

# SRS UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • MAY/JUNE 2004



Energy Secretary Abraham and S.C. Governor Sanford unveil the sign to the newly designated Savannah River National Laboratory as Savannah River Manager Jeff Allison and U.S. Congressman Max Burns look on. (Full story, page 3.)



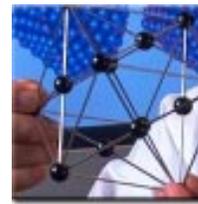
The Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels locks the door

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SRNL: A driving force in alternative energy

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## SRS Construction sets new safety record

At the close of business yesterday, SRS Construction surpassed the site's record for the greatest number of Construction man-hours worked without a lost-workday injury or illness.

Construction forces worked 13,893,000 safe hours, beating the old mark of 13,890,367 million safe hours set on July 8, 1988. A typical construction site in the U.S. would experience one lost time injury every 83,000 hours.

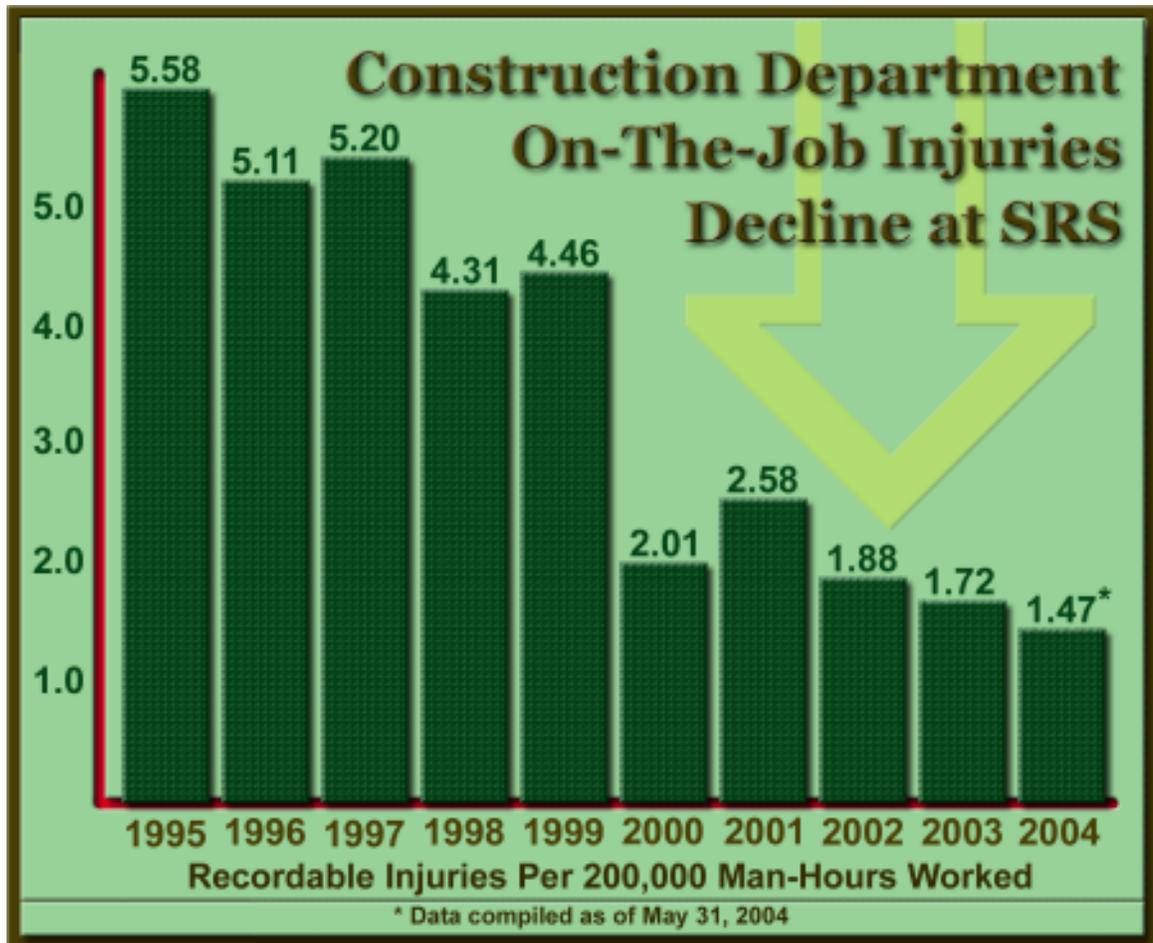
In fact, you have to go back to June of 1998, almost six years ago, to find the last Construction lost-workday case. In current terminology, a lost-workday case is referred to as a "Days Away" injury, or a case in which a person could not have performed any work because of a work-related injury or illness.

