

Senate Resolution 964

By: Senators Thomas of the 2nd, Johnson of the 1st, Kemp of the 3rd, Hill of the 4th, Starr of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to restore the Georgia radiation monitoring
2 program for radionuclides in the soil, air, water, vegetation, milk, fish, and wildlife from the
3 United States Department of Energy's Savannah River Site; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Savannah River and its watershed are vital resources to the people of the
5 State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, the Savannah River Site, owned by the United States Department of Energy and
7 operated by its contractors, is located on the South Carolina border of the Savannah River
8 and has manufactured plutonium and tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen, for nuclear
9 weapons since 1950; and

10 WHEREAS, the manufacture of plutonium and tritium has generated other radionuclide
11 by-products including cesium-137, cobalt-60, and iodine-129; and

12 WHEREAS, the Savannah River Site contains the largest amount of radioactive waste of any
13 nuclear weapons site in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy established a nation-wide radiation
15 monitoring program for host states and states adjacent to United States Department of Energy
16 nuclear weapons facilities; and

17 WHEREAS, funds from this program have been granted to Georgia's Environmental
18 Radiation Program to conduct extensive monitoring for radionuclides in the soil, air, water,
19 vegetation, milk, fish, and wildlife at multiple stations in Georgia counties adjacent to and
20 downstream from the Savannah River Site; and

1 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has ongoing activities, including
2 clean-up and water stabilization, at the Savannah River Site which have the potential for
3 radionuclide contamination in Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, radionuclides from the Savannah River Site have been found in the soil, air,
5 water, vegetation, milk, fish, and wildlife in Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia radiation monitoring program for the Savannah River Site is a
7 unique and vital source of information for the people of Georgia about the radiological health
8 of the Georgia Savannah River watershed; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has notified the State of Georgia of its
10 intent to cancel funding for Georgia's radiation monitoring of the Savannah River Site; and
11 Governor Sonny Perdue has requested the United States Department of Energy to reinstate
12 such funding, but the request was refused by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia's monitoring program remains urgent and vital to protect the natural
14 resources and the health of the people of the State of Georgia with unique information about
15 the extent of contamination of Georgia's soil, air, water, vegetation, milk, fish, and wildlife.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
17 urge the Congress of the United States to immediately restore funding for Georgia's radiation
18 monitoring of the Savannah River Site.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
20 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the presiding officers of each house of
21 the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Georgia congressional
22 delegation.