

The Space Radiation Effects Laboratory located in Newport News, Virginia, was operated by the College of William and Mary for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In the 1960s, the Virginia Associated Research Campus (VARC) had been formed by the state of Virginia in support of NASA's decision to build a Space Radiation Effects Laboratory (SREL). A consortium of state universities housed in a building neighboring the SREL, the VARC provided administrative services, offices and laboratories for the facility.

The SERL included a synchrocyclotron with a primary beam of 600 MeV protons and secondary beams of 400 MeV pions and muons produced for the purpose of studying the effects of radiation on materials planned for use in space.

The synchrocyclotron was removed in 1980 when SERL shut down. At that time, William and Mary's Hans Christian von Baeyer, was finishing up six years as physics department chair and had headed to Vancouver for a year of research leave. While he was gone, he got a call from then-Provost George R. Healy asking him to become director of the College-run VARC in Newport News.

It became von Baeyer's goal to find a new mission for the facility. After hearing a talk by U. Va. professor James McCarthy about an electron accelerator capable of changing the study of nuclear physics, von Baeyer made a decision. "Right there and then, instantly, in that moment, it became clear to me that I had to get that accelerator to come here," von Baeyer says. And from that, the story of Jefferson Lab began.

<http://www.wm.edu/as/physics/news/accelerating-the-college-and-j-lab.php> Accelerating: The College and J-Lab. Sylvia Corneliussen. 2005.

<http://www.ornl.gov/info/reports/1986/3445600692873.pdf> Results of the Radiological Survey at the Space Radiation Effects Laboratory, Newport News, Virginia. M. G. Yalcintas. 1986. ORNL/TM-10064.

<http://www.miami.muohio.edu/documents/secretary/emeriti-faculty/PriestMemorial.pdf> A Memorial to Joseph Roger Priest. 2009. Collaborator on studies of reactions utilizing proton beams at SREL. Also associated with Lewis (now Glenn) Research Center.

<http://www.wmsym.org/archives/1987/V1/95.pdf> Alternatives to Waste Disposal of Cyclotron Facility at the Space Radiation Effects Laboratory, Newport News, Virginia. M. Guven Yalcintas and David E. Fields. 1986?

[http://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/19900066636\\_1990066636.pdf](http://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/19900066636_1990066636.pdf) The Space Radiation Effects Laboratory: Annual Report – 1967. Account of first full year of operation.

[http://www.jlab.org/accel/ops/ops\\_liaison/Hall\\_C/history.html](http://www.jlab.org/accel/ops/ops_liaison/Hall_C/history.html) - The CEBAF site began its life as a parcel of surplus government land acquired by the Virginia Associated Research Campus (VARC) collaboration in conjunction with NASA for the establishment of their Space Radiation Effects Laboratory (SREL) in 1961. It consisted of the VARC building and the test lab which housed the 600 MeV synchro-cyclotron. While many successful and intriguing experiments were conducted, by 1980 NASA's interest had waned away and as NASA's cyclotron was slowly removed the 3 universities as well as the VARC staff had been developing a plan with others to bring to Virginia a national electron accelerator laboratory. (Jefferson Labs history of Hall C)