

Questions? Contact us at 803.952.9584.

Welcome to the February 2011 edition of the SRNS News.

You've probably seen recent news reports regarding workforce restructuring and DOE direction for H Canyon and HB Line in 2011. I'd like to address both of these issues.



A message from  
Garry Flowers  
SRNS President and CEO

Last week, we implemented Phase II of the FY2010-2011 Workforce Restructuring Program. A Transition Center will open in early March in downtown Aiken to provide counseling and outplacement services, such as resume development to assist these employees with finding other job opportunities. We have also invited businesses and educational institutions to participate in job fairs as well. Workforce reductions are never a positive experience, but necessary to align our company with its current mission and create an improved business model to ensure our competitiveness as a company. We must reduce now in order to grow in the future.

On February 8, SRNS was directed to develop plans that would put H Canyon in a minimum-safe condition with minimum staffing levels by December 31, 2011, and HB Line in minimum-safe condition by April 30, 2011. DOE also requested a list of projects by the end of June 2011 that could be accomplished in these facilities should funding become available. Clearly, we have a lot of work to do to document the impacts of this request and respond to DOE. We will do all that we can to ensure the future of these vital facilities, which are a unique, one-of-a-kind asset to the nation.

I am encouraging our workforce to stay focused on safe work performance during these distracting times and I have no doubt they will continue to provide superior service to our customers. Your support during these transitions is equally important.

As always, I appreciate your interest in and support of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.



**25 MILLION HOURS  
OF SAFE CHOICES!**

On February 19, SRNS Construction employees marked 25 million hours worked without an injury requiring time away from work.

# SRNS news

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

## Test reactor dome removal completed with ARRA funds

The landscape of SRS is a little flatter and a little less colorful with the removal of the 75-foot-tall rusty-orange dome from a Cold War-era test reactor. This \$25-million reactor decommissioning and deactivation project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Affectionately known by SRS employees as "Hector," the iconic Heavy Water Components Test Reactor (HWCTR) has stood in the Site's B Area since 1959 as a testament to the nation's nuclear age and evidence of SRS's valuable contribution to it.

"While HWCTR has always served as a landmark to the tens of thousands of people who have worked at SRS since the reactor was built, its decommissioning is a clear sign of the Site's commitment to cleanup and new missions," said Dr. David Moody, manager, U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR). "The view from many windows onsite won't appear the same, but the sight is one of progress and pride as the Recovery Act at SRS moves toward reducing the Site's footprint by 75 percent."



A giant crane slowly lifts the dome from the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor, an SRS landmark since 1959.

Preparations for the dome removal and reactor D&D began in October 2009. Since then, SRNS's crew of approximately 35 employees — including riggers, mechanics,

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## Test reactor dome removal completed with ARRA funds

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engineers, designers and crane operators — guided the project.

To enable the dome removal, three lifting lugs were attached to its surface and the upper portion of the structure was cut loose, leaving a 29-foot-high base around the circumference of the reactor building. A 660-ton crane with a 200-foot boom was used to lift the 174,000-pound dome by the lugs before setting the structure on the ground nearby. It will later be cut into smaller pieces before being placed in the Site's E Area low-level waste slit trenches that make up the burial ground.

The dome removal is the first and most visible stage of the reactor's decommissioning, which allowed access for the removal and disposal of the remaining reactor vessel, weighing 219,100 pounds, and two steam generators, each weighing 41,600 pounds. Remaining equipment will be moved to the cavity vacated by the reactor vessel, the below-grade portion of HWCTR will be filled with grout and the 29-foot-high base from which the dome was cut will be removed. In the final stage, a concrete cover will be placed over the reactor's footprint, officially marking the end of HWCTR's decommissioning. Completion is expected this summer.

Recent preparations for the dome removal include cutting interferences that spanned the 29-foot cut elevation and securing or removing items that could fall during the dome lifting. Earlier in the project, the reactor vessel and steam generators' pipes were cut and prepared for transportation and final disposition.

HWCTR's mission was to test experimental fuel assemblies for commercial heavy-water power reactors. In 1964, the U.S. government decided to pursue other reactor designs for commercial electrical power generation, and HWCTR became an inactive reactor. At that time, fuel assemblies were removed and systems that contained heavy water were drained. The reactor building remained sealed for 30 years, until the mid-1990s when retired SRS engineers who worked at HWCTR reunited to enter the reactor to document how the reactor functioned and identify possible hazards.

Although the United States decided not to pursue heavy water technology for U.S. nuclear reactors, research conducted at HWCTR in the 1960s was instrumental to the Canadian nuclear power industry, which retains heavy water nuclear reactors as its technology of choice.



*The dome of HWCTR is slowly and safely lifted and lowered to the ground.*





**Congressional Tour of SRS** On Feb. 4, four U.S. Congressmen from South Carolina visited SRS. Pictured during their tour of H Canyon are (from left) Dr. Dave Moody, DOE-SR Site Manager, U.S. Representative Mick Mulvaney, U.S. Representative Trey Gowdy, U.S. Representative Jeff Duncan, U.S. Representative Joe Wilson, Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Doug Dearolph, Manager, National Nuclear Security Administration - Savannah River Site Office.



