

Questions? Contact us at 803.952.9584.

November is the month to honor our veterans.

In this edition of the "SRNS News," you'll read about a special deer hunt for the mobility impaired and wounded warriors, a program that began more than a decade ago and is dedicated to meet the needs of disabled participants.



A message from
Garry Flowers
SRNS President and CEO

You'll also learn about the beneficial use of one legacy nuclear material that's lowering the cost of commercial power in the southeast, and how one employee's idea is helping to save millions.

In early November, we announced another agreement with the private sector. Savannah River National Laboratory and Tetra Tech will collaborate on water resources, quality and protection efforts.

I'm particularly proud of a new development organization for young, emerging professionals in our company. On Page 6, you'll read about opportunities for employees who have graduated in 2003 and beyond and have worked at SRS for up to seven years. Leaders Emerging Among Professionals or "LEAP" promises to be an active, thought-provoking organization.

We appreciate your continued support over the next few months as we face the difficult challenge of downsizing our company in order to meet our mission in the most cost effective manner. I have told our employees and I'll express to you as well that I am committed to seeing that our actions regarding workforce restructuring are fair and carefully considered.

I hope you enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. I know that SRNS has much to be thankful for, including your steadfast support of our company.



HONORING OUR VETERANS

Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, greets an honoree at the Veterans Day ceremony held November 10 at the Savannah River Site.

SRNS news

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNL, Tetra Tech announce water resource collaboration

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and Tetra Tech, Inc., have announced an agreement to collaborate on water resources, quality and protection efforts.

According to SRNS President and CEO Garry Flowers, the agreement combines the complementary strengths of the two parties. "This is part of a concentrated effort to engage with private companies to help expand SRNL's customer base and open opportunities to use our combined expertise to help address some of the most challenging issues facing the world today."

SRNL, which is managed by SRNS, is the applied research and development laboratory for DOE's Office of Environmental Management. "This laboratory

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SRNS surpasses fiscal year cleanup milestone

SRNS surpassed an important milestone for the 2010 fiscal year by shipping 24 shipments of low-enriched uranium (LEU) to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), exceeding their goal by four shipments. This process both safely eliminates excess highly enriched uranium (HEU), which can be used to create nuclear weapons, and provides LEU to create fuel rods for commercial power reactors.

Since 2003, the site has "down blended" or diluted the quality of the uranium to the point

where it is useless for weapons of mass destruction, more than 20 metric tons of HEU from the nuclear weapons production stockpile.

The advantage for the TVA is free LEU used to create fuel rods for three of their commercial power reactors. By formal agreement, the resulting cost savings from using this material are split between TVA rate payers and the U.S. Treasury.

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SRNL, Tetra Tech announce water resources collaboration

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has decades of experience developing strategies and technologies for the protection and cleanup of water resources, not just at the Savannah River Site, but throughout the DOE complex, and around the world,” said Dr. Terry Michalske, director of SRNL.

Tetra Tech is a leading domestic and international provider of consulting, engineering, program management, construction and technical services for government and industry addressing the water resource management and environmental infrastructure market areas.

“We are honored to have the opportunity to work closely with SRNL in helping advance the Laboratory’s contributions to water resources, quality and protection. We are very excited about the opportunity for our scientists and engineers to collaborate with the many professionals of SRNL in this critically important area.”

Dan Batrack

Tetra Tech Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Dan Batrack, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tetra Tech, said, “We are honored to have the opportunity to work closely with SRNL in helping advance the Laboratory’s contributions to water resources, quality and protection. Tetra Tech has been engaged in the full spectrum of the science, engineering and technology associated with water management for more than four decades in the United States and abroad. We are very excited about the opportunity for our scientists and engineers to collaborate with the many professionals of SRNL in this critically important area.”

The agreement calls for the two organizations to explore opportunities for future joint projects. As projects are identified, the two companies would then pursue cooperative research and development agreements or other types of contracts for executing the work.



