

# Putin offers arms control to help rebuild US-Russia ties

BLOOMBERG NEWS

Russian President Vladimir Putin signaled his intention to start work on a new arms control treaty with the U.S. a day before a summit with Donald Trump that's expected to focus on ending the fighting in Ukraine and restoring economic ties.

An agreement on the control of strategic offensive weapons can "create long-term conditions for peace between our countries and in Europe and in the world as a whole," Putin said Thursday at a Kremlin meeting with senior officials, including his finance minister and central bank chief, ahead of his Friday talks with the U.S. leader in Alaska.

Putin tried to press Trump during his first presidential term to agree to an arms deal but had little success. While Russia has been open to resuming nuclear talks with the U.S. since last year, officials said in June that worsening relations with the U.S. had led to fading chances for a new pact to replace the last such treaty with the U.S., which expires early next year.

"Putin's aim is to divorce the issue of the war from bilateral relations including strategic and economic ones," said Alexander Kolyandr, a London-based senior fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis and former strategist at Credit Suisse Group AG. "The topic of business, energy and financial sanctions seems to be equally if not more important for Putin."

With the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine now in its fourth year, Russia this month said that it



In this pool photograph distributed by the Russian state agency Sputnik, Russia's President Vladimir Putin chairs a Security Council meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on August 8, 2025. (Mikhail Metzel/Pool/AFP/Getty Images/TNS)

missiles.

Putin heads to Alaska accompanied by economic officials, as well as his defense and foreign ministers, after Trump signaled he was looking to downplay expectations for a full peace deal at the summit. The U.S. president has warned Moscow that he is ready to impose "very severe consequences" if Putin didn't agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine.

Still, Putin praised the U.S. for making "quite energetic and sincere efforts" to stop the fighting in Ukraine.

European allies have expressed concern that the U.S. president — who has said an eventual deal would include territorial exchanges — could uni-

meeting is the precursor for a second round of talks.

Trump and Putin will also discuss bilateral economic cooperation at the talks, Yuri Ushakov, the Kremlin's top foreign policy aide, said Thursday, according to Tass. Ushakov will accompany the president to Alaska, where the two leaders may hold a joint news conference.

Alongside foreign and defense ministers, it will also include Finance Minister Anton Siluanov and Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's representative for international investment and economic cooperation — a lineup which suggests the parties may also discuss potential business ventures following the top-level talks.

# Radioactive wasp nests spark demand for answers at South Carolina's Savannah River Site

SAMMY FRETWELL  
The State

COLUMBIA, S.C. — As word spreads about the discovery of radioactive wasp nests at a South Carolina nuclear weapons complex, some researchers and environmental activists are urging the government to provide more details about the finding.

So far, officials with the Savannah River Site have issued a basic statement saying that four different wasp nests were found on a post near a highly contaminated section of the property last month. But they have said there is no threat to the public. They've said wasps were lightly contaminated and were unlikely to spread toxins off the 310-square mile site.

Still, plenty of questions remain, including the types of radioactive material found in the nests, University of South Carolina biologist Tim Mousseau said.

"There's insufficient information to really kind of determine the risks and the hazards," said Mousseau, who has extensive experience studying the effects of radioactivity on plants and animals around the world.

Based on the SRS answers, for instance, it's not clear whether the wasp nests were contaminated by a new leak at the weapons complex, he said. A new leak could indicate emerging contamination threats that need to be addressed. The nests were found in an area where large tanks store toxic nuclear material.

"If this reflects new leakage or new releases of pollutants that haven't been documented, then this is a sentinel of potential issues related to the long-term storage of this nuclear waste, which is an ongoing issue at all ... sites that were involved in and continue to be involved in the processing of materials mostly for national security purposes," Mousseau said.

"So if this is indeed a sentinel ... then we should be very concerned. This could be the beginning of a much larger problem."

Site officials said they believe the material is coming from "legacy" contamination, or places tainted long ago.

The discovery of the contaminated nests has created substantial interest by media outlets across the state and the nation, even though radioactive plants and animals have been documented on SRS for years. Among the outlets reporting on the wasps are The New York Times, the Washington Post, the BBC and CNN.

Previous reporting by The State has shown some animals with elevated levels of radioactivity, including turtles, fish and deer. The levels haven't often been high enough to cause great concern. But during the past decade, the site has discovered radioactive bird droppings on an SRS roof, which is a concern because, unlike wasps, birds can travel great distances to areas away from the site where people live.

Tom Clements, who heads the watchdog group Savannah River Site Watch, acknowledged national interest in the wasps.

That's why the government should provide more information, such as what kinds of radioactive materials were found in the nests and the exact contamination levels, he and Mousseau said.

Such information could help answer questions about whether wasp nests were tainted by current leaks or old contamination, they said.