**"I hope we can extend this record indefinitely." - WSRC President Bob Pedde**

"I can't say enough about this wonderful accomplishment," said Westinghouse Savannah River Company President Bob Pedde. "We have the best safety processes that exist in our application of Integrated Safety Management, but for Construction to reach this level of performance takes a terrific amount of skill, attention and belief in the importance of safety."

Bill Elkins, president of partner company Bechtel Savannah River, Inc., and director of WSRC's Projects, Design and Construction Business Unit, said, "I am continually amazed at the performance and dedication of the men and women of construction. They are truly world-class."

### SRS MILESTONES



# Energy Secretary Abraham certifies Savannah River Technology Center as new DOE National Laboratory

On May 7, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham certified the Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC), located at the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Savannah River Site, as the Savannah River National Laboratory.

Secretary Abraham was joined by South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford and Congressmen Gresham Barrett (S.C.) and Max Burns (Ga.) at the certification event at the Savannah River Site. Senator Lindsey Graham (S.C.), who was instrumental in gaining the designation, was unable to attend the ceremony due to a meeting of the Armed Services Committee.

“President Bush and I are proud of the scientific and technical work ongoing at the Department of Energy’s national laboratories,” Secretary Abraham said. “And today, we are even more proud to designate this new laboratory and make it a full partner in the critical missions performed by DOE facilities.”

Senator Graham, who has championed the National Lab designation for over 10 years, described it as one of the most significant developments at SRS in recent years. “This is a historic event because it is like going

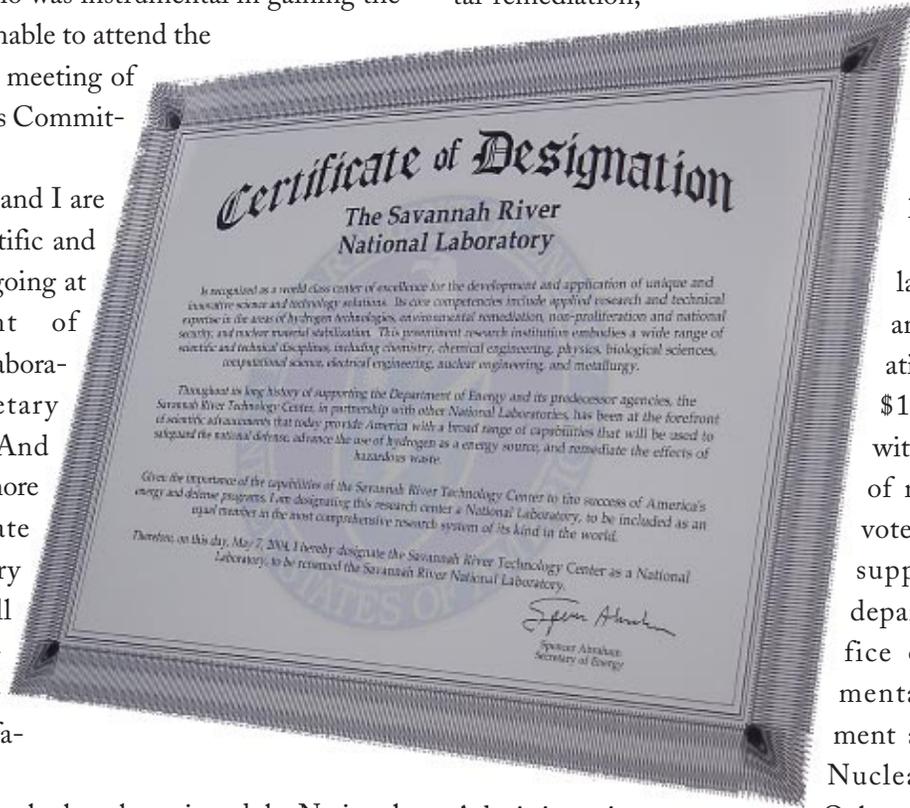
from single A baseball to the World Series in terms of research opportunities and new missions for the Savannah River Site,” Senator Graham said in a videotaped message.

The lab began operations in 1951 to provide research and development support for the department’s nuclear facilities complex and national defense. As in the past, the Savannah River National Laboratory’s work will continue on waste processing, environmental remediation,

non-proliferation technologies and national security projects.

