

● OCTOBER 2018

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today

## SRNS wins PMI award

D Ash Basin project honored as 'Project of Excellence'



### This month

235-F milestone • Safety Expo • More efficient work • Employees raise \$1M for UW







**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

# Welcome

to the October 2018 edition of

# SRNS Today

This is an exciting time at SRS. The numerous ongoing missions and the potential for new missions garners a level of opportunity unlike any I've seen in my career.

SRNS is, in part, responsible for this growth due to the efforts of our outstanding workforce and its commitment to make the world safer. SRNS was recently recognized by the Project Management Institute for the first of two phases of remediation work completed at the SRS D Area Ash Basin, a project that achieved full mechanical completion in the past several weeks ahead of schedule and significantly under budget. The prestigious PMI Project of Excellence Award recognition exemplifies the SRS approach to project management practices and commitment to cleanup and I'm very proud of our team and this honor bestowed on our company.

There were other examples this month where external parties recognized the dedication and commitment of our exemplary workforce. Our Deputy Vice President of EM Operations, Janice Lawson was named "Manufacturing Employee of the Year" by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce for her contributions to teamwork, innovation, community service and leadership. Engineering Support and Soil and Groundwater Remediation Scientist Mary Baird was recognized as a "Rising Star" by the National Safety Council for developing creative solutions that drove positive safety results, high praise in our industry. These are just two examples of individuals who contribute to our company's success through their dedication. There are many more, the majority of which go unacknowledged publicly, but are a part of the everyday fabric of our workforce and the heart of our company's success.

Opportunity abounds at SRS and SRNS stands ready and committed to performance excellence as the Site continues to change and grow. We appreciate the trust and support our communities give us as the managing and operating contractor at SRS.

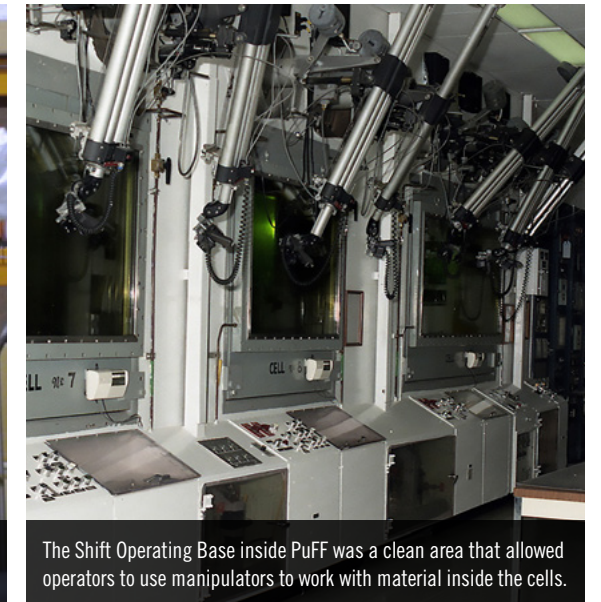


Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, S.C. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.9584 or visit our website.

[www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)



235-F Operators prepare for training in the clean 235-F mock up building. Headsets are used to ensure effective communication.



The Shift Operating Base inside PuFF was a clean area that allowed operators to use manipulators to work with material inside the cells.

## 235-F milestone

### SRS begins removal of plutonium from building used to produce space program fuel

SRS recently removed the first nuclear material at risk, or MAR in a building containing residual hold-up of plutonium (Pu)-238, which was used as a heat source to power deep space missions.

The building, known as 235-F, has been inactive for more than 25 years. A section in the two-story, blast-resistant, windowless, reinforced concrete building is known as the Plutonium Fuel Form (PuFF) Facility. The PuFF Facility was used to make fuel spheres and pellets out of Pu-238 to electrically power deep space missions, such as the Galileo space probe to Jupiter, launched from the Space Shuttle Atlantis in October 1989.

"This material removal marks a huge milestone in the multi-year risk reduction process to clean up the PuFF Facility cells," said 235-F Project Manager Jeff Hasty. "We started planning for removal in 2012 and have been preparing the cells since then. Work completed so far in the facility includes removing fixed combustibles, upgrading the fire detection system, de-energizing unneeded electrical circuits, draining and cleaning shield windows after their partial disassembly and installing light sources."

Inside the PuFF Facility are nine cells of thick concrete walls with shielded windows. In these cells, employees worked with hazardous materials using remote manipulators, while they remained outside the cell. Material entered the PuFF Facility in Cell 1, then traveled through the other cells to be made into spheres and pellets.

