



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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**Weldstar Saves Southern Nuclear Time and Money by Delivering “24/7”
Service and Solid Industry Experience that is Second-to-None**

- From Standard Order Delivery to Parking Lot Meetings, Weldstar Serves Southern Nuclear -

AURORA, Illinois – Paul Evans is a very busy man. As a member of the Vendor Oversight group for Southern Nuclear, he’s helping to manage a resurgence of power plant construction in Waynesboro, Georgia, where his company is constructing two nuclear power plants (Vogtle, Units 3 and 4) that are the first new built in the United States in more than 30 years.

New reactor designs have eliminated the need for billions of dollars worth of material and spacing, with the piping and valves down almost 50 percent from those built in the 1960s and 1970s. In addition, the reactors are being built as “modular” power plants, so the “puzzle pieces” according to Evans, will start coming in soon from parts of the US, and will be welded together on-site by various sub-contractors.

Eventually, as each stage of construction is completed, the modules are welded together and placed either inside the Reactor Containment Vessel or alongside the Containment Vessel in one of the Site Auxiliary Buildings. Then additional piping, electrical work, pumps, valves, etc. will be installed to complete the construction. With all of this comes the tremendous amount of testing and documentation required to meet all of the required Codes, Standards and Federal Regulations.

Because of the nature of the construction, delivery, accuracy and timing of all products, from gases to filler material is more important than ever. That’s why Evans depends on Weldstar as an important partner, both domestically and internationally during new construction, modifications, and plant outage repairs involving the Nuclear, Gas, Fossil, Petrochemical, Refinery and Geothermal industries.

With Weldstar, companies like Southern Nuclear can depend on a true partner that is able to deliver more than product solutions. According to Evans, being able to support him with random needs that are usually unplanned and during late hours is especially important when performing maintenance or emergent jobs in existing power plants.

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Southern Nuclear Weldstar Testimonial – Cont.

“Time is money and with Weldstar, the service is the best it can possibly be,” said Evans. “When Weldstar receives material, they perform a thorough Receipt Inspection,” which when we order from them, I am assured it’s going to be correct and don’t need to waste time verifying information with them to ensure we got what we requested per the correct Code requirements. In the past I have had to go back to manufacturers multiple times to ensure they sent me the correct item with the correct information based on the Code I ordered it to. Also there were typographical errors on the paperwork that kept me from being able to use the materials on an emergent job.

While Weldstar is providing high-quality materials that meet the needs of Evans, the company is also going above-and-beyond with its approach to customer service.

“I do love those guys, and believe they are the best in the industry,” Evans added. “They have come in on Sundays and Holidays in the past to supply us with filler material and I have many of their home phone numbers which says a lot in itself. I have even met them in parking lots on weekends and nights so they could deliver filler material to me. They literally bend over backwards to help us and that just doesn’t happen with any other company out there.”

For example, Evans says that he closely follows the advice of the Weldstar nuclear team, and that if they don’t know the answer to one of his questions, they get it for him such as when Evans needed help with their knowledge of gas combinations for a specific welding process or a base material he was not familiar with. If during a job bid processes a base material came up that Evans was not familiar with, Weldstar helped do the groundwork and provided a matching filler material type when requested and delivered the necessary information in a timely fashion.

From how to perform a specific weld in a certain setting, to finding a better gas to use, or to arranging special testing, “they have always and very quickly got us answers to everything we needed,” he said. “Sometimes we’ll have a need that’s immediate to the point where I would have to jump on a plane to get to one of our plants to help with an emergent situation and I know that Weldstar will work with us through the night if necessary, to arrange whatever we need so that we’re able to start welding the next morning.

“It costs approximately 1 to 1.5 million dollars a day when a plant is down and not operating, so we have to be very efficient. When you go to the manufacturer, it takes much longer to get a good certified material test report (CMTR) so it’s important to get the correct materials the first time. We use Weldstar for the *service* and they take the time to *do the job right the first time.*”

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Southern Nuclear Weldstar Testimonial – Cont.

Evans remembers John Winkle whom was the owner of Weldstar until his passing. “Once you met John, you understood why Weldstar was the quality company it is today.” Over the years, John’s sons joined the company and as you would expect from John, they all started at the bottom of the company in shipping and receiving and worked their way up to now run Weldstar, Evans added. For a company to receive praise from a customer like Evans had given, “*they have to deserve it,*” and these guys do, everyday.

Founded in 1936, Weldstar is one of the country's strongest independent distributors of industrial and specialty gases, welding equipment, industrial and safety supplies, and related tools and accessories. Privately owned, Weldstar’s experience, level of commitment to quality assurance, inventory of tested material and customer service is unmatched in the nuclear power industry. In addition, Weldstar is the only independent welding distributor with an ASME certificate for more than 35 years.

For more information, visit www.weldstar.com or call 630-859-3100.

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