

WSRC News

Washington Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site

April 18, 2007

Message from Leo Sain



Communicating with you

We all know that communications are important.

In the field, pre-job briefings, inquisitiveness and repeat backs are the backbone of good conduct of operations.

But some of the best communications are face-to-face, two-way discussions used to ensure all parties understand one another. Talking to one another – not up to one or down to another – really identifies issues that need to be resolved for you to safely and effectively do your job.

That's why our management team and I will work hard to communicate better with you. That means I want to listen to you as much as you listen to me. With that in mind,

here's what I plan to do.

First, I will soon begin holding **roundtable meetings** with employees. Now, roundtable discussions aren't new. If you haven't been to one, it's where we have a dozen or two employees in a room to talk with a manager – in this case, me. We can talk as a group, get our collective questions answered and move forward having more information.

In addition, I am trying out a new concept I call **"Five Minutes with Leo."**

This new tool involves asking employees to sign up on specific days and times to spend five minutes discussing with me whatever they want. To make this work, we will communicate sitewide that my office has a sign-up list on a particular day. Then, everyone who signs up will spend 5 minutes in my office with me. It's a short time, but I want to give as many people as possible a chance. We'll schedule longer times, if needed.

I'll vary the times, but the ultimate goal is to increase our two-way, face-to-face communication. I'm looking forward to this new process because I know I'll learn a lot from you – and my intention is to solve some of your issues.

Finally, I always have an open-door policy. And I'll read and consider your emails carefully and will get back to you. Your feedback as we operate this Site is important to me, and it's important to our management team. Leadership means we must listen to each other and work together to continue to build a world-class organization.

Secure Government Vehicles

Please be certain that all government vehicles are secured (locked) when unoccupied. Random security audits will be conducted to determine compliance with Manual 7Q-302:

"WSRC personnel are expected to provide reasonable protection for the government vehicles and associated property under their control. Government vehicles and the portable equipment on those vehicles must be secured when unoccupied." Source: <http://www.srs.gov/msd/7q/302.pdf>



Securing Your Facility

Compliance with our Safeguards and Security programs is a requirement. We should take appropriate protective measures to ensure our Property Protection and our Limited Area locations are secure. Property Protection facilities must be secured when unoccupied. Certain locations in Limited Areas are also required to be secured when unoccupied. These locations include special nuclear material storage areas, Technical Security areas, and vaults. Please take time to ensure that your facility is secured when it is unoccupied. If locking mechanisms are inoperable, compensatory measures must be taken until Site Lock and Key can respond.

Securing of facilities is just one of the topics that is reviewed during self-assessments, DOE-SR surveys and DOE-HQ Oversight and can very well result in infractions and findings being issued.

What Counts?

38,000 The construction workforce when SRS began construction in July 1950; when President Truman asked E.I. du Pont de Nemours to build a facility to produce materials for nuclear weapons.

226 Total number of Government vehicles found unsecured in 2006

PD&CS Completes D&R Project

Projects, Design & Construction Services, along with Liquid Waste Operations, has removed all of the old In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) equipment from the north portion of 241-96H (formerly the Filter Stripper Building), and the building is now ready to house the Tank 48 recovery equipment, once the technology is selected.

Sounds simple enough, right? Wrong. Even though this Dismantlement and Removal (D&R) project was a success and completed under budget, the Construction team faced some major dilemmas. The equipment and machines within the building were too large to remove through normal access points and without tearing the building apart. After much discussion and pre-job meetings, the team discovered that the best way to remove the equipment was through the roof.

So the team removed the roof and extracted the equipment. While the roof was off, Construction built and attached hatches to the roof before replacing it so that other equipment could be more easily removed or added.

The equipment removed from this building was no longer being used, and the resultant space was perfect to support the Tank 48 recovery project. Building 241-96H is located adjacent to Tank 48, and this makes it that much more ideal to support the recovery activities.