Today, the laboratory has an annual operating budget of \$132 million, with the majority of resources devoted to projects supporting the department’s Office of Environmental Management and National Nuclear Security

Administration. Other projects include work for the U.S. Army, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency.



SRL SRTC SRNL

Originally called the Savannah River Laboratory, the lab changed its name to SRTC in 1992 as its scope expanded to better meet the challenges of the era. Historically, Savannah River National Laboratory has served as the technology partner for SRS in its nuclear weapons materials production mission. As the world has changed, and the site’s mission has evolved, the Lab’s role has evolved as well.

## First five tasks completed in FB Line deactivation



*Paul Ikner does a walkdown as part of the Automated Hazard Analysis process, in preparation for the deactivation of the cation process area in FB Line.*

The same innovative approach that is working effectively in F Canyon deactivation has been implemented in FB Line, and the first milestones have been met.

Deactivation teams have been formed, each including all the skills needed to safely and effectively deactivate systems and facilities.

Although parts of FB Line are still operating to package and stabilize nuclear materials for long-term storage, teams are working to deactivate areas of the facility where work is complete.

Of the 63 milestones scheduled in FB Line, five have been completed. Sub-

sets of three others are in progress and proceeding well.

Deactivation work includes draining systems of various fluids, some hazardous; isolating electrical power and other support services, such as instrument air and cooling water; and other activities necessary before a facility can be safely be put in a “cold, dark and dry” condition.

FB Line personnel have been working very closely with F Canyon personnel to ensure consistent implementation of requirements and to gain lessons learned to ensure safe, efficient performance of work.

## RBOF locks the door

The Spent Fuel Project has locked the door on the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels (RBOF), signaling that the legendary facility has been deactivated and placed in a safe, virtually “maintenance-free” mode in preparation for eventual D&D activities.

The deactivation of RBOF follows the facility’s deinventory, which was completed last October, years ahead of the original schedule, saving approximately \$12 million per year in operating costs. DOE Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management Jessie Roberson praised the deinventory milestone as one of a handful of achievements across the DOE Complex that “underscore the significant progress in the department’s efforts to accelerate cleanup across the Nation.”

In preparation for locking the door, Spent Fuel personnel reduced the facility source terms and completed laying up all RBOF processing systems. Remaining utilities to the facility will be shut down in late June. This milestone was completed more than a year ahead of the original schedule.



*Todd Sipes, Spent Fuel Project Operations, and Don Bishop, H Area Completion Projects, lock the door on the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels.*

# Major hazard gone from F Area

The Savannah River Site's F Canyon has reached a major milestone with the last of the PUREX solvent being removed from the facility. This represents the elimination of one of the last major hazards in F Canyon.

After operating the Plutonium-Uranium Extraction separation process (PUREX) for nearly 50 years, F Canyon had more than 60,000 gallons of radioactive solvent after PUREX was shut down.

Before it could be dispositioned, it had to be "washed," a process that removed the radioactive contaminants to an acceptable level before it could be

transferred to Solid Waste for temporary storage in underground tanks at the Consolidated Incineration Facility.



*The last load of radioactive PUREX solvent leaves SRS's F-Canyon facility.*

Workers began loading the solvent in February, and work was completed in early May.

Removing solvent from the site's F-Canyon facility is part of deactivating the facility. Another recent milestone was reached when all processes for handling lab waste were trans-

ferred out of F Canyon.

Deactivation of the F-Canyon facility is scheduled to be complete by the end of Fiscal Year 2006.

# A Area demolition gets under way



*Demolition of the 708-A cafeteria was completed in May.*

With the demolition and removal of the 708-A cafeteria, the landscape in A Area has begun to change. By mid-May, the former cafeteria and credit union building was cleared to the slab.

Demolition work in A Area is now well under way, with five additional A-Area buildings already removed by the Tri-County Alliance for reuse elsewhere.

By the end of FY06, A Area will look completely different. Building 703-A is undergoing deactivation now. Furniture has been moved out, and light fixtures and carpet have been removed. Next, asbestos tiles will be removed.

Plans are for the state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center, located in the 703-A basement, to remain where it is.

By the end of 2006, more than 40 buildings and structures in A Area are destined for demolition. Among them, in the near future, are 713-1A, 706-A, 707-A, 743-A, 734-A, 719-4A, 721-A, 724-A, 733-A and 733-1A. Also in the queue are buildings 703-43A, 703-45A, 703-47A, 713-A and 709-A.

