Canister Double-Stack Begins at the Savannah River Site

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officially began double-stacking radioactive canisters this summer in the Glass Waste Storage Building (GWSB) 1 at the Savannah River Site (SRS), part of the innovative effort to increase onsite interim storage capacity of glassified high-level waste. Savannah River Remediation has led the effort in the double-stack initiative.

Two canisters were stacked one on top of the other in GWSB 1 at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). The canisters were stacked using the Shielded Canister Transporter.

The canister storage positions, where canisters are stored one per position, are modified to now accommodate two, 10-foot tall canisters. To modify the positions, SRS employees developed and implemented a remote cutting tool that removes the existing canister support crossbar.

The remaining positions continue to be modified in support of the Canister Double-Stack Project. The Canister Double-Stack Project will increase the storage capacity in GWSB 1 from 2,254 slots to 4,508 slots. This initiative will create adequate safe interim canister storage until at least Fiscal Year 2029. It also postpones the expense of another storage facility estimated to cost $74 million.

This graphic shows the innovative concept of the Canister Double-Stack Project. Each current position in Glass Waste Storage Building 1 is being modified to accommodate two canisters per existing slot.

Employees, Company Bring Home National Safety Awards

SRR racked up safety hardware at the 32nd Annual National Voluntary Protection Program Participants’ Association (VPPPA) conference held recently in Kissimmee, Florida. SRR was awarded the 2016 Star of Excellence. The 2016 Safety and Health Achievement Awards were presented to Chris Holley, Electrical and Instrumentation First Line Manager at the Defense Waste Processing Facility, and Michael Young, Sheet Metal Mechanic. The two became the fourth and fifth SRR employees to earn the award in the past four consecutive years.

Left: Young and Holley pose next to their names at the National VPPPA Conference in Florida.
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 BWX Technologies. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Atkins, and URS Professional Solutions. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Amy Joslin at 803.208.1956

SSRTs Begin Operation at Savannah River Site

One of the two newly constructed Salt Solution Receipt Tanks (SSRTs) at SRS began receiving waste early last month.

SRR began transferring Decontaminated Salt Solution (DSS) to one of the two 60,000-gallon SSRTs. The new SSRTs are designed to improve SRR’s salt disposition process and prepare the Site’s liquid waste program for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), which is currently undergoing testing.

One SSRT is being used. The other SSRT is not needed until SWPF operations begin, scheduled for late 2018, so it will be isolated and maintained until it is needed. Both tanks have passed rigorous inspections.

The SSRTs receive DSS from a one-million gallon feed tank with salt waste that has come from the Actinide Removal Process (ARP)/Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU). The DSS is then turned into a grout mixture and permanently disposed of in the Saltstone Disposal Units.

Completion of the SSRT project prepares the Saltstone Production Facility (SPF) for increased throughputs of DSS when SWPF is completed. Once SWPF begins operation, throughputs to SPF will increase from the current one to 1.5 million gallons of DSS per year to greater than six million gallons per year.

Annual United Way Golf Tournament Par for the Course

SRR scored well at the annual United Way Golf Tournament by raising nearly $8,000 for local agencies.

With approximately 100 SRR employees and their family and friends at Houndslake Country Club, the tournament participants raised approximately 15 percent more money than last year’s tournament earnings. The proceeds will benefit the 2016 SRR Employee United Way campaign.

The amount of employee participation and increased sponsorship took the tournament earnings to the next level, said Thomas Yamamoto, the 2016 SRR United Way Golf Tournament Chairman.

“With the help of the tournament planning team and the participants, we were able to enjoy a fun, meaningful tournament that will benefit our community,” Yamamoto said. “It was evident the SRR employees who participated came to the tournament to give, and they exceeded our expectations.”

Employee donations were raised by golf entry fees, breakfast donations, mulligan purchases, and beverage donations. Corporate sponsors and community businesses gave donations as tournament sponsors, hole sponsors, and for prize gift donations.

Tom Foster, SRR President and Project Manager, said fundraisers are an integral aspect to the United Way campaign season, both for the employees and the Company.

“Throughout the campaign season, I’ve watched teams of SRR employees come together to raise money for those in need in our communities,” Foster said. “This spirit of teamwork and giving is part of what makes the SRR campaign successful.”

The SSRTs are another important step as we continue to shape the liquid waste system for future operations.”

-Tom Foster, President & Project Manager