NAACP recognizes SRNS support

SRNS President and CEO Garry Flowers was recently presented with a plaque from the South Carolina NAACP recognizing the company’s support of NAACP development initiatives. “Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a great supporter of the NAACP, and they help to support equality and justice which are the same things our organization promotes,” said Dr. Lonnie Randolph, South Carolina NAACP President, in making the presentation. Shown left to right are Leroy Myrick, Flowers, Randolph, Diane Sumpter, chair of the South Carolina NAACP Economic Development Committee, and Dwight James, Executive Director of the South Carolina NAACP.



“Thanks for Giving” Golf Classic

The SRNS Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality (ESH&Q) organization recently held their first annual “Thanks for Giving” Golf Classic to benefit United Way agencies found in the Aiken-Augusta area. Over \$5,500 was generated through this effort. ESH&Q Vice President Tony Umek is shown presenting a check of tournament proceeds to the SRS Employee United Way Campaign ESH&Q co-chairs Jennifer Burkett and Cheryl Eidson, as tournament organizer Kim Cauthen looks on. Ninety-nine golfers on 25 teams turned out for the competition at Aiken’s Golf Club at Cedar Creek.

SRNS sponsors Wounded Warriors and the Mobility Impaired Hunt at SRS

Thirty-two hunters participated in this year's "Mobility Impaired and Wounded Warriors Deer Hunt" held on Saturday, Nov. 13, at SRS. Dedicated to meet the special needs of each disabled participant, the Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt Program began in 2000, while the Wounded Warriors aspect of the event was added in 2008.

Pat Ross, a disabled veteran herself, volunteers her time each year to help those she so closely identifies with. "It just brings tears to my eyes," said Ross. "You just can't stay at home when you have the opportunity to reach out to help fellow veterans."

SRNS sponsors and manages the one-day event, working in coordination with the USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) and DOE.

"SRNS handles the hunt coordination and logistics, and they do so seamlessly," said Scott Ray, Wildlife Services Supervisor, USFS-SR. "They place the hunter, field dress the deer, and bring the animal to them when they're ready. All the hunters have to do is shoot and enjoy the day."

Typically, nearly all of the hunters participating in this annual hunt have a serious physical impairment, such as one or more missing limbs.

According to hunt volunteer Tim Nixon, an employee with AllSafe Industrial, Augusta, Ga., "Tim Bolton and Ed Spears of SRNS do a great job each year organizing this event. These guys work from the heart to do everything they can to put each hunter on a big deer," said Nixon. "This hunt is known to be one of the best in country. SRNS works to make it a free and much appreciated reality for mobility impaired people every year."

The day started at 5:30 a.m. with hunter check-in, breakfast and a safety briefing. Each hunter was assigned a helper who transported him to his stand and provided additional assistance, as needed.

"There's no doubt that this is the highlight of our entire hunting season," said Ed Spears, SRNS Deer Hunt Coordinator. "A lot of these guys were very active before they were injured and had a passion for the outdoors and this sport. We're pretty proud to be able to offer this service to them."

Spears noted that nearly all of the Wounded Warriors are patients from the Augusta, Ga.'s, Veteran's Hospital, where they are receiving treatment and rehabilitation services. "Because nearly all of them are



Dedicated to meet the special needs of each disabled participant, the Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt Program at SRS has been an annual event for a decade.



Tom Cannon of Spartanburg, S.C., practices raising and sighting in his gun during the special hunt held on Saturday, Nov. 13.

from out of state, we provide them with all they need to hunt, including gear and guns," said Spears.

"For me, and many of these guys, it's not just physical healing that's needed, it's a need to heal mentally as well," said Sgt. David Remaley, a Wounded Warrior hunt participant. "It's this type of special event that means so much to us and helps us to heal in every way. It gives us a positive outlook while breathing new life into us."

New Recovery Act waste prep process creates cost avoidance of nearly \$3 million at SRS

Henry Ford, Conrad Hilton and John Deere were innovators all known for a famous product or service associated with their name. SRNS employee Jon Bennett has yet to join the ranks of these household names; however, with the invention of the “Bennett Box,” he’s getting closer.

