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Public History graduate student Jessica Forsee discovered during her internship at the Savannah River Site Museum that nuclear energy fundamentally changed the US South. Her first exhibit “In My Heart Forever: 70 Years after SRP Construction” commemorates the seventieth anniversary of the Site’s announcement and subsequent displacement of 6,000 people in the zoned construction area. This can be viewed on the SRS Museum website here. The second exhibit “Nuclear Culture: Aiken and SRP Life during the Cold War” highlights how plant employees influenced the surrounding community in changing race and gender norms and mobilized civilian support for Cold War national defenses. A virtual extension of this exhibit will also be displayed on the SRS Museum website and can be viewed at the SRS Museum in Aiken, South Carolina. Both exhibits go beyond the scientific innovation of nuclear energy to look at its social impact on everyday Americans.

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