Savannah River Remediation (SRR) employees began the operational closure of two hazardous waste tanks at the U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Site (SRS) on April 2, 2012, signifying the most substantial environmental risk reduction in South Carolina since 1977.

Specially formulated cement-like grout began flowing from the first concrete truck into Tank 19, which will be operationally closed along with Tank 18 this summer. The start of grouting culminates 32 years of waste removal and cleaning operations in the 1.3 million-gallon tanks and begins a process that will result in the first SRS waste tanks being closed since the first two, Tanks 17 and 20, were closed in 1997.

SRR plans to operationally close eight tanks by June 2017. Tanks 5 and 6 are next in line for closure, scheduled for 2014, followed by Tanks 16 and 12 in 2015.

Six cement trucks an hour will be operating eight hours a day, five days a week, throughout the summer pumping grout until the two waste tanks are operationally closed.
“We have a regulatory part in this, but you (SRR) made it happen. We are very appreciative of what you have accomplished.”

….. Shelly Wilson, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Federal Facilities Liaison.

(Above) Savannah River Remediation’s (SRR) Kim Hauer (left) and Steve Thomas (right) are joined by Department of Energy’s (DOE) (from left) Sherri Ross, Maatsi Ndingwar, Jolene Seitz, Terry Spears, and Karen Guevara at the viewing of the first grout truck arriving. (Right) SRR’s Dan Wood talks with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control’s (SCDHEC) Shelly Wilson. (Below) SRR’s Frank England (left) and Victor Franklin (right) are joined by SCDHEC’s Barry Mullinax, Shelly Wilson, and Byron Amick with grout trucks coming and going in the background.

DOE’s Jim Folk and Terry Spears watch the activities.
Department of Energy personnel and representatives from South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control joined SRR employees witnessing the historic events unfolding at SRS.

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) and Department of Energy team stand in front of the first grout truck. Below (from left) SRR employees check the grout truck load information, watch as the first grout mixture is poured into the transfer hopper, finalize a grout pour, and prepare to send a grout truck back for more.

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 URS with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Dean Campbell at 803.208-8270, or log on to www.SRRemediation.com