Bennett and his fellow team members work together each business day to complete an important American Recovery and Reinvestment Act cleanup mission at SRS, the processing, packaging and shipping of transuranic (TRU) waste to DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Project in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Innovative ideas recently provided by Bennett, SRNS Radiological Protection Inspector, and his team have resulted in a productivity improvement of nearly 300 percent and, therefore, a cost avoidance of approximately \$3 million.

TRU waste is a byproduct of weapons production and nuclear research at SRS, and typically consists of protective gear, tools, residue, debris and other items contaminated with small amounts of radioactive elements.

Much of the TRU waste processed at SRS has to be re-sized to fit into a DOE-approved shipping container designed for the safe transportation of TRU waste on America’s highways. Until recently, this operation was performed using a slow and tedious method involving trial and error in order to modify the size and shape of various contaminated items with tools until Bennett and his team completely filled a TRU waste shipping container. To add to the challenge, the shipping containers are located in another part of H Canyon called the Warm Canyon Cell Cover.

Bennett came up with the idea to place an empty, wooden “template” container in the workshop where TRU waste cutting and resizing is performed. The template container exactly matches the dimensions of a standard TRU waste shipping container.

“The creation of this template box, which is now metal, was the result of input from several of my co-workers,” said Bennett. “Process improvement is usually founded on teamwork.”



SRNS employees are shown using a new innovative method to rapidly increase the site’s ability to package and ship radioactive waste.



An SRS truck transports transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Bennett’s teammates further improved this new process by first placing a large sheet of heavy plastic in the template container.

Once filled, the plastic wrapped waste is sealed and lifted from the template container as one large, pre-sized bundle. The crane used to lift the bundle then transports and lowers the waste into the waiting shipping container.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, a geologic disposal facility where packages of TRU waste are emplaced in an underground salt dome, is the only approved area in the U.S. for disposal of transuranic wastes.

SRNS surpasses fiscal year cleanup milestone

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According to SRNS HEU Program Manager Gigi Magoulas, to date, enough commercial reactor fuel has been created from SRS LEU to power every home in South Carolina for about nine years and, in the process, eliminated about 500 equivalent warheads.

“Of course, we’re always interested in exploring new ways to safely process and ship contaminated material offsite and out of the state,” said Garry Flowers, SRNS President and Chief Executive Officer. “When we can find a beneficial use for legacy nuclear materials that are no longer needed for national defense at a lower cost to the taxpayers, we’re going to pursue that option. It benefits our customer, DOE, and the citizens of our state and nation.”

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Garry Flowers

SRNS President and Chief Executive Officer

Originally, the highly enriched uranium used to create LEU at SRS came from a variety of on-site sources and locations, including legacy fuel that was created for, but never used in SRS production reactors. Today, SRS no longer has any operational reactors. In fact, SRNS has now processed all 20 metric tons of HEU out of the 20 metric tons of HEU previously identified by DOE for processing and shipment to the TVA.

As part of a new phase, SRNS employees are now down blending highly enriched uranium received from several laboratories and facilities throughout the DOE complex, including sites in Tennessee, New Mexico and California.

“The Savannah River Site’s H Canyon is the only facility in the U.S. that can recycle contaminated HEU,” said Flowers. “I’m proud of all of the SRNS employees associated with this highly successful and greatly beneficial program.”



Since 2003, SRS has “down blended” or diluted the quality of the uranium to the point where it is useless for weapons of mass destruction, more than 20 metric tons of highly enriched uranium from the nuclear weapons production stockpile.

Originally funded by the National Nuclear Security Administration as a nuclear nonproliferation program, DOE’s Office of Environmental Management took over funding of the HEU blending down to LEU program at SRS in 2008.

TVA provides electricity for utility and business customers in most of Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia – an area of 80,000 square miles with a population of nine million. The price of electricity within TVA’s service territory is below the national average.



SRS employees roll up their sleeves for a flu shot given by Kaye Wingard, Wellness nurse.

