

For Immediate Release

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Historic Milestone Achieved as 1 Million Gallons of Grout Is Poured into SRS Waste Tanks 18 and 19

AIKEN, S.C. (May 9, 2012) – Operational closure of the next two radioactive waste tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS) has achieved a historic milestone with the placement of over 1 million gallons of grout inside the massive underground tanks.

Filling Tanks 18 and 19 began on April 2, 2012. As of today, over 1 million gallons of specially formulated cement-like grout have been pumped into the two 1.3 million gallon tanks, placing the operational closure of the tanks ahead of schedule.

During the grouting process, as many as six cement trucks an hour are operating as many as 10 hours a day, five days a week, delivering the grout to fill the waste tanks.

Savannah River Remediation's (SRR) grouting of the underground tanks, ancillary piping and equipment will continue until late summer before the tanks are operationally closed.

Closing SRS waste tanks is significant in the disposition of the Site's legacy nuclear waste, according to Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office.

"Eliminating the risk of radioactive legacy nuclear waste is a priority, and operationally closing of these tanks is significant to meeting our critical mission," Spears said.

Dave Olson, SRR President and Project Manager, pointed out that grouting Tanks 18 and 19 will reduce risk for workers, the public and the environment.

"SRR is committed to safely dispositioning waste and closing waste tanks to reduce risk in a cost-effective manner, and in compliance with regulatory commitments," Olson said. "The lessons learned in closing the tanks provide us useful information in the closing future tanks."

(more)

(add one – historic milestone)

SRS is owned by DOE. The SRS Liquid Waste contract is managed by SRR, a team of companies led by URS Corp. with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions.

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