

Vision

To enhance the nation's security and prosperity through sustainable, transformative approaches to our most challenging energy, climate, and infrastructure problems.

Center for Energy, Security, and Society

The understanding and explicit inclusion of social, economic and political factors have, and will continue to have, considerable impact on the success or otherwise of national policies related to the nuclear fuel cycle, including the implementation of new fuel cycle options as well as the siting of new nuclear power plants (including small modular reactors) and of nuclear waste management facilities (e.g., storage and disposal facilities). The Center for Risk, Crisis and Resilience at Oklahoma University (OU/CRCR) has a long history of examining social, economic and political factors influencing nuclear energy policies.

For nearly 20 years, researchers at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and OU/CRCR have been collaborating in a variety of nuclear fuel cycle projects. Through these collaborative efforts, SNL and OU/CRCR principal investigators have developed a good understanding of how nuclear fuel cycle applications should be implemented. In particular, there is a shared common vision of (1) how physical and social scientists should work together towards finding and implementing sustainable solutions to nuclear fuel cycle problems, (2) how communities need to be effective participants in the development and implementation of national nuclear energy policies, and (3) the education of new generations of leaders, an essential component of the successful implementation of national nuclear energy policies because of the long times associated with said policies.

To address the shared common vision between SNL and OU/CRCR, a Memorandum of Understanding that documents the relationship between SNL and OU/CRCR has been implemented. OU/CRCR policy scientists and analysts work together with SNL physical scientists and engineers in a variety of projects, including, but not limited to, Used Fuel Disposition and Small Modular Reactors projects. The collaboration takes place under the umbrella of a joint OU/SNL "Center for Energy, Security and Society". The Center serves to advance the objectives of both OU/CRCR and SNL as research and development institutions.

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