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For Immediate Release

Regional Future City Middle School Competition Announces Pre-Registration and 2012-2013 Essay Theme

AIKEN, S.C. – (May 3, 2012) Pre-registration for teachers is now open at www.futurecity.org for the South Carolina Region, which includes Georgia schools in the counties of Richmond and Columbia. Managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, the competition deadline to register is Oct. 31.

One of the most potentially damaging aspects of weather is radical swings in precipitation that quickly turns into runoff, especially in cities, where hard surfaces prevent rain from soaking into the ground.

Runoff can carry pollutants into storm drains which empty directly into waterways used for recreation, fishing and drinking. Engineers are increasingly asked to imagine and design new and creative ways to manage stormwater,

According to Tanya Strickland, Environmental Coordinator, North Augusta Stormwater Management Department, “Scientists estimate that there are 6.4 million tons of trash and debris that enter our oceans annually. Most of this debris is deposited to waterways by stormwater from cities and towns. Future cities will need less runoff and better designed stormwater infrastructure to protect and preserve our water resources.”

With this critical issue in mind, this year’s Future City® Competition announces the essay theme for its 2012-13 challenge: *“Rethink Runoff: Design Clean Solutions to Manage Stormwater Pollution.”*

“The annual Future City challenge has received national attention and acclaim for its role towards encouraging sixth, seventh and eighth graders to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM),” said SRNS employee and S.C. Regional Coordinator, Kim Mitchell. “As a company, SRNS provides several educational outreach programs each year for students throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area.”

Through hands-on applications, Future City participants discover how engineering is both accessible and can make a difference in the world.

For more information, visit www.futurecity.org or contact SRNS employee and S.C. Regional Coordinator: Kim Mitchell, 803-952-8782, kimberly.mitchell@srs.gov.

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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