FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Money Awarded to SRNL/Clemson Partnership to Improve the Electric Grid

AIKEN, S.C. (January 14, 2016) – The Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and its partner, Clemson University, are working to modernize and protect the nation's electric grid. SRNL is included in three projects selected for over $7.0 million in funding over several years to address critical grid-related needs pending congressional appropriations. The projects are part of DOE's new Grid Modernization Initiative. This strategic plan partners DOE with leading experts and resources to collaborate on modernizing the nation's grid.

In working toward modernization, SRNL and Clemson University will develop and evaluate transformer load control strategies. This research will test transformers in the multi-mega scale at the Duke Energy eGRID Laboratory in North Charleston, SC. The project also includes partners such as the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Duke Energy, SCE&G, Santee Cooper, and the Department of Defense.

"We at Clemson are very excited to work with our partners at SRNL on these projects targeted at making the electric grid more efficient and resilient," said Dr. Nick Rigas, Executive Director of the Clemson University Restoration Institute. "Our partnership with SRNL over the past six years brought together complementary expertise and knowledge. Together not only did we build the Duke Energy eGRID and the wind turbine

Duke Energy 230KV High Voltage Substation. *Photograph Courtesy of Duke Energy*

testing facilities at the SCE&G Energy Innovation Center, we now develop solutions and new technologies to modernize the electric grid and educate the workforce of the future."

"This public-private partnership merges tremendous expertise and capabilities and puts South Carolina at the forefront of DOE's Grid Modernization efforts," said Bond Calloway, SRNL Associate Laboratory Director for Clean Energy. "This funding will further build on established working relationships to bring the best minds together."

Another key award will establish a partnership in the Southeast with states, utilities, industry and other stakeholders to address regional emerging grid modernization challenges. SRNL is bringing together groups of stakeholders including ORNL, Southern Company, TVA, the University of Tennessee and the Center for Advanced Power Engineering Research, which is a consortium of utilities, industries and universities led by Duke Energy including SCE&G, Santee Cooper, Clemson University, North Carolina State University and UNC-Charlotte. Together, these entities will work with DOE to develop a roadmap to address the challenges facing the grid in the Southeast with an initial project to develop advanced distribution feeders for a more resilient system. This project will serve to help maintain and recover grid function faster during natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes.

The third project is the creation of the Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium Testing Network. This network will serve as a national lab-based resource for standards testing and validation of grid devices and systems.

SRNS- 2016 – 422