The historic activity has left behind a conservative estimate of about 1,500 grams of Pu-238 in the cells.

"This project is extremely challenging," said Hasty. "Along with the amount of material involved, we are also working in very tight spaces with limited accessibility. Because of the way the spheres and pellets were made, the Pu-238 was left in some cells as a

very fine particulate dust that is easily disturbed. Every move we make will need to be slow, deliberate and precise to avoid spreading contamination."

The workers assigned to this project are a hand-picked team of professionals, most of whom had previously worked on the accelerated transuranic waste project at SRS funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. To prepare, the workers have been practicing in a mock-up facility and participating in decision-making sessions and briefings.

SRNL has worked with the 235-F Risk Reduction team to develop a better estimate of how much Pu-238 remains within the shielded cells. Additionally, SRNL is using existing technology and developing new tools to locate and remove or affix the Pu-238 to ensure it will not become mobile during decontamination activities. Any Pu-238 that is removed, along with any contaminated tools, will be safely stored for eventual packaging and shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

"Cell 1 is the most contaminated cell and we expect to be working in it for the rest of 2018 and 2019," said Hasty. "However, in this type of situation, ensuring the safety of our workers is the highest priority, so we will work slowly and purposefully."

The material to be removed consists of wires, manipulator handles, leftover tools, etc. It will be passed through the cells by operators using gloves inserted into the cell and it will be removed through a bag-out port, which allows the material to never come in contact with workers or the air. The cells will then be vacuumed and otherwise cleaned to remove the leftover plutonium.

"We are committed to reducing risk at SRS, and to removing as much material from the facility as practical," added Hasty.





Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) President and CEO Stuart MacVean (right) received the “Executive of the Year” award from the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council during the 36th annual Spirit of Alliance Award event in Atlanta, Ga. Also pictured are SRNS Procurement Director Jay Johnson (left), who received the Supply Chain Advocate of the Year award, and Alex Agyemang, Manager, SRNS Small Business Programs and Supplier Partnering. SRNS Supply Chain Management (SCM) has strategically invested in building a pipeline of vendor capabilities, which support Savannah River Site and Department of Energy complex missions. In addition, SRNS’ SCM Procurement has awarded more than \$77 million to Georgia minority businesses over the past three years.

## SRNS Recognized as 2018 Industry Leader Award Winner

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), LLC – Construction Division was recognized by the National Safety Council (NSC) as a 2018 Industry Leader Award winner alongside 64 other organizations at the NSC Congress and Expo National Awards Celebration Reception held in Houston, Texas on Oct. 22.

This award is given to NSC member companies that are within the top five percent of NSC members who have also qualified for Occupational Excellence Achievement Awards in 2018. SRNS has received the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award for 10 consecutive years since becoming the SRS management and operations contractor in 2008.

The SRNS Construction division reached over 1,747,487 safe work hours without an injury resulting in a missed day of work during calendar year 2017. The group is responsible for some of the most hazardous work completed at the Savannah River Site.

The SRNS Construction workforce is comprised of 421 employees. To date, their safe work record continues to grow,

having achieved more than 2.3 million safe hours, nearly 1,100 days, without a lost day due to injury.

“Many occupations within the construction industry rank among the most dangerous jobs in America. The SRNS Construction workforce understands those risks, and they work together to ensure that every employee remains safe on the job,” said Stuart MacVean, SRNS President and CEO. “I congratulate them for their strong safety culture that has made them an industry leader.”

The NSC is a nonprofit organization that seeks to eradicate preventable deaths in homes and communities, at work and on the road through research, education, advocacy and leadership.



Employees from across SRS gathered Oct. 16-17 to enjoy the annual Safety Expo. Fun and interactive exhibits brought the safety message home and operational demonstrations gave employees a deeper insight into SRNS missions. Approximately 3,000 employees attended the event, which featured 23 SRNS Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT) booths, as well as information from local organizations.

PHOTOS (clockwise from top): LSIT tents were a popular draw at the Expo; an attendee enjoys an interactive PMCS exhibit; a mock glovebox offered a new perspective for a participant; and proper disposal of mercury waste was the topic at Environmental Compliance booth.





## Lawson named Manufacturing Employee of Year

SRNS Deputy Vice President of Environmental Management Operations, Janice Lawson, was recently selected to win the 2018 annual S.C. Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Employee of the Year Award. This award showcases an employee who has significantly contributed in the areas of innovation, teamwork, community service and leadership within their organization.

