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## **Tritium Programs Reaches Goal Ahead of Schedule**

AIKEN, S.C. (December 27, 2011) – A four-month project to accelerate production commitments has been successfully completed at the Savannah River Site. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Savannah River Site Office (SRSO) and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Tritium Programs were recently recognized for the effort that quadrupled the facility's standard production output.

The Reservoir Acceleration Project (RAP) called for all tritium production and shipping commitments through February 2012 to be completed by the end of November 2011. "This is a significant accomplishment for the Savannah River Site that demonstrates the responsiveness and flexibility of this team," said NNSA SRSO Manager Doug Dearolph. "It's through dedication and hard work such as this that our nation is able to maintain its strength and dedication to a safe and dependable weapons stockpile."

NNSA SRSO and SRNS accepted the challenge to accelerate reservoir shipments at the request of NNSA's Office of Secure Transportation, which required a three-month shipment hiatus beginning in December to upgrade its aircraft fleet. RAP employed several practices such as cross training, temporary personnel reassignments, and expanded shift operations to accomplish the extra workload in the required timeframe. Supplementary measures, including increased management field presence, were also implemented to ensure that the project would be completed without impact to safety, security, operational discipline or product quality.

With reservoir shipments satisfied through February 2012, SRNS is now taking advantage of these production schedule changes to complete continuous improvement initiatives and planned outages to address electrical infrastructure and other system component needs.

A ceremony to celebrate RAP's successful completion was held in early December. NNSA Stockpile Management Liaison Manager Jackie Claycomb recognized the more than 60 SRNS Tritium Programs employees in attendance, expressing her appreciation for a job well done.

Jackie Griego from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and Everett Goodman II from the NNSA Office of Secure Transportation also addressed the group and

presented a plaque to NNSA SRSO and SRNS commemorating the event. “Your dedication, technical competence and commitment to excellence directly contribute to our mission to maintain national security,” said Claycomb. Following the ceremony, senior leaders from NNSA SRSO and SRNS, joined by Claycomb, Griego and Goodman, served cake to the Tritium Programs employees.

Tritium is a heavy isotope of hydrogen and a key component of nuclear weapons that decays radioactively at the rate of 5.5 percent each year and must be replenished periodically. This is accomplished by recycling tritium from existing warheads and by extracting tritium from target rods irradiated in nuclear reactors that are operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Recycled and extracted gases are purified to produce tritium that is suitable for use. The SRS Tritium Facilities occupy approximately 29 acres in the northwest portion of H Area. Operations began in 1955.

Established by Congress in 2000, the NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy, responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science in the nation's national security enterprise. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, reliability, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing; reduces the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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