

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## SRNS Pours Millions of Gallons of Cement-Like Grout to Close Part of SRS's C Reactor

*Massive concrete basin within former reactor facility permanently closed*

AIKEN, S.C. – (Sept. 10, 2012) Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) recently saw the last of more than 1,700 cement trucks pull away from the Savannah River Site's (SRS) C-Reactor building after filling a huge, below ground opening, similar to a series of interconnected swimming pools of various sizes, known as a disassembly basin. More than 2,800,000 gallons of cement-like grout were poured into the huge, obstacle-filled space.

For decades, this once water-filled basin was used to cut and temporarily store irradiated reactor fuel elements, prior to shipment to one of two onsite chemical separations facilities. This defense production reactor ran from 1955 to 1985 and played an integral role towards producing plutonium for nuclear weapons during our nation's cold war with the Soviet Union.

"Over two million gallons of water had to be evaporated using special equipment to create the space for the grout," said Chris Bergren, Manager, Area Completion Projects. "Due to C-Reactor's historical status, the rest of the building will not be filled with grout."



*More than 2,800,000 gallons of cement-like grout were recently poured into SRS' dormant C Reactor facility to safely eliminate a potential source of contamination while fully preserving the historical integrity of the building by SRNS personnel.*

*The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

Our goal is to safely eliminate a potential source of contamination while fully preserving the historical integrity of the building as a whole.”

At peak operations, SRS maintained five production reactors, beginning in the 1950s. The last, K Reactor, was permanently shut down in 1992, though parts of the facility are still used as a safe and secure storage center for U.S. plutonium. Both P and R Reactors have been fully grouted and permanently sealed. L Reactor continues to have an important mission, storing all SRS used fuel in its modernized and highly maintained basin.

P and R Reactors were the first large-scale production reactors to have been in situ decommissioned in the DOE complex and have set the precedent for other SRS reactors and hardened facilities.

“Successfully completing this task at the former C Reactor facility is yet another example of our long range plan to safely decommission and sometimes demolish SRS buildings that are no longer needed,” said Dr. David Moody, Manager, DOE-Savannah River Operations Office. Though SRS has many enduring missions, Moody noted that to date, the foot print of the site has effectively been reduced by 85 percent in size.

SRNS employees are committed to create safe, innovative, effective solutions for our country’s most pressing initiatives. SRNS offers in-depth nuclear knowledge for the nation and works to make the future of our country secure, energy independent and environmentally responsible.

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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