



Westinghouse

The Economic Impact of the
Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility

Executive Summary

Westinghouse Electric Company is a global nuclear reactor technology and services provider, offering a range of services and technologies related to nuclear fuel, maintenance, instrumentation and control, and new plant engineering. In South Carolina Westinghouse operates several facilities, including the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Richland County. CFFF has been in operation since 1969 and is one of the largest nuclear fuel plants in the world, with its fuel specifically producing approximately ten percent of the electricity in the United States.

As of 2026, Westinghouse is in the early stages of a large, five-year expansion of CFFF that will consist of a series of multi-million-dollar capital investments totaling nearly \$1 billion by the year 2030. This expansion will not only add to CFFF's sizable economic footprint in Richland County, but will also reinforce its role as a cornerstone of South Carolina's growing nuclear energy cluster by strengthening the state's advanced manufacturing capacity and its nuclear supplier network.

The purpose of this study is to estimate the current economic impact of CFFF in both Richland County and South Carolina as well as how this impact is likely to increase over the next decade following the facility's expansion.

The key findings of this analysis are as follows:

The current economic impact of the Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Richland County totals approximately \$711.0 million annually. This dollar value is reflective of all final goods and services that are produced in Richland County that can be attributed (directly or indirectly) to the ongoing operations of CFFF. This level of economic activity is associated with **2,245 jobs** and **\$234.2 million in labor income** for Richland County residents.

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For the broader Midlands Region (including both Lexington & Richland counties) and for South Carolina as a whole, the impact of CFFF expands significantly – by approximately 13 percent and 29 percent, respectively. This increase represents the additional demand created by CFFF with its many in-state suppliers located outside of Richland County along with increases in local household spending that accompanies all job creation. **The current annual economic impact of CFFF on South Carolina is \$914.2 million, which supports a total of 2,886 jobs and \$301.2 million in labor income statewide.**

CFFF supports a highly skilled, high wage workforce in Richland County that reflects the specialized technical expertise required for nuclear fuel fabrication, advanced manufacturing processes, engineering, quality assurance, and rigorous safety and regulatory compliance. More specifically, **the average job at CFFF pays an annual wage of \$104,597. This represents a 64 percent wage premium over the average job in South Carolina.**

This level of economic activity and job creation is also associated with an employment multiplier of 2.4. **For every 10 jobs created directly by CFFF, another 14 jobs, on average, are created elsewhere in South Carolina.** This multiplier effect is significantly higher than that of the average industry in South Carolina (at 1.7), implying that **expansions of CFFF can scale up job creation in highly skilled, high wage fields at a much higher rate than many other South Carolina firms.**

Between 2026 and 2030, Westinghouse is planning to invest nearly \$1 billion towards the expansion of CFFF, which will allow for the production of Low Enriched Uranium Plus (LEU+) fuel for nuclear power plants. Use of this fuel at nuclear power plants, in turn, represents a significant technological advancement that will help lower operational costs by increasing power output and reducing the number of operational outages required for refueling.

The temporary, construction-related activities associated with this expansion of CFFF as well as the accompanying permanent increase in day-to-day production is expected to generate a cumulative economic impact of approximately \$3.8 billion in Richland County by the year 2035. This includes nearly 1,500 permanent jobs that will either be created or preserved, both at CFFF and throughout the broader economy, by supporting the facility's continued competitiveness and long-term operations. For the state of South Carolina, this cumulative impact increases to \$4.9 billion.





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