, a highly regarded nuclear electric utility, several significant academic programs and a primary supplier of nuclear-powered ships for the Navy. Several years ago, in order to memorialize these activities, the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) and the Virginia Section of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) initiated a joint project to create a collection entitled “The History of Nuclear Energy in Virginia” (NEVA), as a portion of the VHS existing Virginia Business History Center.

The collection came into being in part as a result of the contribution of reports, newsletters, essays, books, interviews and related materials by members of the Virginia Section and others, and by the organizations for which they worked or were associated. Another large source of material was the identification and scanning of Virginia-related articles in two major news magazines devoted to the nuclear energy industry, Nucleonics and Nuclear News. In total, about 680 articles published before 1986 were identified and copied. These titles of these articles listed in chronological order, in themselves, provide a snapshot of the evolution of the nuclear energy in Virginia.

Reed Johnson played a significant role in starting the NEVA project and processing materials for the collection. Also, as a pioneer in the nuclear field, he has been involved, directly or indirectly, in many of the activities which make up that history. In his talk Reed will depart from the typical, objective review of history and present a somewhat subjective, and perhaps worm's-eye, view of these events.
Speaker's Biography:

Reed graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a BS in Physics in 1953, completed a year-long course in nuclear engineering at the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology, and in 1962 was awarded the D.Sc. in Engineering Physics from UVA. From 1954-57 he worked in the nuclear submarine program, and on the Army Package Power Reactor. He was Project Engineer for the UVA Research Reactor and from 1962-64 directed the University's AID project to assist the Philippine Research Reactor. Reed was associated with the UVA Nuclear Engineering Program from its beginning in 1957 until the program was ended in 1998. He developed and taught graduate offerings in radiation shielding, nuclear power plant safety and nondestructive testing. From 1974 until 1991, Reed was a member of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel resolving technical and legal issues in licensing many of the nation’s nuclear power plants. Reed has been associated with the Science of Nuclear Energy and Radiation course for Middle and High School science teachers since its inception in the early 1980s.

Schedule:

- Social Hour - 5:30 p.m.
- Dinner - 6:15 p.m.
- Presentation - 7:00 p.m.
- Adjourn - 8:00 p.m..
- Directions to the Rt 64 Comfort Inn Monticello - (434) 977-3300
- The Comfort Inn is offering a special room rate of ~$90 if you'd prefer to have a break in your travels.

COST: ~$30 ($15 for students) includes dinner.

Reservations for the meeting have closed at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015. Please address any questions to Reed Johnson by email at wrjohnson@kaballero.com or by phone at 804-462-7409.