Lawson has occupied numerous managerial positions at SRNS, including successfully leading a dual facility role with both L Area's Spent Fuel Program and the K Area Project. She manages various responsibilities related to Nuclear Materials Storage and Processing including the safe and secure receipt, handling, storage, processing and shipment of special nuclear materials.

Lawson's success in human performance enhancement and LEAN implementation has provided a foundation for continued efficient operations and innovation on Site. "Janice is a fantastic leader who has created a positive working environment and inspires others to work as hard as she does to achieve a shared vision," said Stuart MacVean, SRNS President and CEO.

She is actively involved in professional development groups, such as Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness and Women in Nuclear, and served as a judge in the annual LEAP Shark Tank competition.

In community support activities, Lawson has volunteered in cleanup at the Hope Center in Graniteville, S.C. as well as building gardens for families to grow food, packaging meals for the food distribution outreach program and assisting in repairs for the elderly. Lawson also works with the local STEM girls camp.

"What an honor to have been nominated and then selected for this special recognition," Lawson said. "There are so many individuals at SRS and across the state that are deserving of recognition for their contributions and achievements. I am pleased and humbled to have been selected by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce."



Janice Lawson

## Baird honored with Safety Council 'Rising Star' award

SRNS employee Mary Baird, Engineering Support and Soil and Groundwater Remediation Scientist, received a Rising Star award at the National Safety Council (NSC) Congress and Expo in Houston, TX, on Oct. 22. She was recognized for developing creative solutions that drove positive safety results at SRS.

Baird has led numerous safety-focused initiatives over the past two years to correct environmental and behavioral risks that have the potential to lead to employee injury. She was recognized for developing a creative campaign to bring awareness to hazards that contribute to slips, trips and falls; SRNS' leading cause of employee injury in 2017.

Using an inflatable tyrannosaurus rex costume, she created a character she named "Trip" to appear in training videos to relay information in a comical and easy-to-understand way. Trip quickly gained popularity among employees as a company-wide engagement tool and has been utilized in monthly safety meeting videos to draw employee attention to various hazards on Site.

In doing so, awareness of slips, trips and falls has been heightened, and injuries reduced by 45 percent across the company.

"Often, transfer of important knowledge is most successful when delivered in an entertaining way. Comedy is a great means to achieve engagement from a broad audience, since it is easy to understand and relatable," said Baird, who joined the Local Safety

Improvement Team (LSIT) upon her arrival t SRS in 2014 and has since become chair. "Being actively involved in safety initiatives is an excellent way to pass on safety expectations and drive meaningful results."

Through her association with the LSIT, Baird has been able to learn more about the Site, as well as new opportunities to become involved. She volunteered to teach a monthly Behavior Based Safety class and has successfully trained over 100 new employees to become active safety observers, while introducing them to the importance of the Site's safety culture.

"Mary's creative initiatives have delivered results in safety engagement and enhanced awareness of potential hazards both on and off Site," said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. "Her urge to continuously improve the Site's safety culture is a great trait, and we are safer for it."



Mary Baird

## Right Sizing Controls + Procedures = More Efficient Work at SRS

The Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) at the Savannah River Site is performing ongoing work to right size controls and procedures to fit current missions, resulting in easier to maintain procedures, simpler controls and the reduction in the potential for errors.

"We still had overlapping procedures and controls for operations that were no longer being performed," said Nuclear and Criticality Safety Engineering Area Manager, Dave Rose. "Our engineering and operations team started a multi-year mission to get rid of controls that were no longer needed. This eliminated outdated precautions that our employees were required to take because they still remained in the safety documents and procedures."

Nuclear safety controls have been improved over the last two years through re-evaluation of hazard events that form the foundation of the safety basis for the SWMF. Repackaging and characterization of legacy transuranic waste, coupled with the shipment of much of that waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, have substantially reduced the hazards associated with SWMF operations. As a result, the number of nuclear safety requirements was substantially reduced by about 35 percent, with no impact to nuclear safety.

Similarly, the criticality safety requirements had grown to address all the various operations for the different waste streams that have been handled within SWMF over several decades. A re-evaluation tailored to the current operations and practices helped ease the highly-conservative restrictions and assisted in bringing a level of consistency to the current Low-Level Waste (LLW) operations. The consolidation of more than 10 separate evaluations reduced the total LLW criticality safety requirements from more than 50 to 14. This effort is ongoing, with further improvements expected for the remaining transuranic waste stream.