## WSRC earns fourth consecutive Small Business Award

In a ceremony recently held at the Energy Department headquarters, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced WSRC was a winner of a 2003 National Small Business Award. The Energy Department's Small Business Awards program was established to recognize outstanding performance by DOE and its contractors on an annual basis.

Of the several different categories of Small Business Awards presented by DOE, WSRC has the honor of receiving the Mentor-



*Energy Secretary Abraham presents a 2003 National Small Business Award to John Huston, IWR, Inc. and (right) Dr. G. Todd Wright, WSRC.*

Protégé Team Award for being the mentor of the most significant Mentor-Protégé team. Westinghouse Savannah River Company received a Secretarial plaque for its dedication and high achievement in the area.

The award was presented in recognition of WSRC's work with Integrated Water Resources, Inc. The WSRC and IWR team has successfully completed two environmental remediation contracts, and is presently working together on a third multi-year contract executed in July of 2003.

### 2004 WSRC family scholarships awarded

Below are the winners of the 2004 WSRC Family Scholarships competition. Fifteen students have won \$3,000 WSRC Family Scholarships. These winners are sons and daughters of WSRC employees.

- Michael Comer, son of David Comer, Operations Business Unit.
- Kyle Dickert, son of Phil Dickert, Field Support Services Business Unit.
- Kristine Farrar, daughter of Mark Farrar, Savannah River National Laboratory.
- Breighanna Faugl, daughter of Tim Faugl, Field Support Services Business Unit.
- Warren Felkel, son of John Felkel, Field Support Services Business Unit.
- Sarah Gall, daughter of John Gall, Closure Business Unit.
- Jenna Hobbs, daughter of David Hobbs, Savannah River National Laboratory.
- Brian Hsu, son of Bob Hsu, Savannah River National Laboratory.
- Brandon Kears, son of Margaret and Ray Kears, Field Support Services Business Unit.
- Sean Kuhn, son of Ron Kuhn, Closure Business Unit.
- Brian Le, son of Tom Le, Closure Business Unit.
- Stephen Rutland, son of Kathy Rutland, Field Support Services Business Unit.
- Purvi Shah, daughter of Mike Shah, Closure Business Unit.
- William Stafford, son of Jim Stafford, Field Support Services Business Unit.
- Rebecca Swift, daughter of Bill Swift, Operations Business Unit.

### Ann Ingram, OPQC Second Quarter Winner

According to Darlene Murdoch, her nominator, Ann provides clerical and secretarial support to DWPF's staff and is the Facility Manager's secretary. Ann goes above and beyond her normal job expectations, including the development of the weekly DWPF Safety Briefing and assists the Deputy Facility Manager with INPO Human Performance Initiatives such as tool cards, posters, slides for training and Catch of the Month.

She is always willing to help anyone, and her attitude and professionalism is second to none.

# SRS receives 2004 NNSA Pollution Prevention Award

Defense Programs' Tritium Hot Calibration Laboratory (HCL) has received the 2004 NNSA Pollution Prevention Award for Environmental Stewardship, recognizing both its initiative and its success in reducing radioactively contaminated waste. NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks presented the award during a May 7 visit to the SRS Tritium Facilities.



*Accepting the award are (from left): Steve Mackmull, John Harley, Brandon Knight, Dennis Lundblade, John Quarles, Jimmy Summers, Charles Bell, Roxanne Jump, Chad Sweeney, James Dollar, Ambassador Linton Brooks, John McIntosh. (Not pictured: Joe Cordaro and James Gibson).*

The Pollution Prevention Award recognizes NNSA facilities for innovation in pollution prevention coupled with significant cost savings.

The HCL was established in 2002 to calibrate tritium-contaminated instrumentation. Previously, the site replaced and disposed of these instruments when calibrations expired or went out of tolerance. Origin-

nally intended to support just one of Tritium's functions, HCL's services have expanded, in order to save both new procurement and waste costs. The HCL now provides calibration services for a wide range of

measurement and test equipment.

Savings from waste and replacement avoidance is about \$350,000 per year for the lab's current

scope.

Recalibration allows the site to avoid generating approximately 5 cubic meters of tritium-contaminated waste per year requiring costly disposal in concrete vaults.

These savings will increase as new calibration services become operational.

