

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)  
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Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

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**Statement of U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)  
on Gov. Hodges' Decision to File a Lawsuit  
Against the U.S. Department of Energy**

“What the Governor has done, in fact all that he has done, is act to head off something he has said all along he would not accept: shipment of plutonium and plutonium materials into South Carolina without first having in place an enforceable exit strategy for that material.

“The Department of Energy gave notice on April 15 that it would begin to ship plutonium from Rocky Flats in Colorado to the Savannah River Site in as little as 30 days. May 15 is now only two weeks away, and while progress has been made, particularly in the past week, we don't yet have an agreement in place. The Governor was concerned that if he waited any longer to take this step, he would risk the State's position in court.

“Today's announcement should not end the discussions that have been underway for the past several days. What we have been working toward — legislative language that could, together with a revised agreement between DOE and South Carolina, provide an exit strategy for the plutonium coming to Savannah River Site — remains a goal worth seeking. I have been working with all the parties to that end, and I am ready to continue to do so. “

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