

For Immediate Release

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SRR and SRNL: Partners in Technology Development for Waste Tank Cleanup Acceleration at SRS

AIKEN, S.C. (December 27, 2010) – Savannah River Remediation (SRR) and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) have a long standing partnership in developing new technologies for waste processing, which is helping accelerate tank waste removal at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Technology development and effective and timely deployment is a shared common goal in meeting the objectives of SRR's Enhanced Tank Waste (ETW) strategy.

SRNL, the U.S. Department of Energy-Environmental Management national laboratory, is a key component and vital resource for the multiple facets of the ETW strategy, including base operations technical support and technology deployment support. SRNL conducts research activities that make use of the Laboratory's expertise in high-level waste processing, including waste glassification, salt waste material processing, and support for base operations across multiple DOE sites.

SRNL and its national laboratory partners have been responsible for the maturation of primary technologies in support of accelerating tank closures at SRS, specifically rotary microfiltration, small column ion exchange and next-generation solvent extraction. SRR and SRNL continue to be integrated on the path to deployment of these technologies, with expectations that these deployments will also benefit other DOE high-level waste efforts.

Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Operations Office, said the SRR/SRNL work is an excellent example of cross-company teamwork.

(more)

SRR, SRNL
Page 2

“Working together to find solutions to issues is how DOE wants contractors to work,” he said. “It’s not only the smart thing to do, but it ensures tax dollars are used in the best manner possible.”

Recently, Jim French, SRR President and Project Manager, toured several work activities ongoing at SRNL for SRR, noting the progress that has been made.

“SRNL has been a key partner over the years in development of technology for accelerations in waste cleanup,” French said. “Now, as SRR deploys these new technologies and reaps the benefits in life-cycle savings for our DOE customer, SRNL will continue to support us in deployment applications.”

The SRR/SRNL partnership continues in all aspects of tank waste cleanup, including operational support regarding sludge batch qualification process. In addition, the teaming provides improvements at Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and salt waste batch qualifications, including process controls for the Actinide Removal Process and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction (ARP/MCU) process and sampling.

In addition, SRNL performs integrated technology development activities between SRS and the Hanford Nuclear Site in Richland, Washington. Two key programs include the tank integrity program and closure performance assessments. These integrated programs consist of experimental and expert oversight functions. SRNL is also involved in specific development activities at the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant (WTP), such as glass formulations and preparation of sludge batches.

“Holistically, the relationship between the SRR and SRNL is mature and will continue to be key in the success of the Enhanced Tank Waste Strategy,” French said. “As a result, SRR is immobilizing tank waste at SRS faster than ever before, saving taxpayers several billions of dollars in life-cycle costs.”

SRR is the Savannah River Site’s (SRS) Liquid Waste contractor. SRS is owned by DOE. SRR is composed of personnel from a team of companies led by URS with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions.

SRNL is DOE’s applied research and development national laboratory located at the Savannah River Site. SRNL puts science to work to support DOE and the nation in the areas of environmental management, national and homeland security, and energy security. The management and operating contractor for SRS and SRNL is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

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Cutline: Jim French, Savannah River Remediation President and Project Manager, receives a briefing recently at the Savannah River National Laboratory.