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

**40 Years:** Mikell Powell

**35 Years:** John Goodell

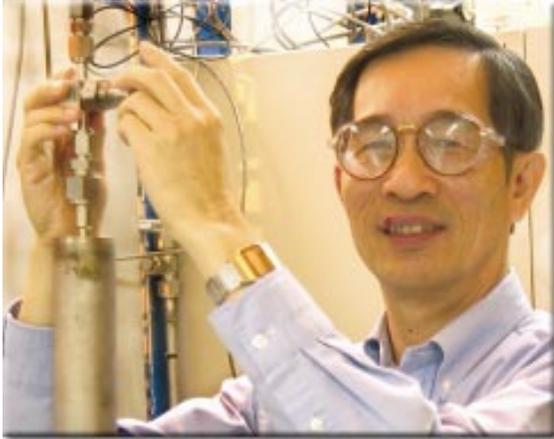
**30 Years:** David Zigelman, Charles Mastromonico, Thomas Lex, John Seiersen, Henry Cook, John Hurd, Jose Bernabe Jr., Dennis Grove, Bobby Vest, Samuel Williams.

**25 Years:** Linda Heath, Mike Hughes, Richard Spencer, Michael Sabbe, Robert Jones, See Dip Woo, James Sutherland, Hayashi Inouye, Alfred Garrett, Alan Crowder, Arthur Wissman Jr., Dan Becker.

**Retirements:** Paul Alderman, Frederick Anderson, Joyce Attucks, Marsha Bell, Jose Bernabe Jr., Rebecca Bevins, Clifford Boasso, Ronald Bolin, Tolly Bolling Jr., Linda Boone, John Bowers, Eileen Boynton, Nancy Brit, James Brooke, Fred Bryant, Lewis Buggs, William Burns, Tami Capeletti, Dave Clarke, Roland Collins, Dora Cook, James Cooper, Johnny Crim Sr., Vince Daly, Duck Drake, Dick Emerson, Charles Eugene Feltman, Rooney Floyd, Keever Folk, Ezeikel Foreman, James Crosby Fuller, Peggy A. Garvin, James F. Gleaton, Alan D. Gregory, James W. Guthrie, Mary L. Hammonds, Bob Henderson, Jean H. Hodges, Doris J. Hoffman, Douglas E. Holley, Beatrice J. Holmes, Charles D. Hughes, Joyce Johnson, Susan Jurgensen, Ed Landry, Larry Lee, Fred Lewis, Bob Lewis, Halkard Mackey Jr., John Maloney, Paul Maddux, Gail Marine, William Mattocks Jr., Danny McGee, Sharon McMahan, Vincent Minardi, George Moesta, Leroy Nimmons, Daniel O'Connell, Donna Owens, Sez Ozden, Ronnie Peeler, Joe Perrin, Kenneth Perrine, Evan Pontoo, Linda Reece, Charles Roach, Neta Rutland, Charlie Saunders, Robert Scott, Charles Sessions, Steven Smith, Ted Stringfield, Marcia Stucky, Dave Varn, Susan Vought, Shirley Washington, Terry Westbrook, J.J. White Jr., Thomas A. White, Tommy White, Edward Wilde, Jimmie Williams Jr., Gary Young.

## SRNL: New lab space to aid hydrogen efforts

The new Hydrogen Technology Research Laboratory will provide world-class labs for the work being performed by SRNL employees.



*Dr. Kit Heung, SRNL Process Technology, adjusts a valve on a manifold during a hydrogen experiment.*

During its May 18 meeting, the Aiken County Council voted unanimously to build a 59,000 square-foot research laboratory at the Savannah River Research Center, near Aiken County Technical Laboratory. WSRC will lease roughly half of the building to locate new hydrogen laboratories at the facility

The leasing of the facility from Aiken County benefits both the Savannah River Site and the county. The arrangement provides world-class laboratories worthy of the world-class work performed by Savannah River National Laboratory researchers and technicians, while acting as catalyst to draw universities and industry conducting hydrogen research to the Aiken County facilities.

This new facility will greatly expand the space available for research in hydrogen. The research to be undertaken in this new laboratory will stand at the forefront of hydrogen research, bringing together expertise from our laboratory, research universities, and industry. Innovative research of

this caliber is vital to SRNL mission as a national laboratory.



The SRS Update is published bimonthly by Westinghouse Savannah River Company. If you have questions or comments about any of the articles, call 803.952.9583. Change of Address? Notify the WSRC Service Center: [service-center@srs.gov](mailto:service-center@srs.gov) or PSSC Bldg. 703-47A, Aiken, SC 29808

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Westinghouse Savannah River Company  
P. O. Box 616  
Aiken, SC 29802