SRNS named as a Start! Fit-Friendly company by the American Heart Association

SRNS was awarded the American Heart Association 2010 Fit-Friendly Platinum Level and Community Innovation designation as Start! Fit-Friendly Company for promoting physical activity and health in the workplace. Start! is sponsored nationally by the American Heart Association, SUBWAY® Restaurants and locally by SRNS.

SRNS also received the American Heart Association Start! Community Innovation Award for developing and holding the SRS Health, Safety and Environmental Exposition September 22-23, 2009, at the USC Aiken Convocation Center, which was open to employees and the population of the CSRA. The Expo featured 120 vendors showcasing their unique health and safety products and services.

Start! Fit-Friendly Companies reach Gold level status by implementing various activities and programs to encourage physical activity, nutrition and culture enhancements such as on-site walking routes, healthy food choices in cafeterias and vending machines, annual employee health risk assessments and online tracking tools. Companies that achieve Platinum recognition — the highest tier — take the program a step further by measuring the outcomes of their wellness efforts.

The SRNS Wellness program offers health and wellness education via Lunch and Learn programs, workshops, safety meeting presentations, and safety conferences. Digital mobile mammography is offered monthly, and prostate cancer screening is available for the male population. An annual Health Risk Assessment is offered free of charge to SRNS employees.

New hires at SRNS 'leap' into professional careers

On Oct. 27, SRNS Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP), held a kick off event at the North Augusta Municipal Building to introduce a new development program for emerging professionals. One hundred twelve LEAP participants and 18 representatives from SRNS senior management participated in the event.



The name LEAP, Leaders Emerging Among Professionals, suits this organization well because that's exactly what its members will do—LEAP into their careers, among SRNS professionals.

LEAP will focus on professional development and business awareness specific to SRNS. Its goal is to provide new hires with career development tools, networking opportunities and increased visibility. LEAP will be a component of SRNS's formal leadership development framework, supported by Workforce Services and Public Affairs.

Bridget Walter, LEAP President, is enthusiastic about the startup of this new program. "Developing the framework for the LEAP organization has been an exciting opportunity. On behalf of our steering committee, we are energized about the potential of this program to develop and engage the emerging workforce at SRNS," Walter said.

Garry Flowers, SRNS President and Chief Executive Officer, is also supportive of this new organization and has strongly encouraged SRNS managers to become involved and energized about LEAP.

"Providing an avenue to directly invest in new hires will result in increased employee engagement and positively impact talent acquisition and retention," Flowers stated.



David Marko, LEAP committee member, talks with other LEAP participants.



The BMI cask gets a final farewell from William Hair (from left), Maxine Adams, Frankie Royal, Gail Crawford, Betty Sutton, Otis Key, Jeremy Mathis and David Wright.

SRNS legend goes into semi-retirement after 30 years of safe service

SRNS workers recently said a fond farewell to a very special “helper” – the Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI) cask, a shipping container used for over 30 years to safely transport used nuclear fuel to SRS from numerous locations around the U.S.

Primarily made of steel with internal lead shielding, the cask weighs in at 21,800 pounds, empty. The chamber located in the center of the container was specially designed to hold up to 24 sections of used nuclear fuel, known as assemblies. Each fuel assembly looks like a short section of square metal pipe. Once received, assemblies are stored under water in large, concrete basins that resemble swimming pools.

The BMI cask entered into service in the mid-1960s to meet the needs of several universities for a small “lightweight” cask to ship their used nuclear fuel for disposition to SRS.

During its service, the cask transported over 2,800 fuel assemblies to the now retired Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuel (RBOF) facility at SRS and several hundred more to the SRS storage basin in L Area.

During the cask’s final sendoff, Spent Fuel Facility Manager Rick Reichel said, “The BMI cask served the Department of Energy and the Domestic Research Reactor Program faithfully for nearly five decades. Hundreds of SRS operators, radiological controls inspectors, engineers and truck drivers have been involved in the receipt, unloading and shipping of this cask.”

Upon leaving SRS for the final time, the cask traveled to the Idaho National Laboratory where it will be used for on-site shipments prior to final disposition. The Battelle Energy Alliance Research Reactor cask will replace the BMI cask and carry on its important mission.