DWPF Melter 2
Pours 2,000th Canister

The second melter ever in the 16-year history of the Savannah River Site’s (SRS) Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) has poured its 2,000th canister of glassified hazardous waste, surpassing its two-year design life expectancy years ago while showing no signs of slowing down.

The melter is a 65-ton refractory lined melting vessel that receives a chemically balanced feed of treated high-level waste from the Site’s underground waste tanks, mixed with borosilicate frit. When heated these elements form a molten glass. The glassified waste is then poured from the melter into stainless steel canisters, which are being safely stored on site until a permanent storage facility is identified.

Keeping the melter hot and operating is vital to Savannah River Remediation’s (SRR) mission to dispose of the Site’s hazardous waste and operationally close waste tanks.

Melter 1 became operational when DWPF began hot operations in March 1996. It poured 1,339 canisters in its seven-year history. Melter 2 was placed into service in 2003. In total, 3,339 of the predicted 7,557 canisters needed to dispose of SRS’s hazardous waste have been poured.

2011 ANNUAL REVIEW COMING SOON

The Savannah River Remediation 2011 Annual Review will be mailed to stakeholders shortly, marking the first under the leadership of Dave Olson, SRR President and Project Manager, and featuring updates on the progress of the Savannah River Site liquid waste processing facilities.

As the Annual Review will report, SRR exceeded numerous processing milestones in 2011 at the Defense Waste Processing Facility, the Interim Salt Disposition Process facilities, and Saltstone facilities, while demonstrating outstanding safety performance.

The issue will also include information on new SRR initiatives that were developed and implemented in 2011, including the Cost Savings Initiative and Center of Excellence solution center for nuclear cleanup.

Look for the SRR 2011 Annual Review. It will be coming soon. Enjoy!
Salt Processing Nets 1st 2012 Contract Milestone

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) has reached a contract milestone for 2012 by processing over 500,000 gallons of salt waste in its Interim Salt Disposition Process (ISDP) at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Essential components of the ISDP is the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU), which work as an integrated system to remove nearly all of the radioactive isotopes from salt waste solutions in SRS’s waste tanks before the waste is transferred to the Saltstone facilities for disposition.

On January 11, 2012, the MCU reached the 500,000 gallons mark, which is the first contract milestone for the year.

The chemical isotopes removed by ARP/MCU include cesium, plutonium and strontium. These isotopes are transferred to the Defense Waste Processing Facility, where it is mixed with molten glass and placed in stainless steel canisters awaiting permanent storage.

The remaining low-level salt solution is converted into a grout cement mixture at the Saltstone facilities and pumped into concrete vaults for permanent disposal.

SRR Group Makes a Tough Situation Better

Sally is a local school-aged girl who no longer lives at her home.

Home to her now is a room at Helping Hands, Inc., located in Aiken, SC, that serves as a 24-hour emergency home for abused, abandoned, and neglected children of South Carolina.

Recently, the Closure and Waste Disposal Authority (C&WDA) group of Savannah River Remediation (SRR) adopted Sally’s (not her real name) room at Helping Hands and excitedly planned and executed their version of an extreme makeover. At their real job, C&WDA employees provide detailed documentation to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and regulatory agencies for the waste tank closure process at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

But on their own time, the group enjoys combining a multitude of talents to give back to their community. The adopt-a-room project provided the group and their spouses with a worthy team-building experience.

Following a detailed planning session, the group went shopping. Purchases included colorful bed linens, blankets, curtains, space rugs and room accessories any teenage girl today would enjoy. Bathroom accessories purchased included curtain, toilet seat cover, and wall appliques.

Once all the purchases were in hand, the work began. The group cleaned floors and primed and painted walls, trim and doors. They also refurbished two dressers. But the final and special finishing touch was a set of complementary wall murals painted by an employee’s spouse, who is an established Aiken County artist. Sally’s home away from home became a dream come true.