

# STAKEHOLDER NEWS



## Grouting Complete on Liquid Waste Tank

The final pouring of grout into Tank 16 at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) was completed on September 23, 2015, ahead of schedule. It is the seventh underground radioactive high-level waste storage tank operationally closed at the Site, and the fifth tank closed since 2012.

On the heels of Tank 16's operational closure, the field work for grout preparation on Tank 12 was completed last week. Tank 12 will be the next older style tank to be operationally closed with grouting expected to begin no later than February 2016.

Jack Craig, DOE-Savannah River Manager, said the liquid waste work ongoing at SRS is a significant step in reducing the risk of exposure and contamination to the public, workers

and the environment.

"Safely treating and disposing of legacy nuclear waste and closing older style waste tanks is a top priority for DOE," Craig said. "I congratulate all involved in the closure of Tank 16, and we look forward to grouting Tank 12 soon."

Workers at Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the SRS liquid waste contractor, placed nearly 6,300 cubic yards of grout into the Tank 16 primary tank and systems from June 2, 2015, through September 22, 2015. Closure is the culmination of several extensive preparation and isolation activities, where the placement of grout to fill up the entire tank and all internal tank components is the final step.

Tank 16 is the first tank that has

been 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.

Tank 16 was closed ahead of the October, 27, 2015, deadline in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) between DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The other high-level waste storage tanks that have been closed are located in F Area:

- Tanks 5 and 6 closed in 2013
- Tanks 18 and 19 closed in 2012
- Tanks 17 and 20 closed in 1997.

# VPPPA honors SRR Employee, Company

At a recent SRR senior staff meeting, SRR President and Project Manager Stuart MacVean congratulated Sharon Kidd on being awarded a 2015 Safety and Health Achievement Award at the VPPPA Conference.

The VPPPA is a nonprofit organization working to drive safety, health and environmental excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management and government. SRR has been recognized as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Site since 2009, when it became the SRS liquid waste contractor.

At the conference, SRR was awarded the 2015 Star of Excellence and an SRR employee was recognized with a 2015 Safety and Health Achievement Award. The Safety and Health Achievement Award was presented to Sharon Kidd, an SRR

Electrical and Instrumentation Technician, making her the third SRR employee to earn the award in the last three years.

SRR also received the Star of Excellence award given by the DOE-VPP for having an outstanding safety and health program and for maintaining a Total Recordable Case rate of injuries 75 percent lower than the industry average.

“Receiving the DOE-VPP Star of Excellence award is a great testament to our safety and health program and is the highest recognition from our customer in the safety and health area,” said Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager. “Our employees are the best in the world at what they do. Having had the third SRR employee receive the Safety and Health



Achievement Award demonstrates that our safety culture is strong. Sharon is a great representation of how our employees take safety and health seriously. We have nearly 2,000 more who show it every day too.”

## SRS Saltstone Production Achieves Record



SRR achieved an historic lifetime record for processing decontaminated salt waste at SRS.

Since beginning operations in 1990, the Saltstone facility has safely disposed of 25 million gallons of grouted decontaminated salt solution. Nearly 15 million gallons of the 25 million has been safely disposed of by SRR, which became the liquid waste contractor in 2009.

Processing and disposing of the decontaminated salt solution is essential in SRR achieving its mission, according

to Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager.

“This milestone is a testament to the hard work of SRR employees,” MacVean said. “It took a lot of perseverance by numerous people across our combined facilities, and I sincerely appreciate the effort and determination shown by everyone.”

SRR continues to treat and dispose of an inventory of approximately 34 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste through separate waste processing and dispositioning facilities,

the Interim Salt Disposition Process (ISDP) facilities, along with the Saltstone Production Facility and Saltstone Disposal Units (SDUs), where the grouted waste is ultimately stored.

The Saltstone facility receives decontaminated salt solution from ISDP and mixes it with cement powders to form grout. This grout is then pumped into SDUs for permanent disposal 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

