

News from the Savannah River Site

U S D E P A R T M E N T O F E N E R G Y • A I K E N • S C 2 9 8 0 8

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Jim Giusti, DOE-SR, (803) 952-7684
james-r.giusti@srs.gov

Erin Kuhlman, Parsons, (626) 440-4590
erin.kuhlman@parsons.com

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2015

DOE CONTRACTOR COMPLETES MAJOR SALT WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE

AIKEN, SC (October 22, 2015) – The Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that Parsons, the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) contractor, is continuing to move toward its December 2016 construction completion date well ahead of schedule. The successful installation of 36 centrifugal contactors was completed the week of October 5th at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The installation represents a major milestone for the Department's SWPF project, which will process approximately 90 percent of the 37 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste that are currently stored in 44 underground tanks at SRS.

The contactors will play a key role in the operation of SWPF by concentrating the radioactive cesium in the liquid waste streams, reducing the volume of waste sent to the Defense Waste Processing Facility for stabilization in its glass vitrification process.

The residual liquid waste output from the contactors, the decontaminated salt solution, will have nearly all of its original radioactive constituents removed. The solution will be disposed of within a concrete grout matrix at the SRS Saltstone Facility.

"SWPF is a cornerstone facility for the Department's future tank closures and risk reduction at SRS," said Jack Craig, DOE's Savannah River Operations Office Manager. "We are working safely to bring the facility in before December 2016 and have it ready for radioactive operations in late 2018."

"We've successfully implemented strategies to safely accelerate the SWPF construction schedule," stated Frank Sheppard, Parsons Vice President and SWPF Project Manager. "Early completion will enable this critical component of the DOE's cleanup plan for SRS to come on line sooner than planned."

News from the Savannah River Site

U S D E P A R T M E N T O F E N E R G Y • A I K E N • S C 2 9 8 0 8

The project will transition to the testing and commissioning phase upon completion of construction next year. Components and systems will be rigorously tested to ensure that they meet the Department's strict safety and design requirements for waste processing. Once commissioned, the SWPF will exponentially increase the ability of site personnel to empty and close SRS's high-level radioactive waste tanks.

"It takes a solid team effort to complete each task and phase of the SWPF project," Craig said. "DOE salutes the dedicated employees, our subcontractors, and the Department's Integrated Project Team working on this complex and technically demanding project."

-- DOE --