



Stephen E. Burnette, from Clinton, Tennessee, graduated from Tennessee Tech with a BSIE in 1975. He began his career as a civilian engineer for the US Army Material Command in Texarkana, Texas while working on his master's degree in industrial engineering at Texas A&M. Steve then worked for five years as a classical industrial engineer in the manufacturing industry developing cost and labor standard systems.

Steve began work as a process engineer at the Oak Ridge K-25 Gas Centrifuge Division in 1980. He then went to work as a system engineer for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) at the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) in 1985. He became manager of the HFIR Systems Engineering group in 1989. His group was responsible for configuration control, design and drafting modifications, systems engineering and reactor component fabrications.

In 2002 he became Manager of the Maintenance Organization at the reactor. This group maintained the HFIR equipment and facilities for reliable operation. He managed the craft support, procurement, industrial safety and hygiene; and the radiation protection support needed to operate the HFIR.

In 2005, he became the Manager of the HFIR Nuclear Materials and Experiment Analysis Group. This group is responsible for the procurement of reactor safety class, and quality significant components and spare parts; for receiving, inventory control, counterfeit parts control, stored spare parts preventative maintenance, and commercial grade item dedication; for fabrication management of reactor and reactor systems spare parts, including the reactor fuel elements; and for the management of the system to review, analyze and approve experiments for insertion into the reactor for irradiation.

Steve has received the following Oak Ridge National Lab awards:

Significant Event Award for the redesign and fabrication of reactor internal components associated with the HFIR Irradiation Facilities Upgrade in 1987

Team award, Martin Marietta Energy Systems Awards Night recognition for Technical Achievement associated with the restart of HFIR, 1989

Significant Event Award for leading the design changes necessary for reactor restart in 1989

Significant Event Award for work in resolving the problems associated with the underground leak in the HFIR secondary coolant line, 1992

Significant Event Award for research of the environmental qualification method and leadership in the recovery from the reactor pony motor event, 1998

Team Award, UT-Battelle Awards Night recognition in 2007 for Technical Achievement in design, commissioning and restart of HFIR with the Cold Source

Steve is on the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and manages the registered cattle operations and sales at his wife's family farm in Ten Mile, Tennessee.