

Invitation: The Proliferation Consequences of Laser Enrichment Technology

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to an event on **“The Proliferation Consequences of Laser Enrichment Technology,”** which will be held at **George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St. NW, at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26.**

The event, co-sponsored by the Elliott School, the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation, and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies will discuss the pending Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license application for a proposed laser enrichment facility in Wilmington, North Carolina and the impact of this technology on U.S. nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

Several nonproliferation experts wrote to the NRC on Sept. 30, 2009, calling for the commission to assess more fully the facility’s proliferation risks and warning that “the potential demonstration effect on other states from licensing the General Electric-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment Commercial Facility in Wilmington, North Carolina raises significant proliferation issues. Should the United States be seen to embrace the use of laser isotope enrichment as a commercially viable technology, there can be little question that other states will be strongly encouraged to follow this lead and develop such technology for their own use. Given the great difficulty of detecting laser isotope enrichment facilities , their spread could undermine U.S. nonproliferation efforts and the ability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to confirm the absence of undeclared nuclear activities in nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) non-nuclear-weapon states. “

Panelists will include:

Dr. James Acton—Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Dr. John Ahearne—Former Chairman Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dr. Charles Ferguson-Philip D. Reed, Senior Fellow for Science and Technology, the Council on Foreign Relations

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to johan.bergenas@miis.edu

Sincerely,

John Isaacs
Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation

Miles A. Pomper
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

Douglas Shaw
Elliott School, George Washington University