Tank 48 contains approximately 250,000 gallons of organic material from the original startup of the ITP process. Because of safety issues, the Tank 48 waste cannot be sent to other tanks in the Tank Farm, nor can other wastes be sent to Tank 48. Tank 48 is one of the newer Type III tanks and has a 1.3 million gallon capacity. When this waste is remediated and processed, then much needed tank space will be available, and Tank 48 will be put back into service.



SDD Completes Another Major Milestone in F Area

Site Decommissioning & Demolition (SDD) recently completed the deactivation of the 211-F Outside Facilities. 211-F is adjacent to F Canyon and provided general support for F-Area operations for over 50 years. 211-F contained more than five miles of process piping, greater than 50 chemical and waste tanks, eight underground cells with tanks, a Chemical Storage Area, a recycled Solvent Storage area, an Acid Recovery Unit and a General Purpose Evaporator.

After turnover from F Area Closure Projects (F Canyon), SDD removed asbestos, hazardous waste, low-level waste, mixed waste, transuranic waste and associated piping, components and tanks. SDD crews used about 600 tap and drain rigs to drain the systems; over 500 glovebag containments built by the Containment Fabrication Facility to cut pipe and remove components; and 10 large containment huts to enter underground cells and tanks to remove debris and sludge.

The majority of the work was performed from aerial lifts and scaffolding with the piping, components and tanks removed with cranes and heavy equipment. IS&D Transportation, heavy equipment operators and riggers toppled and size reduced the Acid Recovery Unit tower and the General Purpose Evaporator.

SDD, with support from Transportation and Solid Waste Operations, made over 100 shipments that included 50 large tanks and dozens of roll-off and Sealand containers.

“The success of this project was the result of professional and skilled SDD workers supported by on-scene Safety, Radiological Controls, Industrial Hygiene, Rigging and Transportation, Engineering, Environmental and Generator Certification Officials,” said the 211-F Project Manager, Ron Boisvert. Other SRS support that contributed to the successful deactivation of 211-F came from F Area Closure Projects, Solid Waste, Savannah River National Laboratory and Bechtel Savannah River Inc. Safety, teamwork and innovation were key elements to the success of this challenging project.

Spectrometer Relocation

Recently, Tritium Construction relocated Tritium's new Auger spectrometer from Central Shops storage to the Tritium facility for installation in the Auger laboratory.

The job of relocating, positioning, and unpacking the instrument and all of its components (a total of more than two tons worth), was performed as carefully, safely and skillfully as could possibly have been done.

Don Blankenship said, "It's always easy to say too little in the way of thanks, and sometimes it is difficult to say thanks in a believable way. So, let me simply say thanks for a job well done. It was, as always, a pleasure to work with you all."



Make plans to participate in the 2007 Infrastructure and Services Golf Tournament to benefit the United Way. The tournament will be held Friday, April 27 at Cedar Creek Country Club in Aiken. Shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$60 per person, which includes green fees, cart fees, range balls, lunch and a chance to win a great prize.

The tournament will be a four-person, captain's choice and will be handicapped. Special rules will apply for low or high handicapped teams. You may sign up your team by filling out the attachment and mailing to Kevin Heath, 706-N, or calling 7-5347 by April 20. All money must be paid prior to the tournament. Get your team together, come out for a great day of fun and raise money for the United Way.

PIP It

Place in Purse, Place in Pocket

When away from the Site, badges should be stored out of sight and in a secure location. Do not display your badge at establishments such as convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, etc.

Badges should not be used as a means of identification for unofficial purposes. Personnel on official government travel should use their Site ID card (white badge with bar code) for verification purposes if required for government rates at hotels.

Personnel are required to protect assigned badges and maintain them in good condition. If a significant change in facial appearance takes place, the individual, manager or a security official should request a badge with a new photograph.

New LWO Simulator Enhances Operator Training



Dave Olson, Executive Vice President, LWO, cuts the ribbon to officially mark the startup of the new control room simulator.

The new 241-2H Control Room simulator provides three major advantages towards advancing the site's training program related to Liquid Waste Operations.

