

STAKEHOLDER NEWS

SRR Participates in Project Vision to Support United Way



SRR employees tackled much needed projects, including landscaping, construction repairs, painting, building two decks, and even hanging a basketball goal.

Time spent on the improvements was voluntarily given, which comes as no sur-

prise to Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager, who said that SRR employees continuously and generously give their time and resources to help the community.

“Not only is our workforce the best in the world at what we do at SRS, they are a giving group of individuals,” said MacVean.

“Our employees give enthusiastically throughout the year with their support to many important causes. Project Vision is a great opportunity for SRR employees to be the hands and feet for those in need in the community.”

Groups of SRR employees participated in improvement projects at Children’s Place, the Cumbee Center House, a local support shelter, and an Aiken residential home.

Sharon Rodgers, President of the United Way of Aiken County, welcomes the volunteerism exemplified by SRR, and encourages other groups to adopt a project and perform repairs in their communities.

“We have many people and organizations in our area that have spaces in need of repair and they cannot afford or do not have the capability to do the repairs themselves,” Rodgers said. “The United Way is grateful for groups like the SRR employees who recognize the need and give back.”

SRR Recognized as Fit-Friendly Worksite, Awarded for Creative Wellness Programs

SRR received the highest recognition as a Platinum-Level Fit-Friendly Worksite for the second-consecutive year from the American Heart Association.

The AHA recognizes companies that have provided positive changes in their workforces by helping to make their employees’ health and wellness a priority.

Additionally, SRR received the Innovation Award for creatively implementing programs that promote physical activity in the workplace and at home for SRR employees.

SRR President and Project Manager Stuart MacVean said this recognition was achieved because of the safety



On behalf of the SRR workforce, SRR President and Project Manager Stuart MacVean and SRR Environmental, Safety and Health & Quality Assurance Director Patricia Allen accept the American Heart Association’s highest recognition as being a Platinum Fit-Friendly Worksite from Kayla Yates, Director of Development for the CSRA American Heart Association.

team’s dedication toward the SRR health and wellness programs, and the workforce focus on becoming healthier.

“We are committed to giving our employees the tools they need to be a healthy and physically conditioned workforce,” said MacVean. “Our employees are our greatest asset and the benefit to our employees’ good health will only help us produce better results on our mission at SRS.”

To be recognized as a Fit-Friendly worksite, companies must offer employees physical activity options in the workplace, increase healthy eating options, promote a wellness culture and demonstrate measurable outcomes related to workplace wellness.

Final Core Wall of Mega-Volume Disposal Unit Placed

The final core wall of Saltstone Disposal Unit 6 (SDU 6), the first mega-volume salt waste disposal unit being built at SRS, was placed on April 22, 2015.

The placement of the final core wall is a significant step toward completion of the project. Construction of the unit, which began in October 2013, reached the halfway point in February. Current plans indicate that SDU 6 will begin to receive decontaminated salt solution in May 2017, when the current SDUs 3 and 5 reach capacity.

SRS currently has six smaller SDUs in place, each with a 2.9 million gallon capacity. The new mega-unit is more than 10 times the size of the current SDUs. Comparatively, its size would allow a football field to fit inside. SRS will now need



only seven of the larger units vs. the previous need for 72 smaller SDUs. This change will result in a significant life-cycle cost savings of potentially \$300 million over the life of the program, given economies of scale, layout, design and construction processes.

The SDUs play an essential role in the closure of the 45 remaining liquid waste tanks on the Site. About 90 percent of the waste in storage tanks is salt waste, which must be retrieved and pretreated for disposition before the tanks can ultimately be closed.

The lower-activity treated waste from the legacy liquid waste tanks is sent to the Saltstone Processing Facility, where it is mixed with cement powders. The resulting grout is then pumped into the SDUs for permanent disposal.

Carl Lanigan, DOE-Savannah River Federal Project Director, said the SDUs are a substantial part of the process to remove waste from the aging, high-level waste tanks.

“At the end of the waste disposition path, these mega-facilities allow us to give the decontaminated salt solution a safe, final destination,” Lanigan said. “Our plans are to continue to leverage this proven technology and build the larger units to stay on top of the waste tank cleanup program.”

Salt Waste Processing Reaches 5-Million Gallon Milestone

SRR reached a salt waste processing milestone in February when the five millionth gallon was processed through the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU). The ARP and MCU work as an integrated system to remove nearly all of the radioactive isotopes from the salt waste portion of the SRS’s radioactive waste in storage tanks. ARP/MCU began radioactive operations in April 2008.

The radioactive isotopes removed by ARP/MCU are primarily cesium, strontium and actinides. These isotopes are transferred to the Defense Waste Processing Facility, where it is blended with a borosilicate frit and melted to form a molten glass mixture that is poured in stainless steel canisters, which are stored at SRS awaiting permanent storage.

The remaining decontaminated salt solution from salt waste processing is



transferred to the Saltstone facilities for disposition.

Achieving this milestone continues to prove the effectiveness of salt waste processing at SRS, according to Jim Folk, DOE-Savannah River Acting Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition.

“I congratulate SRR for reaching this

high-water mark,” Folk said. “Processing salt waste is essential for us and our mission to close tanks. The salt processing technologies utilized have proven very effective in removing the radioactive constituents from salt waste and reducing curies remaining in the State of South Carolina.”

During the past year, the ARP and MCU facilities underwent facility upgrades and process improvements designed to extend their operational lives and achieve greater performance and processing totals. The Interim Salt Disposition Process provides operational experience that will be used in the Salt Waste Processing Facility, currently under construction.

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 Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, EnergySolutions and URS Professional Solutions. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Dean Campbell at 803.208.8270

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