"This is another example of how our employees are constantly looking to improve the way we work," said Stuart MacVean, President and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, SRS's managing and operating contractor. "The work done to get rid of unnecessary controls is making it easier and faster for our employees to get work done, while still maintaining the necessary safety precautions."

PHOTO: An aerial photograph of E Area



# SRNS wins PMI award

## D Ash Basin project honored as ‘Project of Excellence’

SRNS won the Project Management Institute (PMI) Award for Project Excellence for work completed at the SRS D Area Ash Basin Project. The award was presented at the PMI Professional Awards Gala held in Los Angeles on Oct. 6.

The prestigious award recognizes global, large and complex projects that deliver superior performance of project management practices, superior organizational results and positive impacts on society.

SRNS was selected for the Award for Project Excellence for the first of two phases of work at the SRS D Area Ash Basin, which was completed ahead of schedule and significantly under budget, thanks to exemplary project management strategy and application of sound technical innovation.

The D Area Ash Basin project is comprised of a two-phased approach to address ash basins that were used to manage this material from the D Area Powerhouse, which provided steam and electricity essential to fulfilling SRS missions for more than 59 years.

“When the D Area Powerhouse closed in 2012, the cleanup of the ash basins was projected for closure. SRNS supported federal regulators to define a cleanup plan that was respectful of federal tax dollars and given a reasonable time frame for completion, while also achieving cleanup goals and adherence to regulatory compliance,” said Stuart MacVean, SRNS President and CEO.

After negotiations among SRS regulators including the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River, a phased approach spanning five years and an estimate over \$70 million (both phases) was implemented to perform the cleanup of the ash basins.

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“SRNS supported federal regulators to define a cleanup plan that was respectful of federal tax dollars and given a reasonable time frame for completion, while also achieving cleanup goals and adherence to regulatory compliance.”

**Stuart MacVean**

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The first phase of the cleanup project (\$23.8 million) consisted of consolidating 131,000 cubic yards of ash and dirt from a 15-acre basin into an adjacent ash landfill. This basin held 36 million gallons of water that had to be properly managed to meet regulatory discharge requirements. To achieve closure, SRNS placed approximately 926,540 square feet of both a geosynthetic clay liner and a geosynthetic drainage layer, covering approximately 21.5 acres, over the consolidated ash and dirt into a protected landfill. The geosynthetic covers provide protection from rainwater intrusion, which prevents migration of ash into the environment.

“Using the cleanup approach agreed upon by SRS regulators and DOE, SRNS was able to capitalize on its exemplary project management expertise to complete the first phase of the D Area Ash Basin Project at a cost savings of \$300,000 while accelerating the completion date by more than one year,” MacVean said.

Currently, the second and final phase of the project is nearing completion and is anticipated to realize \$8.4 million in cost avoidances. If successful, SRNS will have delivered both phases of the project to closure at a total cost avoidance of \$8.7 million.

The PMI is a not-for-profit membership association that strives to advance the project management profession through global advocacy, collaboration, education and research.



The work on Phase II was completed 14 months ahead of schedule.

## Phase II is complete, saving \$8.7 million on project

SRNS has saved \$8.7 million dollars while completing the task of consolidating more than 400,000 cubic yards of coal ash and ash contaminated soil excavated from across 90-acres at SRS.

Thanks to a disciplined project management approach, which won SRNS the PMI Award for Project Excellence for phase one of the D Area Ash Basin Project, the project team was able to accelerate completion of both phases of the project by more than one year.

“Our goal was to safely and cost-effectively protect the environment locally as well as the nearby Savannah River,” said Susan Bell, SRNS Project Manager for D Area. “We were pursuing performance excellence and timely completion with this multi-year project, and those goals were not just met, but exceeded.”

“Without visiting the remediated site, it’s hard to grasp just how big a project this was,” said Karen Adams, DOE-Savannah River Federal Project Director. “Working closely with DOE and their primary sub-contractor, SRNS has taken what originally appeared to be several large basins, converting it all into grass-covered fields, eliminating environmental hazards from the ash.”

Phase one of the cleanup project consolidated over 130,000 cubic yards of ash and contaminated soil onto an existing 21-acre ash landfill at SRS. A geosynthetic cover system was placed over the landfill and sod was planted, completing the first phase and protecting the ash laden materials below from moving into the environment.

Phase two, the single largest portion of this cleanup effort, consolidated almost 300,000 cubic yards of ash, coal fines and contaminated soil from two basins and adjacent wetlands into a second area. Like the landfill addressed in phase one, the second area was fully capped with geosynthetic material and a thick cover consisting of fill dirt and grass-covered topsoil.

