4,000th Canister Poured
SRS Liquid Waste Contractor Reaches Milestone

The Savannah River Site (SRS) rang in the new year with a significant environmental cleanup success in its liquid waste program.

The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) at SRS has poured its 4,000th canister of radioactive glass, a major milestone for the robust facility that will also mark 20 years of operation in 2016 supporting DOE’s Office of Environmental Management’s cleanup and risk reduction priorities.

If 4,000 of the 10-feet tall, 2-feet wide canisters were laid end to end, they would stretch more than 7.5 miles. DWPF, which poured the milestone canister on December 31, is the nation’s largest operating vitrification facility that continues to reliably treat the high-activity fraction of legacy tank waste. Savannah River Remediation (SRR) operates DWPF as well as other liquid waste facilities as part of its SRS contract with DOE.

The facility converts high-level radioactive liquid waste, which is currently stored in 43 underground tanks at SRS, into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal. DWPF operations began in March 1996 and are expected to continue for approximately 20 additional years. Four thousand is about half the canisters DWPF is scheduled to produce.

Grouting of Tank 12 Begins

Workers began pouring a cement-like grout into the next underground radioactive liquid waste storage tank at SRS on January 19, initiating operational closure of the eighth high-level waste tank at the Site.

The specially-formulated grout is being poured into Tank 12, marking the beginning of a three-month process to fill the nearly one million-gallon tank.

Jack Craig, DOE-Savannah River Manager, called the closure significant, and said DOE will continue to work to remediate waste tanks at SRS.

“We have safely removed the liquid waste from this tank and immobilized it, providing us another opportunity to close this storage tank,” Craig said. “The DOE work ensures we continue to protect people and the environment from the risk of this waste.”

SRR, the SRS Liquid Waste contractor, is performing the work on Tank 12. SRR also operates all the SRS liquid waste facilities for DOE.

Stuart MacVeen, SRR President and Project Manager, said employees appreciate the

2015: A Great Year for Safety at SRR

Last year, SRR racked up on several national safety awards and recognitions.

In September, SRR received the 2015 Star of Excellence and an SRR employee was recognized with a 2015 Safety and Health Achievement Award at the 31th Annual National Voluntary Protection Program Participants’ Association (VPPPA) conference held in Grapevine, Texas.

SRR Electrical and Instrumentation Technician Sharon Kidd received the Safety and Health Achievement Award. SRR has had a winner in this category for the past three years. No other company in the nation can make this claim!

SRR also received the Star of Excellence award given by the DOE-VPP for having an outstanding safety and health program and for maintaining a Total Recordable Case rate of injuries 75 percent lower than the industry average.
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 BWX Technologies. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Amy Joslin at 803.208.1956.

Painting and engineering don’t typically go hand-in-hand, but they did recently when an SRR engineer attended Second Baptist Christian Preparatory School for Career Week.

SRR Engineer, Matt Bodine, spoke to a group of kindergarteners through second graders in support of Career Week at Second Baptist Christian Preparatory School, located in downtown Aiken. Bodine gave an age-appropriate presentation about the different types of engineering disciplines, as well as the importance of engineering and nuclear energy and technology in today’s world.

Besides the funny cartoons, the highlight of the presentation was a painting activity that also taught a lesson about atoms. The students painted their own depiction of an atom, complete with the protons, neutrons, and electrons. The painting activity is a part of an education outreach program, called Nuclear in Action, supported by SRS.

Nuclear in Action is an arts-integrated outreach program created and implemented by three South Carolina-based nonprofit organizations: the Nuclear Literacy Project, the SRS Community Reuse Organization, and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness.