

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## D Area Powerhouse Retired after Nearly 60 Years of Service

*Huge, 1950s era, power and steam generating plant nearing end of mission*

AIKEN, S.C. – (May 22, 2012) – As Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) embraces new, clean and highly efficient power generation technology, the massive 1950s era powerhouse in D Area has been shut down after decades of service at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

At one time, this coal-powered facility was capable of generating 75 million watts of power, enough electricity to support the entire city of Aiken, S.C. However, those days have passed and the 280,000 square-foot, five story building is being prepared for deactivation.

“Recent startup of three new wood-chip burning (biomass) steam plants at SRS means we no longer need this facility, but I humbly thank the mechanics and operators whose skill, dedication, and creativity kept this facility operating for nearly 60 years,” said Karen Guevara, Assistant Manager for Infrastructure and Environmental Stewardship, Department of Energy-Savannah River.

In the late 1950s, nine powerhouses and steam plants were operating across the 310-square mile nuclear reservation. All were small in size compared to the mammoth D Area facility whose four giant boilers required the withdrawal, and later return, of approximately 35-45 million gallons of water each day from the nearby Savannah River.

The steam produced within D Area was used throughout the Site for a variety of industrial- and process-related needs. At its peak, three of



*The combined experience of these three SRNS D Area Powerhouse employees is 83 years. The coal fired boilers they've worked near for decades are now cold and facility deactivation has begun. Standing near a boiler unit are (from left) Steve Cooper, Maintenance Supervisor; Robert Dicks, Control Room Operator; and Ren Hatfield, Deputy Operations Manager.*

*The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

the facility's four boiler units, each standing over 100 feet in height, individually produced about 350,000 pounds of steam per hour.

According to Dwayne Wilson, SRNS President & CEO, the financial and environmental benefits gained with the shutdown of the D Area Powerhouse include the elimination of approximately 160,000 tons of coal purchased each year and the annual reduction of 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

"I can remember being hired on at the plant site back in the 1980s as a coal handler in D Area," said Wayne Gleaton, SRNS Utility & Services Operations Manager. "First thing I said was, 'I didn't know SRS had a coal mine.' My supervisor laughed and said, 'We don't. You won't be digging coal. You'll be unloading coal from railroad cars.'"

D Area was operated for 59 years by three generations of largely local employees, which supplied reliable power and steam to SRS facilities with almost zero outages.

"I've worked in D Area for over 20 years and have always been impressed by the people here wanting to go the extra mile to keep the plant running," said Brad Harrelson, D Area Maintenance. "I'm leaving behind many good friends and taking with me many fond memories."

"Through Enterprise•SRS, SRNS employees are committed to creating safe, innovative, effective solutions for SRS, the nation, and the world," said Wilson. "We offer knowledge and expertise to make the future of our site and country secure, energy independent and environmentally responsible. The safe deactivation of this once vital support facility is another step in that direction."

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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