Work continues to remove Melter 2 from DWPF

Melter 2, only the second operating melter in the history of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), reached its end of life in February. Since then, DWPF has been in an outage in order to complete the necessary work needed to remove the melter from the facility. Once Melter 2 is removed, Melter 3 will take its place as the heart of DWPF.

What does it take to replace a melter at the DWPF? Lots of planning and work. The vessel is confined behind 5-foot-thick concrete walls with concrete cell covers above the melter and other process equipment within the melter area. These protective areas separate workers from the process equipment, shielding them from high-radiation fields emanating from the equipment. In addition to shielding, the tops of the cell covers are also used to store critical process equipment, as well as out-of-service equipment that cannot be discarded until a melter outage occurs. Relocation and/or disposal of this equipment is required to create an exit route for Melter 2 to be removed from the facility. The removal process is expected to begin later this spring.

Once a path is created for Melter 2’s exit, the melter will be removed from the facility via a specially designed railcar. This railcar will safely transport Melter 2 and its robust storage box 300 yards from DWPF to its onsite interim, underground storage facility.

Sheet Piling Milestone Complete for Salt Waste Processing Facility

The sheet piling installation near Building 511-S, adjacent to the Defense Waste Processing Facility, has been completed four days ahead of schedule. Nearly 4,000 linear feet of sheet piling was installed. This scope was in support of the upcoming excavation in the same area to expose the liquid waste transfer lines that will eventually tie into the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) lines, connecting SWPF to the current Liquid Waste System.
SRR Surprises Students, Teachers with Grant Checks

Surprise visits from SRR employees provided area elementary school teachers with educational grants to advance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum in their classrooms.

Teachers in CSRA schools applied for and won SRR Students/Teachers Achieving Results (STAR) grants to provide funding for innovative approaches to teaching STEM areas. Overall, SRR awarded 11 STAR grants to teachers in Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Edgefield, Columbia, and Richmond counties.

Unbeknownst to the teachers, SRR representatives traveled to the schools to surprise the teachers in their classrooms with the grant checks.

Tom Foster, SRR President and Project Manager, said giving back to teachers is a priority for the Company.

“Teachers often give extra time and resources, often their own, to provide opportunities for their students above the standard curriculum,” Foster said. “We want to partner with teachers who are going the extra mile to excite students about STEM-related concepts in the classroom.”

A team of SRR employees reviewed the grant proposals submitted this year and selected the best entries to receive the grants. SRR has provided more than $57,000 in grants since the Company began awarding grants in 2010.

SRR Awards $16,000 in Scholarships

SRR awarded eight SRR Family Scholarships to local graduates, all of whom are children of SRR employees. At a recent dinner and award reception, SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster (right) and Chief Operating Officer Mark Schmitz (left) presented the high school seniors $2,000 in scholarships. They were selected on the basis of leadership, extracurricular involvement, community service, grade point average, and scholastic achievement. From left: Schmitz, Daniel Morris, Stephen Gilmartin, Brenna Johnson, Gunner Harris, Austin Mills, Natalie Snyder, Foster. Not pictured are Natalie Franklin and Beverly Wilkinson.