Approximately 1.8 million square feet of geosynthetic material, covering approximately 20 acres, was installed over the second area.

The SRS D Area Ash Project is a result of a closure strategy developed and approved by a core team consisting of members of DOE-Savannah River, SRNS and state and federal environmental regulatory agencies.

According to Adams, the challenges involving the safe conversion of these large holding basins containing wet coal ash into highly protected storage areas for dry coal ash are one of the biggest environmental problems facing power generating facilities across the U.S., whether commercial or federally-owned.



A geosynthetic liner is installed at the D Ash Basins.



# Employees raise more than \$1 million for UW

This summer, SRNS employees organized luncheons, silent auctions and other fundraisers in support of the annual United Way campaign. Now, they have something to celebrate—surpassing the 2018 fundraising goal of \$1 million. The total amount raised will be announced in November.

“The theme this year was ‘Picture Yourself Here,’ which exemplifies how we not only picture ourselves giving back to United Way but also can picture ourselves benefitting from United Way-funded programs,” said Caroline Reppert, SRNS United Way Employee Campaign Chair. “Site employees have a rich tradition of giving back to our communities. Thank you for your contributions and fundraising efforts that will help those in need. We wouldn’t have been able to exceed our goal without the hard work from our volunteers, committee members and the campaign and division leads.”

The campaign benefits the United Way of Aiken County; United Way of the CSRA; United Way of the Midlands; Barnwell and Allendale County United Way; United Way of Edgefield County; United Way of McDuffie and Warren Counties; Screven United Way; United Way of the Low Country; and Anderson County United Way.



Scotty Beasley updates the United Way “thermometer” sign.

# SRTE welcomes new class of operators

The Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) recently welcomed a class of 24 newly-hired operators, launching them on a path to careers providing vital support to the nation’s nuclear defense. The operators make up a key group among the 136 new employees SRTE brought on board during FY18 as part of a structured plan to hire the right people for its vital missions.

“The country relies on us as the backbone of the nation’s deterrence,” said Mark Davis, SRNS Deputy Vice President for NNSA Operations & Programs, “So one of the most important things we need to do today is to ensure that we are prepared to continue successfully performing our work in the future.” Hiring and qualifying new employees is at the heart of that preparation, he said, and operators are a high priority. Among the keys are to identify candidates with the right skills and attributes, get them enthusiastic about joining SRTE, then provide them the training to succeed at their assigned work scope.

Since FY15, SRTE has hired approximately 400 new employees, including approximately 97 operators. This pace of hiring builds the pipeline of employees to offset retiring and departing personnel (with time for training, getting a security clearance, etc.) and enables SRTE to grow as planned.

Recent SRTE initiatives are aiding this process.

Because SRTE operators must have an appropriate security clearance in order to access the operating facilities where their work is performed, there can be a months-long gap between when new hires initially report to work and when they can begin

hands-on training in the operating facilities. By making use of a facility elsewhere on site that is not currently being used for operations, SRTE is able to begin hands-on training on glove-box procedures and other topics in an unclassified setting, in addition to the other unclassified training they receive during the interim.

The new operators were also the first new SRTE employees to participate in a newly-developed orientation program intended to welcome them into SRTE and help them to become familiar with the organization and its leadership. This program introduces new hires to the history and mission of SRTE, how it fits into SRS, the Local Safety Improvement Team, security, Conduct of Operations, Human Resources topics and other SRTE-specific topics.

In addition to the operators, in FY18 SRTE hired 112 employees to fill positions in quality, training, maintenance, engineering, safety/health/environment, first-line management, procedure writing and other tasks that are vital for carrying out SRTE’s national missions.

The process for filling those important positions starts with recruiting good employees. SRNS partnerships with local programs such as the SRS Community Reuse Organization’s Nuclear Workforce Initiative, and those with Aiken Technical College and Augusta Technical College, are integral to SRTE’s staffing plan. In addition, SRTE has begun carrying out targeted hiring efforts to recruit from the U.S. Navy Nuclear Operations to hire individuals with prior education and/or nuclear experience to align with the type of work performed.

SRTE plans to hire another class of six operators, and numerous other new employees in the coming months.



College Night participants pour through the doors of the James Brown Arena in Augusta, Ga.

