



Georgia Public Service Commission

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NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS

COMMISSIONER ECHOLS HOPES THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP TALKS ABOUT SAVANNAH RIVER SITE PLUTONIUM

July 11, 2018 – ATLANTA – Commissioner Tim Echols, Vice-chair of the Georgia Public Service Commission, hopes that one day Georgia’s Nuclear Power Plant Vogtle’s Generation Three reactors will run on surplus plutonium from old nuclear warheads. The upcoming summit between President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin holds great promise. Many are hoping that Mr. Trump scolds the Russian leader about his cyber tactics or his Syrian policy, but Echols thinks there is much more at stake.

“While most of the country has no clue that a large plutonium disposal facility is being built just over the Georgia-South Carolina state line at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, Mr. Putin is well aware of it and knows it is on the chopping block,” said Echols.

The little-known facility began because the U.S. and Russia signed an agreement back in 2000 for our two countries to mutually destroy 68 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium, the equivalent of 17,000 nuclear weapons. That’s not a typo. These weapons contain high grade plutonium — a material that terrorists and rogue nations like the Taliban, ISIS and Iran would love to have.

You can see more on Commissioner Echols thoughts in this opinion editorial in the July 10, 2018 edition of Washington Times at <https://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jul/10/how-the-us-and-russia-negotiate-a-solution-for-plu/>

This is Commissioner Echols’ second term on the Georgia Public Service Commission, having been re-elected statewide in November 2016. You can find his complete biography and photo on the Commission web site at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/pscinfo/bios/echols.asp?tab=Tab2>.

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