

# Meet

# DJ

## A Civil Engineer *Who Digs Problem-Solving*

DJ's interest in engineering started with Legos – 20,000 of them actually.

A civil construction engineer at Savannah River Remediation, DJ says he was groomed to one day become an engineer, beginning with his father, who was an electrical engineer. His interest piqued when DJ and his siblings built a model city out of 20,000 Legos. The masterpiece was complete with a train and airport.

“Going into civil engineering, which involves building, creating, and problem-solving, was a natural fit for me,” he said.

Problem-solving is one of the aspects DJ loves most about his job.

“There are always challenges in construction,” he said. “I get the privilege to solve the challenges with all different levels of employees. Everyone has his or her own way to solve problems, but when we come together, and get it right—and we usually do—it is a thing of beauty.”

In addition to various civil construction projects at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), DJ is also on the Construction team that is planning work for DWPF tie-ins with the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF).

One of the big projects to connect the two key liquid waste facilities has been coined “The Big Dig,” currently scheduled for summer 2017. The team will dig a 50-by-75-foot hole, more than 20-feet deep, between DWPF and SWPF.

“This project is a huge effort with many parties involved, from Construction, Engineering, RadCon, Operations, etc.,” he said. “My job is to perform all Construction engineering aspects to safely and effectively help get down to 20 feet below grade level so that the other work groups can perform their tasks.”

Once SWPF is tied into DWPF, SRR can increase its throughput of waste processing; this facility integration will allow the SRR team to effectively continue with the closure of tanks.

“There are few things better than a job well done.”

### AT A GLANCE

- Bachelor of Science, University of Tennessee in Knoxville
- Handpicked by SRR Construction Management to develop first-of-a-kind method to repair the Main Process Cell Crance Rail in DWPF
- Technical Writing, Communication, and Public Speaking Skills