Exactly simulating the conditions of four H Tank Farm control rooms and the new Actinide Removal Process and Modular Caustic Side-Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) control rooms, which are currently being consolidated into one facility, this instructional tool gives operators real time, hands on training mirroring actual control room conditions.

"We've worked hard to give the simulator the same look and feel as the control rooms it's duplicating," said Jim Marsh, LWO Training Department.

"We can simulate a large variety of normal and emergency conditions, greatly boosting the confidence and effectiveness of our control room operators."

In addition, the simulator can be used to conduct a myriad of drills and even provide an off-line method to confirm the accuracy of new control room procedures.

The simulator is located in room six, within the 707-H building and is being used on a regular basis.

Recognition & Awards

Pollution Prevention Star Award Recognition for PMMD

LWO's Procurement and Materials Management Department recently received a Pollution Prevention Star Honorable Mention for demonstrated excellence in pollution prevention and sustainable environmental stewardship for their Chemical Management Center (CMC).

The Pollution Prevention Star Awards competition recognizes exemplary pollution prevention practices across the Department of Energy. DOE thanked WSRC for this innovative effort that can serve as a model for other programs and sites to incorporate into their operations.

The Procurement and Materials Management Department will be presented with an award in recognition of their accomplishment.

The Chemical Management Center is responsible for the development and implementation of the Chemical Safety and Lifecycle Management Program (CSLM) and HazCom at SRS.

"The CMC team does an outstanding job," said Tom Robinson, Manager, Procurement and Materials Management. "This award confirms our continued dedication and support of pollution prevention through SRS's Chemical Management Program."

Job Shadowing Recognition

Mark Szymanski recently participated in the WSRC High School High Tech (HSHT) Job Shadowing event. Six Richmond and Columbia county students with disabilities were selected to participate in this year's annual job shadowing event.

Mark Szymanski's effort and willingness to take time out of his schedule to allow a special needs student to "shadow" him has not gone unnoticed. Because of folks like Mark, SRS can sponsor programs such as job shadowing to help students in the community. Mark's student thought Mark and the experience were "awesome," and expressed a wish to spend more time with Mark.

HSHT, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Labor, is a program that assists students with disabilities, who are interested in science and technology related fields. Their disabilities range from learning to physical. The program was implemented to provide special needs students with opportunities and exposure to the workforce they wouldn't normally receive.

Calendar of Events

April 17 & 19: Scoping meetings are scheduled in Aiken and Columbia. A Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Surplus Plutonium Disposition appeared in the Federal Register on March 28. The public comment period ends May 29, 2007.

April 23: A public meeting will be held in Aiken on a SRS request that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) modify SRS's Resource Conservation and Recover Act Permit to clarify locations where TRU waste containers that contain or may contain small amounts of liquid may be stored or processed at the Transuranic Waste Storage Pads Facility.

March 23 - April 21: The SCDHEC issued a public notice for the Draft Operating Renewal Permit for the D-Area Powerhouse on March 23. The 30-day public comment period ends April 21.

May 8: A joint public meeting by DOE, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on the closure of Tanks 18 and 19 will be held in Aiken. The meeting is to describe to the public the revised tank closure process, agency roles, and the public participation process.

WSRC Awards Mini Grants

The WSRC Team recently announced its 2007 Excellence-In-Teaching Mini Grant winners.

A team of WSRC employees reviewed 307 grant proposals submitted this year—without knowledge of the applicant or school—and selected 87 projects to receive a total of \$50,000 in funding.

The Excellence-In-Teaching Mini Grants program recognizes and supports excellence in teaching by funding projects that enhance public elementary and middle school science, mathematics and technology programs directly impacting students in the classroom.

The grants will officially be awarded at a special ceremony April 19, at the USC Aiken gymnasium, Student Activities Center, where all applicants will be honored.

The Excellence-In-Teaching Mini Grants program is one of several initiatives coordinated through WSRC's Education Outreach programs department.

