SRS Partnering Leads Toward Deployment of New Chemical Extraction Solvent

A recent partnering initiative between Savannah River Site (SRS) contractors, national laboratories and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expected to lead to a more effective solvent used to extract radionuclides from radioactive salt waste currently inside the Site’s underground waste tanks.

The new solvent, developed primarily by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), is called the Next Generation Solvent (NGS). NGS is designed to be similar to the solvent currently used, but laboratory testing at ORNL and Savannah River National Laboratory indicate it is more effective in extracting cesium from the salt waste. The extraction of cesium is necessary before the waste can be dispositioned.

In 2012, the improved performance characteristics of NGS are to be evaluated in full-scale equipment at the Parsons Test Facility for its potential to increase the rate at which the waste can be decontaminated through the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF).

Zero Injuries Nets $500 to Helping Hands

Carmen Landy (center), Executive Director of Helping Hands, Inc., accepts a $500 check recently from Savannah River Remediation (SRR) employees Mike Young (left) and Jerry James.

The presentation was part of SRR’s Zero Injuries campaign. When SRR employees work a month without any injuries that result in days away from work, the company presents a $500 check to a local charity selected by the employees.

Helping Hands, Inc., was selected for December 2011. Since beginning the Zero Injuries Campaign in August 2009, SRR has donated $14,000 to local charities.
The final procurement in the $200 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for Savannah River Remediation (SRR) was received in December 2011, completing the delivery of needed equipment purchased under the program.

A 4,000 pound, 24-foot long remote cell transfer pump that cost $1.7 million was delivered and accepted in December, completing the procurement of over $20 million of equipment to enhance liquid waste operations at the Savannah River Site.

It took over a year for the pump to be procured, fabricated, tested and delivered. It will be used in the highly contaminated environment within the Defense Waste Processing Facility to supply water to scrubbers that are used to remove highly radioactive particulates from the facility’s melter off-gas flow stream.

SRR received the $200 million ARRA allotment in September 2009 and went to work on 41 separate projects. The work scope was completed in December 2011. All that remains will be final project paperwork closeout, which is targeted for this month.

Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at Savannah River Site (SRS), is accepting applications for educational grants from area public elementary schools to support teachers in their work to educate their students in mathematics and science.

The Student, Teachers Achieving Results (STAR) grants will be awarded directly to public elementary schools to provide funding for science and mathematics instructional kits that are proven tools teachers can use to help students achieve next-level learning through the use of manipulatives and problem solving. By focusing on problem-solving, these kits are designed to reinforce and expand learning.

Public elementary schools in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield and Orangeburg school districts in South Carolina, and Columbia and Richmond counties in Georgia are eligible to receive the funds.

Grant winners will be recognized at a reception on May 24, 2012.