

News from the Savannah River Site

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Savannah River Remediation Begins Using Salt Solution Receipt Tank

AIKEN, S.C. (September 15, 2016) – One of the two newly constructed Salt Solution Receipt Tanks (SSRTs) at the Savannah River Site (SRS) began receiving waste earlier this month.

Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) SRS, began transferring Decontaminated Salt Solution (DSS) to one of the two 60,000-gallon SSRTs.

The new SSRTs are designed to improve SRR's salt disposition process and prepare the Site's liquid waste program for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), which is currently undergoing testing.

One SSRT is being used. The other SSRT is not needed until SWPF operations begin, scheduled for late 2018, so it will be isolated and maintained until it is needed. Both tanks have passed rigorous inspections.

DOE-Savannah River Manager Jack Craig said the SSRTs are another key step in preparing for the operation of SWPF.

"There are many steps we have to take to ensure we are ready for SWPF start-up," Craig said. "These receipt tanks are unique and will provide us capacity to handle a higher flow of DSS."

The SSRTs receive DSS from a one-million gallon feed tank with salt waste that has come from the Actinide Removal Process (ARP)/Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU). The DSS is then turned into a grout mixture and permanently disposed of in the Saltstone Disposal Units.

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Completion of the SSRT project prepares the Saltstone Production Facility (SPF) for increased throughputs of DSS when SWPF is completed. Once SWPF begins operation, throughputs to SPF will increase from the current one to 1.5 million gallons of DSS per year to greater than six million gallons per year.

SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster said the SSRTs work is critical to liquid waste operations.

“The SSRTs are another important step as we continue to shape the liquid waste system for future operations,” Foster said. “The liquid waste processing work continues to evolve and improve, all to help protect people and the environment.”

SRS is owned by DOE. The SRS Liquid Waste contract is managed by SRR, which is composed of a team of companies led by AECOM with partners Bechtel National, CH2M and BWX Technologies. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Atkins, and URS Professional Solutions.

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One of the newly constructed Salt Solution Receipt Tanks at the Savannah River Site is now in operation.