From the desk of Stuart MacVean

SRR Marks Six-Year Anniversary

On July 1, 2009, SRR began as a Company, contracted by the U.S. Department of Energy to execute the liquid waste mission at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Six years have come and gone quickly.

Our work at the Savannah River Site has authored a list of achievements and successes, and we appreciate the continued support of the community and our stakeholders. We are proud of the safe performance and pace-setting work SRR has undertaken.

We continue to safely immobilize the liquid waste into glass and concrete forms. With the waste in a safe and stable configuration, we clean and analyze the waste tanks, then fill them with a specially formulated grout. To accomplish this hazardous and complex work takes innovation and efficiencies on our part. Most importantly, our employees safely approach all work, which is the leading edge of our success.

SRR looks to build on those achievements under our contract extension for another two years through June 30, 2017.

Together, we continue to lead this nation in results and mission delivery. Thank you for being there with us.

SRR President & Project Manager

SRR President & Project Manager
SRR celebrated its 6th anniversary on July 2, 2015 as the liquid waste contractor at SRS, bringing notable progress to radioactive waste treatment and disposition, along with tank closure.

The success of the program to date is due to technical innovations, efficiencies in operations and employee dedication. The following are some of the highlights of the past six years:

- 27.2 million hours logged in by the Construction workforce without a lost time accident, starting with the SRR legacy companies in 1998.
- Tripled the amount of curies (a measure of radioactivity) removed from the waste tanks through the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF).
- Four times the production in salt waste processing in terms of curies taken from the waste tanks.
- Tank Closures continue at a pace unheard of six years ago, with four tank closures completed during the past six years. These million gallon tanks are so large a high school basketball court would fit inside. One tank, Tank 16, is being filled with grout right now.
- The country’s largest decontaminated salt waste disposal unit, 30-million gallon capacity – large enough to hold a college football stadium, stands and all – is under construction.

Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager, said his employees understand how to work safely, a pre-requisite to any job or task. Their safe performance opens the door to work efficiently and bring results.

“SRR employees are the best in the world at what they do,” MacVean said. “They work in high-hazard conditions, but they understand how to perform the work with discipline and with an exemplary work ethic. They want to ensure they are protecting their families, their friends and their neighbors by executing the mission.”

SRR Achieving Results over Six Years

Grout Pouring of SRS Waste Tank Reaches Halfway Point

SRR has exceeded the mid-way point in pouring specially formulated concrete-like grout in Tank 16.

In early July, workers completed pouring 636,000 gallons of grout into the tank, leaving approximately 636,000 gallons remaining before Tank 16 is grouted and operationally closed. It took 394 concrete mixing trucks to reach the halfway point in the tank. The grouting process, which began June 2, is expected to continue into August.

During grouting activities, there have been no safety incidents or injuries.

About three days of grout-pouring time at Tank 16 was purposely rescheduled during June so that other concrete-related needs in E Area work, along with concrete pouring needs at Saltstone Disposal Unit 6, could be fulfilled. The management of the concrete vendor’s resources were coordinated to ensure all work could continue in a timely fashion at the Site.

Tank 16 is the first tank that will be closed in H Area and is also the first closure of a Type II tank. Type II tanks are among the oldest at the Site, having been constructed between 1955 and 1956. This tank is 85-feet in diameter and has a storage capacity of approximately 1 million gallons.

The Federal Facility Agreement between DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control requires that Tank 16 be operationally closed by October 27, 2015.

This old-style tank will become the seventh tank operationally closed at SRS.
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.

Raven Woods, a junior accounting major, is interning at SRR this summer in both Human Resources and the Equal Employment Opportunity office. She has dreams to help others in every aspect of their lives. Woods said she wants to reach out holistically by immersing herself in peoples’ financial, medical, social and professional lives, all to light a path for them.

Currently studying accounting at Claflin University, Woods, 20, also has a dream to pursue studies in the medical field after she graduates. She wants to get certified as a CAT scan technician.

“With accounting, I can lead people in the direction of how to manage money,” she said. “And the medical field is all about helping people.”

Now, Woods is spending her summer helping people on a professional level, while also honing essential workplace skills. Workplace experience is a common motivation for most students to pursue summer internships, but Woods’ experience goes above and beyond what most students consider a typical summer job.

“We have seniors who have lived robust lives, but now may be disabled or on a fixed income, in many cases only receiving social security or welfare,” said Urbanawiz. “There is now one woman, a senior with mobility limitations, on a small fixed income who can exit and enter her home safely because of the wheelchair ramp built by a group of young professionals.”

SRR’s summer internship program allows college students to not only focus on career development, but gives them multiple opportunities to give back and learn the importance of volunteering.

SRR Interns Take Part in Days of Caring to Community

In Windsor, S.C., a team of 10 interns, two staff members and one generous neighbor worked together to build a 32-foot wheelchair ramp. To accomplish this task, volunteers took down a five-step staircase that was hazardous for the elderly homeowner to use.

Project Vision’s intent is to assist local elderly, disabled or low-income families with tasks they are not capable of completing themselves. Some of these tasks include painting, repairs and maintenance work to facilities, clearing brush and providing landscaping. All the work is performed voluntarily, which has become a trademark of SRR employees over the years.

SRR employees Donnie Thaxton and Edward Urbanawiz served as co-leads for the day’s wheelchair ramp project.

“We have seniors who have lived robust lives, but now may be disabled or on a fixed income, in many cases only receiving social security or welfare,” said Urbanawiz. “There is now one woman, a senior with mobility limitations, on a small fixed income who can exit and enter her home safely because of the wheelchair ramp built by a group of young professionals.”

SRR Intern Strives to Help Others Holistically

During her time in EEO, she assists with ensuring minorities and women are getting the same employment opportunities as others. On the HR side, she helps with all steps of the hiring process.

“With my field, I want to be well-rounded,” Woods said. “To get experience in HR and EEO will benefit me tremendously.”

During her time in EEO, she assists with ensuring minorities and women are getting the same employment opportunities as others. On the HR side, she helps with all steps of the hiring process.

“You hear people talk about how things aren’t quite equal, so to be able to get on the inside, see for myself and be able to help make a change for the better is very rewarding,” she said. “You just want to be able to give everyone the same opportunity; it’s the American Dream.”

On top of everything else, she plans to give back and help others socially in her own community. In Woods’ small hometown of Blackville, S.C., she is starting a mentoring program.

“I want to be a guiding light to other people,” Woods said. “I’ve been around those kids who don’t get the attention and encouragement that they need. I want to be the person to do that.”

SRR summer college interns (from left) Daisy Carlos and Kathryn Tharp assembling a wheelchair ramp frame as a part of Project Vision, sponsored by United Way.