

SRR Awards Bid for Cesium Removal Process

SRR awarded a contract last month for Tank Closure Cesium Removal (TCCR), which is designed to enhance the removal of bulk waste from underground radioactive high-level waste storage tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The contract is valued at \$12.4 million, and the new process is expected to be operational in late spring 2018.

In January 2016, SRR received commercial supplier proposals for the procurement of the equipment needed for the TCCR technology demonstration at the Site's Tank 10. Since receipt of the proposals, SRR has been reviewing and evaluating supplier proposals.

The technology selected is an ion exchange process with an "at-tank" deployment. Commercial vendors have demonstrated success with cesium removal, using ion exchange, from similar type wastes.

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“We are pleased and excited to have the opportunity to demonstrate a new technology for the processing and cleanup of our high-level waste,” said Tom Foster, SRR President and Project Manager. “If successful, it may provide an opportunity to supplement the cleanup capability currently provided by our existing salt processing facilities and the future operation of the Salt Waste Processing Facility.”



SRR and SRR-Construction was awarded the Palmetto Shining Star Award by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

SRR was selected for the award based on its dedication to safety both onsite and within the local community. Among its achievements in 2015, SRR reached more than one million safe work hours without a lost-time injury or illness and had a significantly lower incidence rate than reported by South Carolina in the previous year.

Successful Pump Transfer

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) recently relocated and reused two operable tank mixing pumps at the Savannah River Site (SRS), an initiative that is saving taxpayer money.

SRR redeployed two existing pumps from F Tank Farm to H Tank Farm, located several miles apart onsite. Brand new mixing pumps can cost more than \$1 million each.

Jim Folk, DOE-SR Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition, said that this pump transfer is a significant “first-of-a-kind” activity for DOE-SR.

“While this redeployment and reuse of waste removal equipment has been considered for years in the liquid waste program,” Folk said. “I commend SRR on finding a way to safely make this process work.”

The highly contaminated pumps mixed waste in Tank 7 in F Tank Farm for years prior to their removal. When the old mixing pumps failed in Tank 22, the decision was made to move the two operational pumps to H Tank Farm.

Tank 22 is the receipt tank for the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) waste stream. The DWPF waste contains highly radioactive sludge, which accumulates in the receipt tank. The new pumps in Tank 22 will be used to remove the recycled sludge from the tank.

Reassembly of the pumps is currently in progress, and the pumps will soon begin operating in their new home.





SRR interns pose with a community member before tackling the rebuild project for the resident's deck.

SRR Interns Build Character by Rebuilding the Community

SRR summer interns followed in company footsteps this summer by volunteering for Aiken County United Way's Project Vision.

Project Vision allows interns to give back on their day off and rebuild the local community through revitalization and construction projects for those in need. The intent of Project Vision is to assist residents who are not capable of completing these projects on their own.

A team of SRR interns met in Langley, S.C., to rebuild a deck and stairs, which ultimately allowed a community member safe access to her home.

University of Georgia student, Christopher Turner, said that his internship at SRR has offered him more than just hands-on experience in mechanical engineering, but also the opportunity to give back to the community in rewarding ways.

"SRR's community commitment is something I hope to maintain as I return to school," Turner said. "It is extremely fulfilling knowing that the homeowner now feels safe and secure using her new deck."

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-Christopher Turner, summer intern

The second project took place in Warrentonville, S.C., where SRR interns and several newly hired engineers helped refurbish a dilapidated deck and wheelchair ramp for another community member in need.

SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster said community giving is a vital component of SRR's mission.

"Project Vision reflects SRR's passion for the local community," Foster said. "I am proud of how many of our interns volunteered their personal time to help others in need."

Young Engineers Teach Newton's Laws to 4th Graders

SRR Engineers Austin Chandler and Jeff Iaukea visited North Augusta's Hammond Hill Elementary School to teach Newton's laws of motion to several fourth grade classes, sparking interests in gravity, force, and acceleration.

"The students were excited to be engaged and active in the learning process," said Chandler. "They seemed especially interested in throwing the medicine ball, which showed Newton's third law in action."

Chandler and Iaukea were also able to show the effects of gravity by using a Hot Wheels car on a racetrack and acceleration by rolling a skateboard with a ball on top. When learning about gravity, the engineers said that the majority of the students hypothesized that a steel ball would fall faster than a ping pong ball and were surprised that both balls fell at the same speed.

"We also watched a video about astronauts in space in order to show the difference between our world and one without gravity," said Iaukea. "The kids all wanted to know if we were astronauts after that."

The SRR engineers said they felt a personal calling towards educational outreach through SRR's READY program, which is an introductory, two-year development program for engineers who are newly hired college graduates. READY participants are empowered to become a more productive force for SRR by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs among students in the Central Savannah River Areas. SRR is a STEM company seeking to pique the interests of local students who represent the potential future workforce at the Savannah River Site.

