Nuclear Fuel Recycling in Oak Ridge

Overview

Oklo has selected Oak Ridge, Tennessee, as the site for the nation's first advanced nuclear fuel recycling and fuel manufacturing facility. This $1.68 billion, privately funded investment is a major step in building a secure domestic fuel supply for advanced reactors such as Oklo's Aurora powerhouses.

The 248-acre facility will leverage Oak Ridge's nuclear expertise and infrastructure while strengthening Tennessee's leadership in nuclear power.

Economic Impact

Oklo's investment builds on the nuclear industry legacy at Oak Ridge and the broader Tennessee region, creating high-quality jobs and expanding advanced high-tech industrial opportunities.

Oklo has agreed with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to explore recycling the utility's used fuel and to have TVA offtake power from Oklo's generation capacity. The current site includes land for possible future reactors, contingent on an agreement with TVA or another customer as the offtaker.

Fuel Recycling and Fuel Fabrication

In Oak Ridge, Oklo will recycle used nuclear fuel from today's reactor fleet and turn it into new fuel for advanced fast reactors. This process recovers valuable materials that still contain enormous energy potential, while also producing radioisotopes important to healthcare, research, and national defense.

By recycling, we shorten the time needed to store used nuclear fuel from tens of thousands of years to a few hundred and shrink the amount of material requiring final disposal.

The new fuel will be fabricated into assemblies for its Aurora powerhouses and may also produce assemblies using fresh enriched uranium in the future.

At the heart of this work is pyroprocessing—a modern, dry recycling technology that replaces outdated, liquid-based methods from the Manhattan Project era. Unlike older techniques, pyroprocessing:

- Does not separate pure plutonium, enhancing security
- Eliminates liquid waste streams that can damage the environment
- Requires a smaller footprint while keeping a low-hazard profile

oklo.com
oakridge@oklo.com | media@oklo.com

3190 Coronado Dr.
Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Benefits to Tennessee

The project aims to create more than 800 permanent, high-quality, good-paying jobs, supports collaboration with research institutions, and revitalizes former industrial sites through sustainable redevelopment.

Oklo is excited to partner with several education institutions in the area to develop a robust curriculum that supports the nuclear industry and builds upon a dynamic and skilled workforce. The company will proactively recruit from underserved communities, attend local job fairs, and work with community leaders to build a talent pipeline.

Oklo's fuel recycling technology turns a last-generation liability into a next-generation asset and directly advances Tennessee's nuclear expansion policy.

High-Level Project Timeline

Milestones	Expected Timing
Opening local office & initial hiring	2026
Start of site prep & construction	Spring 2026 & 2027
Start of volume hiring	2028
Commissioning	2030

Community Engagement

The company plans to hire from within the community, and collaborate with local schools, colleges and universities, and civic organizations, ensuring that future generations of Tennesseans can thrive in clean energy careers.

About Oklo Inc.

Oklo Inc. is developing fast fission power plants to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy at scale, establishing a domestic supply chain for critical radioisotopes, and advancing nuclear fuel recycling to convert used nuclear fuel into clean energy.

Contacts

Project Inquiries: oakridge@oklo.com
Media Inquiries: media@oklo.com