

[C. 1959] NEWS RELEASE BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-S.C.) IN WASHINGTON REGARDING A NEW PROPOSED GOVERNMENT PROPULSION FACILITY IN THE SAVANNAH RIVER PLANT AREA. Original  
(21-30)

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Senator Thurmond stated today that he has been watching the studies being made by NASA regarding the utilization of part of the Savannah River Plant area for a proposed new government propulsion facility. He has been in contact with officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration concerning this matter.

The Senator noted that the space agency had tentative plans to construct a new propulsion facility to conduct research and development on liquid and solid fuels for its space program. He reported he was assured by officials of the NASA that the Savannah site will be given careful consideration, in the event that the government proceeded to go ahead with its proposed facility.

Inasmuch as the facility would be testing highly toxic fuels, Senator Thurmond said that he based his interest in this facility on the assurance that sufficient surplus government land would be available to operate the plant with safety for the general public. The Senator also stated that if the facility was located in the Savannah Plant area there would be no necessity for the government to purchase additional land.

There is some question, Senator Thurmond said as to whether the agency will proceed with the proposed facility in the next year, due to budgetary problems. However, the Senator was assured that he would be kept advised of any progress in the matter.

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