

For Immediate Review

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SRS Saltstone Facility Exceeds Midpoint of FY13 Milestone; Processes Over 1 Million Gallons of Salt Waste

AIKEN, S.C. (April 8, 2010) – The Savannah River Site's (SRS) Saltstone facility is on the way to achieving its yearly production goal of processing 2 million gallons of low-level salt waste. The facility recently surpassed its midway point by processing over 1 million gallons.

Since beginning operations on June 12, 1990, the Saltstone facility has safely received, treated and disposed of over 12 million gallons of low-level radioactive liquid salt wastes. Processing and disposing of the decontaminated salt solution is essential in Savannah River Remediation (SRR) achieving its mission, according to Dave Olson, SRR President and Project Manager.

"Our employees are safely moving salt waste from storage to treatment and disposal in record amounts," Olson said. "Sending this material through Saltstone is instrumental in preforming our mission to close waste tanks and reduce risk."

Recent improvements to the facility have provided a more reliable system capable of processing larger amounts of decontaminated salt solution. These improvements, combined with others scheduled in the near term, will ultimately support a 24/7 work schedule in the future when needed, according to Steve Wilkerson, SRR Waste Treatment Manager.

"We expect Saltstone to be even more robust as we position the Site for continued success in closing waste tanks," Wilkerson said. "Recent improvements represent a significant portion of the modifications necessary to support a 24/7 work schedule when called upon."

Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office, said DOE is counting on Saltstone for future operations.

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“DOE’s ultimate priority is to operationally close our tank farm system and reduce risk,” Spears said. “The Saltstone operations are a critical component of DOE achieving that mission.”

SRS is owned by DOE. The SRS Liquid Waste contract is managed by SRR, a team of companies led by URS Corp. with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Professional Solutions.

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