

NEWS from The Savannah River Site



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For Immediate Release

SRS DEFENSE WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY MEETS CANISTER PRODUCTION GOAL FOR 5TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

AIKEN, S.C. (October 3) - The Savannah River Site's Defense Waste Processing Facility, which safely stabilizes high-level liquid radioactive waste in a durable glass form, finished the fiscal year with 227 canisters of waste poured. This achievement marks the fifth consecutive year the facility has met or exceeded its production goals.

The site's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.

The Westinghouse Savannah River Company high-level waste production goal for the past year was to produce 220 canisters of glassified waste. DWPF has produced more than 4.5 million pounds of glassified waste since radioactive operations began in March 1996.

Steve Piccolo, vice president and general manager of the site's High Level Waste Division, said that employees continue to operate the facility safely and efficiently, allowing the goals to be accomplished.

"Our employees throughout the high-level waste system exercise rigorous, disciplined operations, allowing DWPF to continue the tradition and expectation of meeting the canister production goals," Mr. Piccolo said. "I am proud of our employees' dedication, hard work and commitment. Moving waste from our waste tanks and immobilizing it is an important mission for this site."

Since radioactive operations began in DWPF, 1,177 canisters have been poured. It is expected to take 20-25 years to turn the site inventory of high-level waste into glass.

SRS is owned by the Department of Energy and operated by a team of companies led by WSRC.

WSRC-01-038