

Meet

Kishan

A New Engineer Supporting New Facility

Kishan has been working at Savannah River Remediation (SRR) for only a year but has already held different roles in two important parts of the company.

Currently, Kishan is an SRR process engineer supporting the startup of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF). In this role, he verifies that various start-up tests for SWPF are adequate for proper startup of the facility.

SWPF will process the majority of the salt waste inventory at the Savannah River Site (SRS) currently stored in 43 underground radioactive waste tanks. The facility will prepare these solutions for ultimate disposition. SWPF will separate key high-activity radionuclides from the low-activity salt waste using proven separation technologies of filtration and centrifugal contractors. SWPF will increase the amount of waste processing per year by a projected tenfold. Construction of the facility was completed in April 2016 and full startup is expected to begin December 2018.

“The most interesting part of being an SWPF process engineer is being able to see things in the beginning phases,” he says. “I get to go out to the facility and touch and see all these things that will be radioactive in a couple of years. Soon, engineers won’t be able to directly get in the dark cells to look at and touch a tank.”

Before joining the SWPF project, Kishan was a flowsheet chemical engineer who was a part of a mercury evaluation team tasked with determining how to remove mercury from the liquid waste system. Adsorption was one of the proposed solutions.

“I took ownership of researching that process, and I suggested the best adsorbents and best locations for adsorption within our system.”

Kishan was drawn to work for SRR because of the rotational opportunities offered to employees.

“Coming out of college, I didn’t really know exactly what I wanted to do with my engineering degree,” he says. “I was worried about the possibility of not liking what I’m doing. But at SRR, I’m able to try different positions. After hearing that, I was convinced to work at SRR.”

To see facility go from startup testing to running is awesome;
seeing how the process works before it becomes radioactive is really interesting.

AT A GLANCE

- Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Concentration Biomolecular
- 2015 graduate of University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- With Savannah River Remediation since 2015
- Member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- Fluent in Gujarati