Saltstone Facility Exceeds Midpoint of FY13 Milestone

Savannah River Site’s (SRS) Saltstone facility is on the way to achieving its yearly production goal of processing 2 million gallons of low-level salt waste. The facility recently surpassed its midway point by processing over 1 million gallons.

Since beginning operations on June 12, 1990, the Saltstone facility has safely received, treated and disposed of over 12 million gallons of low-level radioactive liquid salt wastes. Processing and disposing of the decontaminated salt solution is essential in Savannah River Remediation achieving its mission.

Recent improvements to the facility have provided a more reliable system capable of processing larger amounts of decontaminated salt solution. These improvements, combined with others scheduled in the next term, will ultimately support a 24/7 work schedule in the future when needed.

SRR Hosts First ‘Walking Day’

Savannah River Remediation employees took to heart the American Heart Association’s (AHA) “Get Up and Move” message on April 3, 2013, by participating in the first annual SRR Walking Day at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Lead by SRR Senior Managers, employees gathered at lunch time on a designated walking path for a 30-minute walk. The SRR team wore red to remember those who have been victimized by heart disease.

SRR joined with companies across the country to help raise awareness for AHA of the importance of physical activity and to encourage coworkers to live a healthier life. The walking day event was held in conjunction with SRR’s Wellness Program – AHA’s Start Walking Now. It includes employee training on exercise, weight loss, balance and smart moving to help avoid slips, trips and falls.
Salt Processing Reaches First of Two 2013 Contract Milestones

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) LLC has reached a contract milestone for 2013 by processing over 600,000 gallons of salt waste through its Interim Salt Disposition Process at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The milestone was reached on March 23, 2013, when 600,000 gallons were processed through the Interim Salt Disposition Process, which includes the Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU). The ARP and MCU work as an integrated system to remove nearly all of the radioactive isotopes from the salt waste portion of the SRS’s radioactive waste in storage tanks.

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 blended with a borosilicate frit. It is then melted to form a molten glass mixture that is poured in stainless steel canisters, which are stored at SRS awaiting permanent storage.

The decontaminated salt solution is transferred to the Saltstone facilities for dispositioning.

SRR Sponsors Aiken’s Earth Day

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) once again joined the City of Aiken by sponsoring the Ninth Annual Earth Day Celebration, held April 17 in Hopelands Gardens.

Dave Olson, SRR President and Project Manager, said the company’s goal – to protect people and the environment – fits perfectly with Earth Day objectives.

Approximately 250 Aiken students participated in Earth Day.