

# Meet

# JD

## Reducing the Risk

### *One Canister at a Time*

A production operator at the Savannah River Site (SRS) for almost 30 years, JD won't be the one to tell you how important his job really is. The humble Savannah River Remediation (SRR) employee has been helping to operate the workhorse of the SRS Liquid Waste System since 1996.

The Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), which began operations in 1996, is the nation's only operating vitrification facility. Vitrification, also called glassification, is the process of using extremely high temperatures to turn the highly radioactive sludge waste, combined with frit (a sand-like material), into a glass form. A 65-ton melter is used to glassify the waste into borosilicate glass, which immobilizes it, and makes it suitable for safe, long-term disposal in stainless steel canisters. Currently, these canisters are safely stored in onsite facilities until a federal repository is identified.

The canisters are transported from DWPF to two onsite Glass Waste Storage Buildings (GWSB) via the Shielded Canister Transporter (SCT). The 4,000th canister of glassified waste was poured on December 31, 2015. JD, in the company of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM-1) Monica Regalbuto, placed that milestone canister in GWSB 2 on May 12, 2016.

"It was a good thing to do," JD said about placing the 4,000th canister. "Each canister poured and safely stored signifies another step in reducing the risk of the radioactive waste onsite."

Since 1996, the SCT has traveled more than 1,430 miles total. JD says he's driven it about 500 of those miles.

"I've been driving the SCT since day 1," he says. "When I'm driving, I'm focused, taking my time, and doing what I got to do."

Of all the items in JD's job description, one bottom line sums it up: He's reducing the risk for the workers, surrounding communities, and the environment. And that's an important job.

## AT A GLANCE

- Production operator at the Savannah River Site since 1987.
- One of few qualified drivers of the Shielded Canister Transporter since 1995.
- Has traveled roughly 500 miles total on the Shielded Canister Transporter, out of 1,430 total miles.

JD and EM-1 Monica Regalbuto transport the 4,000th canister of glassified radioactive waste at SRS on May 12, 2016.

