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For Immediate Release

SIX MILLIONTH POUND OF RADIOACTIVE GLASS POURED AT DWPF

AIKEN, S.C., (Feb. 2, 2004) – The Savannah River Site’s Defense Waste Processing Facility has poured six million pounds of radioactive glass, and produced the 200th canister with its new melter.

DWPF leads the world in pouring environmentally acceptable borosilicate glassified waste. It is the largest facility of its kind in the world.

The facility converts highly radioactive liquid waste, which is currently stored in 49 underground tanks at SRS, into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal. Operations began in March 1996, and are expected to continue until about 2020.

Jeff Barnes, DWPF’s facility manager, said employees have safely and efficiently operated the process, and have consistently met or exceeded performance expectations.

“Our employees exercise rigorous, disciplined operations,” Barnes said. “I am proud of our employees’ dedication, hard work and commitment to safety. And, I am delighted by these milestones – both reaching six million pounds of glass, and 200 canisters with the new melter. Moving waste from our waste tanks and immobilizing it in glass is an important mission for this site.”

The heart of DWPF operations is its 65-ton melter. The first one operated continuously for more than eight years, including six years of radioactive operations – more than three times its design life. It produced more than 1,300 waste glass canisters. The new melter was installed in January 2003 and began pouring radioactive glass March 29, 2003.

The site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by a team of contractors led by the Westinghouse Savannah River Company.

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THE WSRC TEAM

Westinghouse Savannah River Company LLC · Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. · BNFL Savannah River Corporation
BWXT Savannah River Company · CH2 Savannah River Company · Polestar Savannah River Company