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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRS Classification Officer Robert Houck Honored with Department of Energy Award

AIKEN, S.C. (July 24, 2019) – The Department of Energy (DOE) recently awarded Robert Houck, National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River Field Office (NNSA-SRFO) Classification Officer, the 2019 Classification Award of Excellence. Houck was recognized at the 54th Annual Classification Officer's Technical Program Review Meeting in Germantown, Maryland for his significant contributions to the DOE classification program at the local and national levels.

Houck has served as Classification Officer at Savannah River Site (SRS) for over six years. Recognized as an expert in the classification discipline with a diverse background in engineering, nuclear weapons, material disposition, and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)/DOE operations, he provides direction, leadership, and solutions on issues affecting both Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR) and NNSA-SRFO. He is responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and directing policy and programs for classification, Unclassified and Controlled Nuclear Information (UCNI), and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) for federal and contractor employees.

“I was very humbled to receive the award,” said Houck. “If you look at the list of people who have received this honor in the past, there are many that I look up to in the DOE Complex. Some were my mentors and supervisors. They had an important role in helping me get to where I am today, so to be in the company of those individuals is very humbling.”

At NNSA, Houck has focused on developing solutions to complex wide weapon classification and material disposition issues as well as ensuring the SRFO classification and UCNI programs are fully implemented.



NNSA-SRFO Classification Officer Robert Houck and NNSA-SRFO Manager Nicole Nelson-Jean hold the 2019 Office of Classification Award of Excellence.

Nicole Nelson-Jean, Manager of NNSA-SRFO, nominated Houck and said he is very deserving of the recognition.

“Houck is a proven leader in his field and has expertly navigated complex issues. He is a great asset to both NNSA-SRFO and DOE-SR,” said Nelson-Jean. “His high standards and excellent oversight have ensured our classification and UCNI Programs are one of the best in the DOE Complex.”

Houck’s leadership and thorough evaluation of issues has resulted in major cost savings across the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE). He has teamed effectively with other NSE sites, the DOE Office of Classification, and the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide solutions to weapon classification issues that have DOE complex wide and interagency implications on the nuclear weapon stockpile. He also continues to team with the NNSA Material Disposition organization (NA-20) to develop guidance needed to address high profile and time critical plutonium disposition commitments made to the State of South Carolina.

Established by Congress in 2000, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. The mission of the NNSA Savannah River Field Office (SRFO) is to provide operations, programs, and project oversight and contract administration for NNSA field activities at the Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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