SRS Liquid Waste Contractor Sets Safe Work Hour Records

Matthew Moury, DOE Associate Under Secretary for Environment, Health, Safety and Security, joined Savannah River Site senior officials and nearly 1,500 Savannah River Remediation employees at an event to recognize the liquid waste contractor.

DOE headquarters and Savannah River Site (SRS) officials recognized nearly 1,500 Savannah River Remediation (SRR) employees for setting SRR records by surpassing 8.5 million operational hours and 30 million construction hours without injury resulting in a missed day of work.

Matthew Moury, DOE Associate Under Secretary for Environment, Health, Safety and Security; Michael Budney, DOE-Savannah River Manager; Mark Whitney, Chief Operating Officer of AECOM's Nuclear and Environment Strategic Business Unit, SRR's parent company; and Tom Foster, President and Project Manager of SRR, spoke to SRS federal and contractor employees, stakeholders, and guests at an event to mark the records.

The achievements underscore DOE's commitment to strong safety culture, Moury told the audience.

"One way the Department of Energy is committed to excellence in safety is by fostering a safe work environment in all operations at SRS. It is an expectation that a positive safety culture is felt and communicated by every employee," he said.

It's the first time SRR crossed the 8.5-million-hour threshold under its EM contract, which began July 1, 2009. SRR recorded its previous safety record in 2015 when employees reached 6.5 million hours without injury resulting in a missed day of work.

The SRR construction workforce surpassed the 30-million-hour mark in June 2018, representing 20 years of construction work without injury resulting in a days-away case. Workers reached this achievement under SRR and former SRS contractor Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC). SRR is a heritage company to WSRC.

At the event, Budney said DOE places a priority on the liquid waste mission and commended employees for safely accomplishing important work. "The reason we are here today is because you, too, have a commitment to safety," Budney said, during the event. "I commend all of you on your commitment to execute this important work safely."

Whitney said he is honored to be part of an exemplary workforce.

"I am very proud of SRRs safety record and our employees' accomplishments at the Savannah River Site," Whitney said. "SRR's commitment to safety excellence is world-class, and eight million and 30 million hours without missing a day of work from an injury is remarkable."

The celebration followed the recent restart of liquid waste operations after a comprehensive 15-month outage to upgrade equipment and facilities in the liquid waste system.

Foster said, "SRR is successfully moving the liquid waste mission forward because of a strong safety culture that each of you embody and then impress upon others. This safety culture is embedded into the hearts of the workforce. You are a learning organization populated with people willing to stop and answer the tough questions. You have proven that such a culture yields the most successful outcome."
Excavation Begins on Second SRS Mega-Volume Waste Disposal Unit

Excavation is underway to prepare the foundation for EM’s second 32-million-gallon liquid waste disposal unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Saltstone Disposal Unit (SDU) 7 is the second of seven mega-volume disposal units planned at SRS. Savannah River Remediation (SRR) is building on the successful design and lessons learned from construction of SDU 6, which was completed last year 16 months ahead of schedule and $25 million under budget.

SDUs are permanent disposal units for low-activity waste grout produced from solidification of decontaminated non-hazardous salt waste. EM approved the concept of replicating the mega-volume design for all remaining SDUs at SRS, a storage design that has been proven effective in the commercial sector.

Excavation is projected to continue through the summer and the concrete mud mats and leakage detection system will be in place by the end of the year to support construction of the mega-volume disposal unit beginning in January 2019. SDU 7 will stand about four stories tall and extend beyond the size of a football field when complete. It will take about three years for SDU 7 to be operational.

Continuous improvement and innovation are key principles for EM, and the new-style SDU is a prime example of applying these principles to the mission, DOE-Savannah River Manager Mike Budney said.

“The use of larger disposal units, like SDU 7, proves DOE’s and SRS’s commitment to continue to be good stewards of taxpayers’ money in that we always pursue the latest, most cost-efficient technologies to assist us in safely performing our mission of dispositioning the Cold War-era liquid waste,” Budney said.

The SDUs at SRS are built to protect people and the environment for generations to come, SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster said. “SDU 7 and its sister units allow us to manage the grout for the long-term, providing a safe destination for the low-level waste and reducing the risk to the surrounding communities and environment,” Foster said.
Savannah River Remediation (SRR) LLC is the Savannah River Site’s (SRS) Liquid Waste contractor. SRS is owned by DOE. SRR is composed of personnel from a team of companies led by AECOM with partners Bechtel National, CH2M, and BWX Technologies. Critical subcontractors for the contract are Orano, Atkins, and AECOM N&E Technical Services. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Dean Campbell, 803.208.8270.

**SRR Uses Virtual Reality for Slips, Trips, and Falls Training**

SRR training specialist Julius Myers demonstrates a virtual reality program SRR is using to help prevent slips, trips, and falls.

SRR employees walk through simulated SRS environments like a liquid waste tank top, avoiding tripping and other safety hazards.

**SRS Welcomes EM Assistant Secretary Anne White**

DOE-EM Assistant Secretary Anne White meets Defense Waste Processing Facility operators Ben Anderson and Robert Wallace while touring the liquid waste facilities for the first time.

**SRS Association Honors SRR Leaders**

The DOE Savannah River Site Leadership Association (SRSLA) named Savannah River Remediation (SRR) President and Project Manager Tom Foster, right, Executive of the Year, and SRR Field Safety and Health Manager Jim Wilson Leader of the Year. SRSLA is the local chapter of the National Management Association.

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SRR employees heard remarks from (left to right) DOE-SR Manager Michael Budney; DOE Associate Under Secretary for Environment, Health, Safety and Security Matthew Moury; SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster; and Chief Operating Officer of AECOM’s Nuclear and Environment Strategic Business Unit Mark Whitney, at the safe hours recognition event.

SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster gives an award to Chief Operating Officer of AECOM’s Nuclear and Environment Strategic Business Unit Mark Whitney to commemorate SRR reaching record safe work hours.

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Nearly 1,500 SRS federal and contractor employees, stakeholders, and guests stand for the National Anthem as part of the safety recognition event program.