**SRNS Donates \$25,000 to North Augusta 2000**  
Fred Dohse (right), SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, along with SRNS Vice President of Public Affairs Clif Webb (left) present the chairman of North Augusta 2000 and former North Augusta mayor Tom Greene (center) a \$25,000 check for economic development, education, recreation and community initiatives in North Augusta.

## SRNS donates \$10,000 to Denmark Tech Foundation

SRNS Vice  
President of  
Public Affairs  
Clif Webb recently



presented Denmark Technical College President Dr. Michael Townsend, Sr. with a \$10,000 donation for the Denmark Technical College Foundation. The foundation has plans to use the funding to further improve the college's infrastructure.

Denmark Technical College is located in Denmark, S.C. The College's primary service area is comprised of Bamberg, Barnwell, and Allendale Counties. The College provides post-secondary education culminating in associate degrees, diplomas, or certificates, to citizens from diverse educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.





*The Lakeside (Evans, Ga.) High School team placed third in the regional Science Bowl.*

## Regional Science Bowl competition winners named

One hundred high school students from South Carolina and northeastern Georgia competed in the 21st annual DOE-Savannah River Regional Science Bowl held at the University of South Carolina - Aiken in February.

The first place Dorman High School team, from Roebuck, S.C., will compete at the National Finals in Washington D.C. in May. Spartanburg (S.C.) High School placed second, with Lakeside High School from Evans, Ga., following in third.

Each school received monetary prizes for their science departments. Individual participants received prizes as well.

Volunteers included professionals from SRS as well as SRS retirees, who united to test the students' skills in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science, general science and mathematics, as well as a new category—energy.

SRS has contributed to the Regional Science Bowl since its start in 1991.

The top three winners in the national competition will receive prizes such as scientific research trips to France and U.S. DOE laboratory sites. The Science Bowl is the country's largest science tournament, and is the only federal-agency sponsored educational and academic event which tests students' knowledge in all areas of science.

## SRS makes progress on Recovery Act-funded cleanup

The SRS American Reinvestment and Recovery Act program recently dispositioned more than 1,000 cubic meters of legacy transuranic (TRU) waste. This represents 20 percent of the 5,000 cubic meter inventory of TRU waste that will be disposed as part of the site's Recovery Act program and accelerates the waste leaving South Carolina.

"We are pleased to be getting the waste out of South Carolina in the most efficient method possible," said Dr. David Moody, manager, DOE-SR. "This milestone is an important part of our commitment to remove 5,000 cubic meters of legacy TRU waste from SRS under the Recovery Act."

The waste originated at the site's F and H Canyons as part of the site's chemical separations mission for the production of nuclear materials. The Recovery Act program is funding the remediation, characterization and re-packaging of the legacy TRU waste for permanent disposal.

"We commend the team approach to ridding SRS of its legacy TRU waste inventory," said Paul Hunt, SRNS Vice President, Recovery Act Portfolio. "This milestone puts us that much closer to eliminating the Site's legacy TRU inventory."

SRS will have its remaining legacy TRU waste inventory shipped for disposal by December 2012.



*SRS loaded 14 standard waste boxes containing mixed and low-level waste that previously was classified as transuranic TRU waste. This shipment to a Florida treatment site marks the 1,000 cubic meter milestone of the 5,000 cubic meters in the Site's TRU program that will be dispositioned through the Recovery Act.*



**New Fire Engines for SRS** Two new fire engines were recently delivered to the Savannah River Site Fire Department to upgrade its fleet of vehicles. The new trucks will replace one truck that is 32 years old and another that is 21 years old. In addition to its coverage responsibilities for the 310-square mile site, the SRS Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with counties adjacent to SRS to offer emergency assistance when requested. The SRS Fire Department fleet consists of five fire engines, one ladder truck, four ambulances, two rescue vehicles and one hazardous materials truck.

## SRNS sponsors, honored at area annual meetings

### Augusta Metro Chamber

SRNS was one of the major sponsors of the 2011 Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on February 17. The keynote speaker was Anita Brown-Graham, who is the Director of the Institute for Emerging Issues. This organization has been successful in developing statewide collaboration on mega policy issues for the state of North Carolina. Approximately 400 people attended the meeting.

### North Augusta Chamber

SRNS was the Presenting Sponsor for the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting on February 15. Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer gave remarks on behalf of the Company. Keynote speaker was Kim Houston, author and former broadcast journalist, who spoke on the allure of small towns in America. More than 400 people attended the event.

### Golden Harvest Food Bank

Clif Webb, SRNS Vice President of Public Relations, recently spoke at the Golden Harvest Food Bank Annual Meeting on February 17. SRNS was recognized as Golden Harvest's most active South Carolina Leadership Partner with financial donations exceeding \$35,000 in 2010 and as having one of Golden Harvest's largest corporate food drives.