Mousseau, whose studies have included the Chernobyl nuclear site in Ukraine, and Clements also said releasing the levels of contamination in the wasp nests would provide a better sense of whether the pollution is historic or has resulted from recent events.

Clements said he's received recent correspondence indicating that some trees on the site have sustained radioactive contamination through the years. Some types of wasps use wood fiber to make nests.

The Savannah River Site, started in the 1950s near Aiken, is part of a group of facilities nationally that made material for atomic weapons. For years, SRS produced plutonium and tritium, and it still processes tritium. Today, it is again being considered as a site for ramped up atomic weapons production. A new plutonium pit factory is on the drawing boards.

Clements, a pit plant opponent who has closely tracked SRS issues since the 1980s, said radioactive leaks have occurred at the site's tank farms in the past, although some of that was contained. Tanks in the farm contain dangerous radioactive waste. He said that some waste could leak when the toxic material inside them is piped out of the huge containers.

SRS is in the process of emptying the huge underground waste tanks as part of efforts to clean up the site, which is filled with areas polluted by atomic waste. The effort has been ongoing for decades.

Much of the work centers on

pipng the deadly waste to processing facilities, where much of the material is turned into glass to lower its threat. The glass is then stored on the SRS property.

An email from SRS, distributed to media since the discovery, says only that all of the nests were releasing less than 1% of the natural amount of radiation found in the environment. The email said it's believed the pollution in the nests came from what is known as "legacy contamination," or material that tainted the more than 70-year-old weapons site long ago.

Clements said that means nothing to him because much of the material in the waste tanks has been there for long periods, making it legacy waste.

"If it's legacy contamination .... it's old," he said. "But it's still a current threat potentially."

According to the SRS statement, workers discovered a radioactive nest on the F tank farm July 3 while conducting routine radiological monitoring. The nest was found on a post adjacent to waste tank 17, a federal report says. By July 31, they had found three more contaminated nests, SRS officials say.

Whether the types and levels of pollution will ever be fully known remains unclear. The SRS statement said workers sprayed the nests to kill the wasps "before radiological surveys could be taken." But the release also said all of the wasps had "lower levels of contamination than the nests."

SRS says it has concluded that the nests became contaminated by wasps that brought tainted material to the nests. The bugs had apparently been in areas where legacy contamination is known to exist.

The SRS release conceded that the process of closing the waste tanks could potentially expose wasps and birds to low contamination levels, but it also said the public should not be alarmed.

"The U.S. Department of Energy is managing the discovery of four wasp nests with very low levels of radioactive contamination that have been found at the Savannah River Site (SRS)," according to a recent statement from Edwin Deshong, who runs SRS's Office of Environmental Management. "The nests do not pose a health risk to SRS workers, the community, or the environment. Work will continue at the SRS where we are fully committed to ensuring the health and safety of the workers and the community."

# Classifieds

CLASSIFIED NEW DEADLINES  
Daily-11 a.m. Day Before  
Saturday- 3 p.m. Thursday

Minimum Charge- 1 day, up to 15 words, \$8.25

Call the office 620-331-3550 to place your ad. We accept Visa, MasterCard or Discover cards, or you can pre-pay for your ad at our offices at 6th and Chestnut streets.

The Reporter reserves the right to edit, classify or reject any ad submitted.

The Independence Daily Reporter does not accept responsibility for the character of advertisers requesting its readers to make cash investments in business ventures. The Reporter does suggest you check thoroughly with your Chamber of Commerce, credit bureau, or your local banks before you make investments with concerns you know little or nothing about.

CLASSIFICATION INDEX	
Topic	Number
ANNOUNCEMENTS (100)	
Food Specials .....	101
Business Opportunities.....	102
Coming Attractions.....	103
Notices.....	104
Lost & Found .....	105
Lodge Notices .....	106
EMPLOYMENT (120)	
Help Wanted.....	121
Jobs Wanted.....	122
MERCHANDISE (130)	
Auctions.....	131
Rummage Sales.....	132
Farm Equip. & Supplies.....	133
Livestock & Equip.....	134
Pets & Supplies.....	135
Indoor Goods.....	136
Outdoor Goods.....	137
Merchandise for Rent.....	138
Free .....	139
Merchandise Wanted.....	140
SERVICE (150)	
Services.....	151
Auctioneers.....	152
VEHICLES, ACCESSORIES (160)	
Autos.....	161
Trucks .....	162
Motorcycles.....	163
Recreational Vehicles.....	164
Vehicle Accessories.....	165
Vehicles Wanted .....	166
PROPERTY (180)	
Real Estate for Sale .....	181
Property for Rent.....	182
Mobile Homes.....	183
Property Wanted .....	184
Auctions.....	185
PUBLIC NOTICES.....	200

