Savannah River Remediation (SRR) employees were joined by U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, Department of Energy (DOE) officials and local stakeholders on October 1, 2012, in celebrating the closure of two Savannah River Site (SRS) waste tanks.

Tanks 18 and 19 were operationally closed in September following a summer when 2,080 cement trucks arrived on Site and poured over 3.3 million gallons of specially formulated cement-like grout into the tanks. The tanks were the first to close at SRS under a new provision in the National Defense Authorization Act, which was sponsored by Graham.

“The provision was good for our environment and good for the taxpayer, saving billions,” Graham said.

DOE Under Secretary Thomas D’Agostino called the day historic and thanked SRR employees for their accomplishment.

“Supporting efforts to win the Cold War was part of the SRS legacy, and helped define our nation,” he said. “DOE and this nation thank you for the years of dedicated efforts it took to get us to where we are today.”

Dr. David Moody, DOE Savannah River Manager, recognized the partnerships that made the day possible.

“Closing waste tanks 18 and 19 has provided SRS a roadmap for safely expediting future tank closures and meeting our risk reduction commitments,” Moody said. “For this, we owe tremendous gratitude to Senator Graham for his tireless efforts, and to our regulators, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Environmental Protection Agency, for their partnership in support of the Department’s cleanup goals.”

Successful closure of Tanks 18 and 19 signifies the most substantial environmental risk reduction achievement for the state of South Carolina since 1997, when the first two waste tanks in the nation were closed at SRS.
“The significance of closing these tanks is a demonstration of people being able to work together, getting the job done, getting it done safely and permanently taking care of this liability.”

“We’ve got a lot more work to do. And the key is the workforce here has just proven that it can get that work done. So we want to continue that work, press forward and get this work done.”

- Thomas P. D’Agostino
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security & Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration

Closing these tanks proved to the country as a whole that common sense can be implemented. The success of closing these tanks using the new system that was proposed in 2004, will allow the tanks to be closed decades ahead of schedule and save billions of dollars.

“Closing these tanks proves to the country as a whole that common sense can be implemented. The success of closing these tanks using the new system that was proposed in 2004, will allow the tanks to be closed decades ahead of schedule and save billions of dollars. What you have accomplished at the Savannah River Site proved me and others in Washington that you could close tanks in a new way to save money and protect the environment.”

- Senator Lindsey Graham

“We have 47 waste tanks remaining, four have been closed. We are actually removing waste from 15 other tanks as we speak. This really is about reducing risk, that’s why we should continue this process. Today we are celebrating the closure of two waste tanks and the opening of our future.”

“Job well done. It is exactly what I expect. Only the very best.”

- Dr. David Moody
Manager, US DOE-Savannah River

“Some of the fun facts around what has happened this summer: We poured 3.34 million gallons of grout; 2,080 cement trucks; 70 workers per day involved in grouting, working eight hour days, seven days a week. That all adds up to two closed tanks. And those who know me know I don’t get excited very often, I am excited today. It is a great accomplishment for our team.”

- Dave Olson
SRR President and Project Manager

“Closing these tanks demonstrates to the world that we are driving safety first and making sure the environment is protected. It shows commitment from the government and regulatory agencies. The partnership that has come out of this commitment are the drivers that closed these tanks and will be there for more closures to come.”

- David Pethick
President, URS Global Management & Operations Services

What you have done is nothing short of amazing. By closing these two hazardous waste storage tanks, you have helped to reduce the highest environmental risk in the state of South Carolina.”

- Catherine Templeton
Director, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
Savannah River Remediation employees help themselves to a barbecue lunch October 1.

Senator Lindsey Graham (left) speaks with DOE Under Secretary Thomas D’Agostino and Catherine Templeton, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Director, prior to the start of the October 1 celebration.

Dan Wood (second from left), SRR Waste Removal and Tank Closure Manager, meets with stakeholders prior to the October 1 tank closure media event and marker unveiling.

The bronze marker, which was unveiled during the October 1 celebration, provides a brief history of tank closings at the Savannah River Site.
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 URS with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Dean Campbell at 803.208-8270, or log on to www.SRRemediation.com

SRR President and Project Manager Dave Olson (right) presents Catherine Templeton, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Director, with a commemorative framed picture depicting this summer’s tank closure activities.

Commemorative paperweights were presented to SRR employees and everyone attending the October 1 tank closure ceremony. The paperweights were produced from grout similar to what was used to fill Tanks 18 and 19.

SRR President and Project Manager Dave Olson (left) presents Dr. David Moody, DOE Savannah River Operations Manager, with a commemorative paperweight, which was made from grout similar to what was used to close the waste tanks.

Stuart MacVean (center), SRR Deputy Project and Operations Manager, points out items of interest prior to the start of the October 1 celebration ceremony to several stakeholders attending the event.

Savannah River Remediation employees are given commemorative paperweights at the October 1 tank closure celebration. The paperweights were produced from grout that is similar to what was used to fill Tanks 18 and 19.