## SRNS program provides model for assisting veterans re-entering the workforce

For many wounded veterans, getting back into the job market is one of the most important – and potentially most daunting – steps in returning to civilian life. Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) has joined forces with the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Wounded Warrior Care Project to help assist wounded warriors re-enter the workforce.

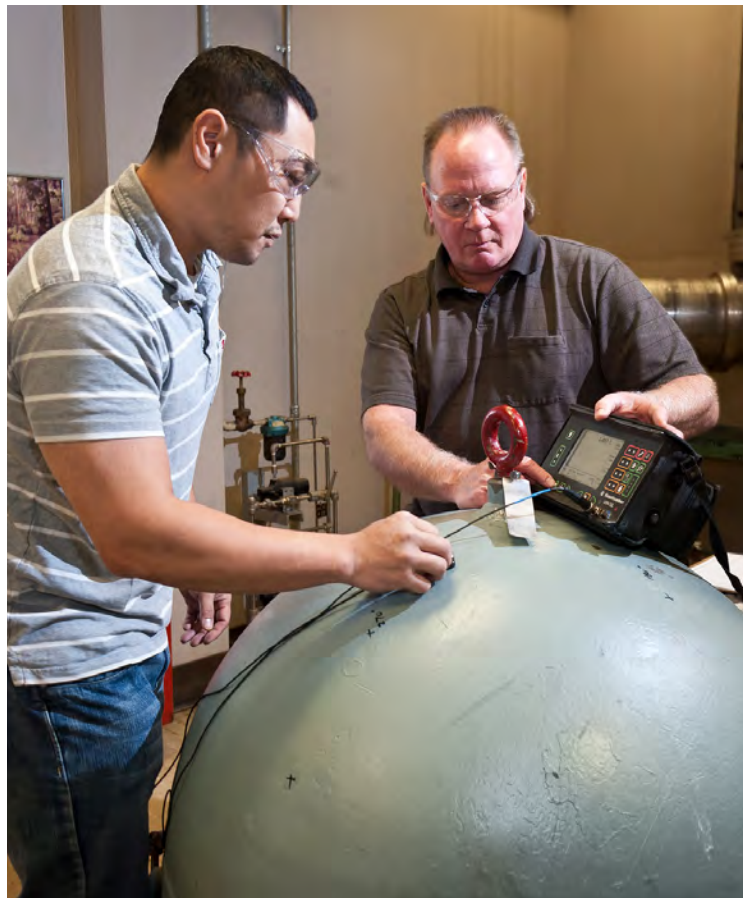
Jason Rainey, the first veteran recruited and hired under the SRNS Wounded Warrior Support Initiative, recently reported to SRNL to begin a three- to four-month assignment designed to expand his skill base and prepare him for rejoining the workforce.

“We have donated money to the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project to help with a number of their initiatives, but we wanted to do something more,” said SRNS President and CEO Garry Flowers. “This is something real and specific we can do to support an individual who has made a great sacrifice in his service of our country.”

Rainey, who was wounded in Iraq, will spend the next few months working with personnel in SRNL’s Materials Science & Technology directorate, exploring the fields of nondestructive evaluation and materials analysis. “This program is definitely a great opportunity, not only for me but also for future veterans who participate, to acquire or expand critical job skills and possibly gain interest in different careers,” Rainey said.

The mission of the SRNS initiative, according to SRNL’s Dr. George Wicks, who conceived it, is to “establish a process that allows Wounded Warriors to work at the SRNL or SRNS operations for a short period of time under some of our best scientists, engineers and staff professionals, to help expand their skill base and assist them in furthering their education for re-entering into the workforce.” The idea, Dr. Wicks said, is for SRNL personnel to serve as on-the-job mentors and provide resources, training, and oversight of the wounded warriors, while creating a supportive environment and building personal relationships that will improve confidence and abilities of the veterans, and the opportunity to ultimately reintegrate into the workforce.

Since no precedent for this type of program existed, SRNS called on



SRNL’s Paul Smock (right) and Jason Rainey perform an ultrasonic examination to check tank wall thickness.

the expertise of the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project, the Veterans Administration and the military, along with their own human resources and education outreach personnel with experience in student work programs, and SRNL researchers with experience in mentoring, to develop a structure for the program.

Laurie Ott of the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project, said, “SRNS’ commitment to our service members and veterans is a real beacon to other employers and serves as a model for other national laboratories.”

One of the mentors working with Rainey, Paul Smock of SRNL, finds his role with the initiative a rewarding intersection of his work life and personal interests. Smock has worked for three years with Team River Runners, which is a national organization that teaches kayaking skills to veterans. “We’ve trained visually impaired and amputee vets to kayak, and we take them on a whitewater kayaking trip for their ‘graduation,’” he said. “These folks are amazing!”