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**For Immediate Release**

## **Two SRS teams win recognition from NNSA Office of Infrastructure**

**AIKEN, S.C.** – (August 5, 2024) –Two teams from the Savannah River Site were recently honored with an Excellence Award by the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) Office of Infrastructure.

Fourteen members of these teams came from the SRS management and operations contractor, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), along with five members of the NNSA’s Savannah River Field Office (SRFO).

The NNSA Office of Infrastructure Excellence Awards program was established to recognize teams who performed beyond expectations to build coalitions to achieve mission success, lead change by anticipating challenges and creating new, scalable solutions, and deliver timely, meaningful results.

### **Surplus Plutonium Disposition Baseline Change Proposal and Safety Review Letter Implementation Team**

The Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Project obtained approval on December 1, 2023, to implement their proposed plan to advance material procurements with extensive lead times in order to support the acceleration of the Surplus Plutonium Disposition project. This scope includes procurement of items needed in the first six months of construction and items with lead times greater than 20 weeks, ranging up to 78 weeks.

“Beginning the procurement process for extensive lead time materials will ensure adherence to the SPD project schedule and will help alleviate potential issues of acquiring like materials in the future with other NNSA projects,” said SRNS Project Director Michael Basham.



*NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager (FOM) Michael Mikolanis presents the NA-90 award to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Baseline Change Proposal and Safety Review Letter Implementation Team. Front row: Michael Basham, SRNS; Tim Spieker, SRNS; Mike Dansevicus, SRNS; Jim Barber, SRNS; Sam Formby, SRNS; and SRNS President and CEO Dennis Carr. Back row: Daniel Atkins, SRNS; Katie Wilkes, NNSA; Gwen Corroero, SRNS; Yadira Bonilla-Cuevas, NNSA; and NNSA Deputy FOM Jeff Allison.*

Members of this team included SRNS employees Michael Basham, Daniel Atkins, Tim Spieker, Mike Dansevicus, Sam Formby, James Barber, Ken Meyers and Gwenn Corriero; along with NNSA SRFO employees Kevin (Jay) Buchanan, John Catledge and Yadira Bonilla-Cuevas.

The SPD program at SRS uses the dilute and dispose, or downblend, strategy to disposition surplus plutonium from SRS. This process utilizes a multicomponent adulterant to dry blend with Pu oxide, producing a mixture that is more secure (not usable for nuclear weapons) and can be safely disposed of at a geologic repository, such as the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

## **Glovebox and Module Stripper Blower Repairs Team**

The Glovebox and Module Stripper Blower Repairs Team repaired glovebox and module stripper blowers in a safe, efficient, and timely manner. These blowers are imperative for the Tritium Extraction Facility's (TEF) operation and required rebuilds to ensure continued production and operation.

Both rebuilds required Open Glovebox Maintenance, which presents radiological hazards, necessitating the use of radiological controls, such as suits and ventilation monitoring systems. The team worked under a tight schedule including initial preparations, work execution, and post maintenance testing, which required coordination from many organizations.

The two module stripper blowers were scheduled for completion in two months but were finished in one week, while the three glovebox stripper blowers were scheduled for 10 weeks and completed in four weeks. The glovebox stripper blowers also required unforeseen and immediate motor re-wiring when the team discovered damaged wiring due to extensive rebuilds performed in the past.

“Our TEF Open Glovebox Maintenance team is being recognized for the development and safe execution of a plan for efficient repairs of mission essential equipment,” said SRNS Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs J.C. Epting. “This team did a tremendous job navigating and overcoming various training and equipment challenges to complete repairs well ahead of schedule, ensuring our ability to meet our mission requirements and preventing future delays.”

Members of this team included SRNS employees William Rourk, Bryan Randall, Tanner Thompson, Aaron Bodiford, Steve Wilson, Orry Grubbs, and Tony O'Neal, and NNSA SRFO employee Joshua Gaskins.

“These awards highlight the exemplary teamwork and commitment to excellence NNSA and SRNS employees exhibit daily,” said NNSA SRFO Manager Michael Mikolanis. “Congratulations to these teams and thank you for the work you do to help make our country safer.”



*NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager (FOM) Michael Mikolanis presents the NA-90 award to the Glovebox and Module Stripper Blower Repairs Team. Front row: TEF Work Integration Manager Brandon Beckner, who accepted the award on behalf of the previous team lead, SRNS; Orry Grubbs, SRNS; William Rourk, SRNS; Bryan Randall, SRNS; and SRNS President and CEO Dennis Carr. Back row: Tony O'Neal, SRNS; Aaron Bodiford, SRNS; Steve Wilson, SRNS; and NNSA Savannah River Deputy FOM Jeff Allison.*

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