104 Notices

AA MEETINGS; 213 W. Oak; Independence; Noon Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday; Wednesday at 7pm. Thursday at 7pm; Sunday at 6pm. Alanon meetings; Tuesday at 7pm TF

121 Help Wanted

BARTENDER WANTED: VFW Fredonia. Apply within, 10283 Harper Rd, Fredonia. AUG20

132 Rummage Sale

YARD SALE, 4 wheeler, trailer fridge, beds, welder, lots of tools, latter & misc. 5 miles South, 3203 CR 3900. Saturdy 7am. AUG15

135 Pets & Supplies

ACA POMERANIAN puppies, 2 males, \$500 each. Call 620-714-0295. AUG23

151 Services

LOWRY CONSTRUCTION, new construction, room additions, steel buildings, remodeling, roofing, insurance claims. Locally owned since 2001. We do it all, 620-330-1943. TF

O'SHIELDS SEPTIC Tank Cleaning. Installation and repairs. For reliable service and inspection call John, 620-289-4705. TF

ALWAYS A great gift idea; automatic garage doors, Independence Overhead Doors, Inc., 115 W. Main, Independence, 620-331-2445. TF

JESSE'S LAWN Service, mowing, cleaning, trimming. Free estimates. Call 620-779-3897. TF



## WANTED

**Direct Support Worker for individual with disabilities in Elk Falls. Assistance in home, personal care, run errands. Must be at least 18 years old and have valid transportation.**

**Call 1-620-725-3990 to get more details.**

182 Property For Rent

HILLCREST RENTALS efficiency apartments, starting at \$125 weekly. Utilities paid. 620-714-0377. TF

CLIMATE CONTROL storage, available, Witwer Storage, 1691 CR 4325, Coffeyville, 620-251-8542. TF

DEVORE STORAGE, secured perimeter, reasonable rates, easy access, 216 Cement, 620-331-8407, 620-926-0197, sizes available. TF

200 Public Notice

(First published in the Independence Daily Reporter August 15, 2025)  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WILSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE INTEREST OF:

K.J. yob: 2015, a minor child  
K.J. yob: 2018, a minor child  
Case No. WL-2024-JC-4  
WL-2024-JC-5

NOTICE OF HEARING-Publication Pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2237

TO: The mother, father, the paternal grandparents, the maternal grandparents and all other persons who are or may be concerned

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court alleging that the child named above is a Child in Need of Care. The Court may find that the parents are unfit by reason or conduct or condition which renders the parents unable to care properly for a child, the conduct or condition is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, the parental rights of the parent should be terminated, and a permanent custodian should be appointed for the child.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for the 12th day of September, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. At the hearing the Court may issue orders relating to the care, custody, and control of the child. The hearing will determine if the parents should be deprived of their parental rights and the right to custody of the child. The parent(s), and any other person having legal custody are required to appear before this Court on the date and time shown, or to file your written response to the petition with the Clerk of the District Court prior to that time. Failure to respond or to appear before the Court at the time shown will not prevent the Court from entering judgment as requested in the petition, finding that the child is a Child in Need of Care, removing the child from the custody of parent, parents, or any other present legal custodian until further order of the Court, or finding the parents unfit, and entering an order permanently terminating the parents' parental rights.

An attorney has been appointed as guardian ad litem for the child: John K. Chenoweth (620)378-4444. You have the right to appear before the Court and be heard personally, either with or without an attorney. The Court will appoint an attorney for any parent who desires an attorney but is financially unable to hire one. The Court may order one or both parents to pay child support. An attorney has been appointed for you: Father: John Chenoweth (620) 378-4444; Mother: Jacob Manbeck (620) 305-2592. Date and time of hearing: September 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Place of hearing: Wilson County Courthouse, 615 Madison, Courtroom 210, Fredonia, KS 66736.

/s/ Amanda Davis  
District Court Clerk

August 15, & 22, 2025

Helpful Tips

Did you know?

Landscape lighting has become increasingly popular in recent years. Such lighting can extend living spaces, and many homeowners report that a well-lit landscape helps them feel more safe at home. Though the final cost to light up a home's exterior will depend on the size of a property, landscape lighting is among the more budget-friendly home renovations homeowners can consider. According to the renovation experts at Angi.com, the average cost of a landscape lighting project is \$4,000. Considering how much landscape lighting transforms the look of a property at night, that's a lot of bang for homeowners' bucks. Solar lights are popular, but homeowners may want to consider electrical wiring that ensures lights maintain their awe-inspiring glow throughout the night. Electrical work requires additional labor, and thus a higher price tag. However, Angi notes that modern LED bulbs consume just 25 percent of the energy used by incandescent alternatives, which can make them a more reliable option than self-installed solar