Site Preparation Underway for Second Mega-Volume SDU

Workers have begun preparing for the second 32.8-million-gallon saltstone disposal unit (SDU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

DOE Environmental Management approved 13 months of construction work to ready the site for SDU 7.

DOE-SR Manager Jack Craig said the disposal units are critical to remediating SRS waste tanks.

“Construction on SDU 7 is an important step toward readying the liquid waste facilities for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) startup and furthering progress on closing the high-level waste tanks at SRS,” said Craig.

SRS liquid waste contractor Savannah River Remediation (SRR) will relocate a trailer complex; re-route stormwater drainage, electrical utilities, and communication systems; excavate nearly 170,000 cubic yards of dirt; and install the structural base slab.

SRR began construction late last month by removing trailer decking. Workers are scheduled to relocate six construction trailers this month. They removed trees within the SDU 7 footprint.

SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster noted that approval to begin constructing SDU 7 came three months after SRR finished building SDU 6, 16 months ahead of schedule and $25 million under budget.

“Completing Saltstone Disposal Unit 6 provided the liquid waste team a template to safely complete construction on the next era of mega-vaults,” Foster said. “This culture of disciplined operations will continue as we begin construction on the footprint of Saltstone Disposal Unit 7.”

It’s the second SDU to be constructed using an innovative design mirroring disposal units for commercial water applications.

SRS SDUs can accommodate SWPF’s large stream of decontaminated salt solution. SWPF is scheduled to begin operating in December 2018.

The larger design brings cost savings because it requires less infrastructure and materials to design and build. SRS will need only seven of the larger units to meet mission needs — equivalent to 80 small SDUs, each holding roughly 3 million gallons.

SWPF is key to the SRS liquid waste program and will process the majority of the site’s salt waste inventory. Removing salt waste, which fills over 90 percent of tank space in the SRS tank farms, is a major step toward emptying and closing the site’s remaining 43 high-level waste tanks.
Savannah River Remediation (SRR) LLC is the Savannah River Site (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 AREVA, Atkins, and AECOM Technical Services. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Dean Campbell, 803.208.8270.

Savannah River Remediation Removes Nearly 81K Pounds of Legacy Lead from SRS

Workers transported about 81,000 pounds of lead from legacy Savannah River Site (SRS) missions to an offsite disposal facility. The lead was used as shielding during operational closure of high-level waste tanks in the site’s tank farms. SRS sent the 30 containers of lead in four shipments to Waste Control Specialists, a commercial waste treatment and disposal site near Andrews, Texas, that accepts mixed low-level radioactive waste. There, the lead is encased in grout and buried.

Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the SRS liquid waste contractor, partnered with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the SRS management and operations contractor, to complete the project.

“It’s been a continuing mission to steadily reduce the lead inventory at the Savannah River Site,” SRR Environmental Manager Owen Stevens said. “The lead has low levels of radiological contamination, making it one of our priorities to remove it from the site and the state. Every effort and safety precaution was taken to ensure the shipment was loaded, transported, and arrived safely.”

SRNS Solid Waste Programs Manager Lee Fox said the lead inventory reduction is a win for everyone at the site.

“Everyone is happy to see it leave the site and be properly disposed,” Fox said. The contractors will continue to reduce the site’s lead inventory.

SRR Hosts AECOM Fire Protection Symposium

Fire protection engineers from across the DOE complex recently gathered at the Savannah River Site (SRS) to share best practices and further improve safety. Specialists from SRS, the Nevada National Security Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Hanford and Oak Ridge sites participated in the symposium led by SRR. The participants discussed spark-inducing activities, such as welding and grinding, performed at DOE facilities. They agreed to develop a more universal and effective protocol for these activities based on best practices used at their facilities. The subject matter experts collaborated on shared fire protection safety topics and explored resolutions to common risks. Front row from left: Kevin Uber, SRR; Susan Omberg Carro, WRPS; Sandy Twilley, AECOM; Jim Streit, LANL; Karen Lesko, SRR; Peter Feng, NNSS; Back row from left: Ron Baker, SRR; Jim Gibson, SRR; Brett Kujoth, ETTP; Bernie Till, AECOM; Nick Everett, SRR; Eric Shogren, SRR.

Workers load a container or lead from legacy missions at SRS onto a truck to transport to a waste disposal site in Texas.

SRR H Tank Farm employees loaded four trucks with over 6,500 toys in support of the Marine Corps. Toys for Tots toy drive and the Salvation Army Angel Tree campaign to help families in need during this holiday season. SRR employees sponsored 149 local children this year. Additionally, SRR Chief of Staff Larry Ling presented a $5,000 check from SRR to Major David Phelps of the Salvation Army for programs in Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell counties.

SRR H Tank Farm employees loaded four trucks with over 6,500 toys in support of the Marine Corps. Toys for Tots toy drive and the Salvation Army Angel Tree campaign to help families in need during this holiday season. SRR employees sponsored 149 local children this year. Additionally, SRR Chief of Staff Larry Ling presented a $5,000 check from SRR to Major David Phelps of the Salvation Army for programs in Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell counties.