The grants are funded by WSRC's Community Giving program, which supports such community initiatives as education, health and welfare, civic and social activities, and culture and the arts.

Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following SRS employees, who are celebrating service milestones in **April**.

40 YEARS

Lessie Price

35 YEARS

Kenneth Brosseau

Michael Hess

Leroy Odom

John Swafford

Gary Widener

Richard Willard

30 YEARS

Richard Anderson

Jacqueline Bates

Mona Blume

Rufus Britt

Terry Curtis

William Evans

Larry Hudson

James Powell

John Simmons

Jackie Thorne

Paul Tillman

Danny Webster

Richard Wilbanks

Mary Yerace

25 YEARS

Anthony Barnette

Cathy Bryant

Sandra Campbell

George Christenson

Karen Drumming

Paul Eisenstat

Sandra Fail

Dennis Fish

Larry Garosi

Cindy Head

Paul Jabaley

Carol Jantzen

Christopher Loyal

Sharon Mathis

Susan Mills

Willie Oakman

Cynthia Sizemore

20 YEARS

Donald Barfield

Kent Barr

Chris Barron

Kathleen Black

Mary Ruth Boatwright

Steven Bonner

Charlotte Breland

Stanley Brown

Shirley Brunson-Brown

Wanda Burkett

Alfred Bush

Emerson Bussey

Carolyn Carter

Anthony Cook

Charles Covington

Jonathan Crider

Marilyn Davis

Terry Dennis

Annie Doe

Michael Dyches

Christopher Ewing

Terry Fields

Robert Furnas

Harry Graves III

Glenn Griffin

Jasper Griffin

Robert Hamby

William Hartley

Michael Hatfield

William Hicks III

Barney Hicks

Randal Hill

William Holey Jr.

Christine Holloway

Steven Holt

Henry Houston Jr.

David Immel

Elizabeth Jackson

Angela Johnson

Rosa Jones

Donald Joyner

Timothy Judd

Curtis Julian Jr.

John Lamb

Leah Lavallee

Ted Lee

Lynwood Loehr

Charles Long Jr.

Franklin Long Jr.

Timothy Long

Robert Massengale

Allen McClain

Shawn McKinnon

Sidney Melcher

Bridget Miller

Malcolm O'Neal

King Patrick

Leonard Perry Sr.

Jay Pruszyński

Sheila Reed

William Regan Jr.

Joseph Richards

Donald Robinson

William Rourk III

Saleem Salaymeh

Francis Sanders

Michael Schneider

Allan Sikes

Donald Simpkins

Robert Smith

Susan Spires

Johnny Stewart Jr.

Richard Stringfield

Ralph Stroman

Douglas Sumpter

David Sutton

Randy Swinson

Manuel Terronez

Cynthia Turnipseed

Dandy Walker

Emerson West

Denise Wheeler

Luther Wheeler

Richard Whitaker

Matthew Wilby Sr.

Arlene Williams

Lee Williams

Willie Williams

Anthony Wilson

James Wood Jr.

Marianne Wooten

Lindsey Wright

Kenneth Yates

Stephen Young

15 YEARS

Ronald Barnes

Catherine Barton

Patti Bennett

Timothy Bennett

Leigh Brown

Randolph Cumbest

Marcia Gibson

Jay Howard

Patrick Kirby

Michael McHood

Perry Miller

David Missimer

Carol Scott

John Still

Charles Stoyle

James Thomas

Claire Walker

10 YEARS

Richard Bledsoe

Andrew Fellingner

Anthony Williams

5 YEARS

Trinidad Bush

Adrian Calix

Evan Croy

Michelle Hammett

Victoria Lampkin

Ryan Lentz

Jeffrey Stevens

Margaret Walker

James Wood



Spotlight On Core Values

- ⊙ Safety
- ⊙ Integrity
- ⊙ Teamwork
- ⊙ Results

The *WSRC News* is published by WSRC's Public and Employee Communications Department, Office of the President.

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