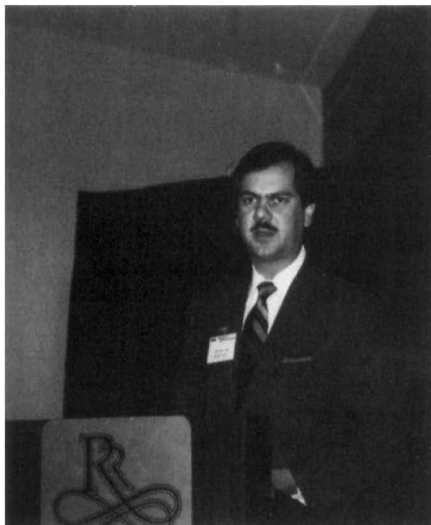


## New National Critical Materials Council Exec Addresses Federation of Materials Societies



Robert Dale Wilson, the new executive director of the National Critical Materials Council described to Federation of Materials Societies member society representatives and guests the current activities of the Council during a luncheon held December 11, 1987. In particular he addressed the Council's desire to complete by summer 1988 an "Advanced Materials Program Plan" which would be submitted to the Administration for transmittal to Congress. A program plan for critical materials, the other half of the Council's mandated responsibility, has been finished and is expected to be released by late January 1988.

Wilson commended the FMS for proactively helping to identify the important issues for the advanced materials program and solicited broad input to the work of the Council. In answer to a question from the audience, he confirmed that the content of the Material Science and Engineering Study of the National Academies will be taken into account in preparing the advanced materials plan.

## DOD and DOE Project to Investigate Beryllium Supply

The Departments of Defense and Energy have developed a number of options

that could ensure the timely availability of the needed quantity of pure beryllium. A committee of the Research Council's National Materials Advisory Board has undertaken a 16-month project to evaluate several alternatives: new plants using the best-available, most economical production facilities; new, environmentally safe plants to recycle scrap; a combination of both; or upgraded existing facilities.

Lightweight, high-strength, and corrosion-resistant beryllium is a metal with unique physical and chemical properties. Its use by the government in aircraft frames, inertial navigation systems, satellite heat shields, and other areas is essential, and there is no acceptable substitute. But only one commercial supplier of beryllium is available, and this source, in operation since the 1950s, is in danger of being closed down for failure to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations for airborne beryllium particles.

## General Accounting Office to Assess Scientific Exchange Agreements

The U.S. General Accounting Office will assess scientific exchange agreements with Warsaw Pact nations under the terms of an amendment to the Foreign Aid Authorization Act. The amendment calls for the GAO to study the efficacy of interagency review of proposed agreements, the consequences of foreign access to U.S. research, mandatory debriefing of U.S. participants in exchanges, and ways to enhance the benefits to the United States of exchanges.

## Contractor Sought for Savannah River Plant

U.S. Secretary of Energy John S. Herrington has announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) will have a single contractor operate its Savannah River Plant (SRP) near Aiken, South Carolina. The scope of the contract will include operation of SRP facilities, the Savannah River Laboratory, and engineering and construction services.

"It is in the best interest of the Government to have a single entity responsible to DOE for the operation of the Savannah

River Plant," said Secretary Herrington. "The Department looks forward to receiving proposals from individual firms, joint ventures and others. I encourage all offerers to establish special programs for involvement of major universities in the research and development activities at Savannah River Laboratory."

The new contract will be cost plus award fee. The source selection official will be Undersecretary of Energy Joseph Salgado. A source evaluation board is scheduled to have its evaluation of proposals to the Undersecretary by October 1, 1988.

The Du Pont Company will not continue operations at SRP after expiration of its current contract on September 30, 1989.

## NAS/NAE Recommend Best Sites for Super Collider

The U.S. Department of Energy has received from the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering (NAS/NAE) a report and a list of unranked, "best qualified" sites for the proposed Superconducting Super Collider.

Last September, DOE asked the NAS/NAE to evaluate 36 site proposals in 25 states against DOE prescribed technical criteria and cost considerations and to recommend an unranked list of "best qualified" sites. To review the proposals, NAS and NAE established an evaluation committee of 21 experts in high energy physics, engineering geology, accelerator design, economics, procurement, the environment, construction and large-facility management. The committee was chaired by Edward Frieman, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA.

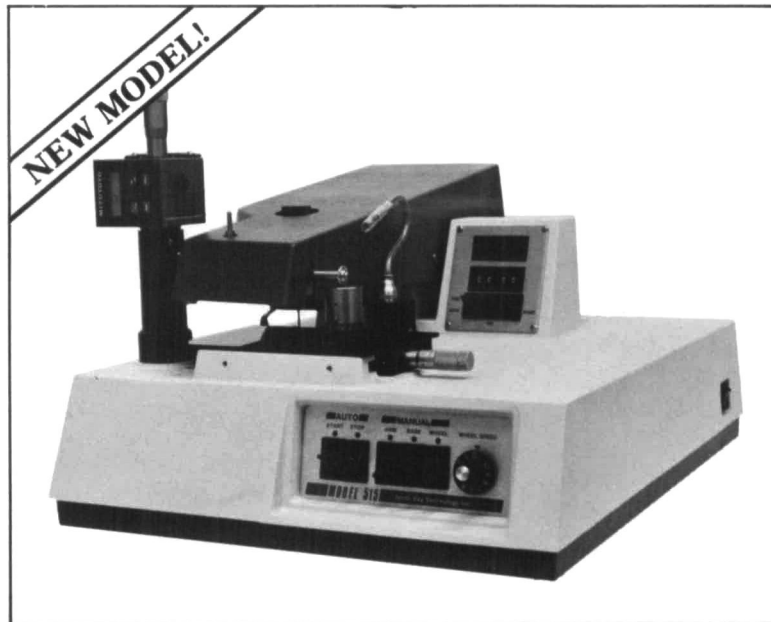
The NAS/NAE report was delivered to DOE on December 24, 1987 for review. The department, which expects to complete its internal review in January, will then issue the final, official "best qualified list." DOE expects to identify a preferred site in July and announce a final decision in January 1989.

The eight sites on the Academies' recommended list are in Arizona (Maricopa site), Colorado, Illinois, Michigan (Stockbridge site), New York (Rochester site), North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas (Dallas/Ft. Worth site). □

**1988 MRS Spring Meeting Preview—see page 40.**

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