# Annual College Night draws 5,000 participants

**M**ore than 5,000 high school students, parents and educators from the greater Aiken-Augusta area recently met with recruiters from over 130 colleges and universities during this year’s CSRA College Night, which is coordinated by SRNS. Scholarships worth \$1,000 each were awarded to 16 students during drawings held throughout the evening at Augusta’s James Brown Arena.

Highly valued as a “one-stop shopping” opportunity, College Night can help reduce the number of planned college visits for students, potentially saving them thousands in travel costs.

The event is now entering its third decade of service to area high school students. Over \$300,000 in scholarship funding has been offered to the tens of thousands of students who have attended College Night in the past. “The generosity of our scholarship sponsors and the much appreciated help from more than 100 volunteers are major reasons why this effort is consistently so successful each year,” said Gladys Moore, Program Coordinator, SRNS.

“It’s rewarding to see so many students have the opportunity to meet with college representatives of their choice, knowing this night could have a significant impact on their post high school education,” said Moore. “To see the joy and excitement in the faces of those receiving one of our college scholarships makes all the work worthwhile.”

Moore acknowledged the contributions made by the members of the CSRA College Night Committee who put in many hours of work prior to a long evening at the huge arena.



SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director Dr. Vahid Majidi selects a winning entry for one of the 16 \$1,000 scholarships presented at College Night by SRNS.





## Tour Continues to Surprise and Impress Area Science and Math Teachers “Experience” SRS

Educators from area elementary, middle and high schools recently toured SRS, experiencing the Savannah River National Laboratory, Defense Waste Processing Facility and Salt Waste Processing Facility while learning about other missions, all a part of Nuclear Science Week.

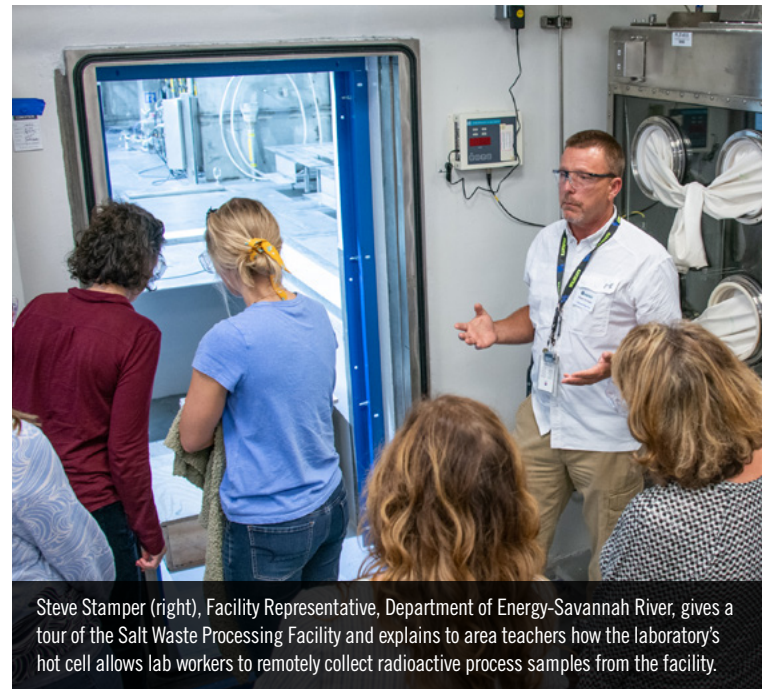
“From SRS to the classroom, this opportunity serves to showcase real-world applications of science, technology, mathematics and engineering. You really can’t grasp the depth of the work at SRS without spending a day with us,” said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Program. “We also provide guidance on current and expected job needs in the nuclear industry, especially in critical skill areas such as engineers, production operators, radiation control personnel and several other occupations. Teachers are the direct link to our future workforce.”

“This experience has been of enormous value,” said Merrell Garner, Director of Student Learning-Middle School and Gifted Programs for Columbia County, Ga. “Being able to put my hands and eyes on the things at SRS enables me to better understand the missions here. It gives me the passion to go back and articulate to our district leaders what’s needed for our students as they prepare to become a part of the future workforce.”

This tour marks the sixth consecutive year that several facilities at SRS have been opened to local educators.

Through this intensive, one-day event, educators also learn firsthand of the diversity of occupations found at SRS and the sheer size of the 310-square mile complex.

“This tour is incredible. I have learned so much in a short period of time,” added Garner. “The depth and continuity of the material provided is unbelievable and all incredibly valuable. We need to get more of our teachers through this program.”



Steve Stamper (right), Facility Representative, Department of Energy-Savannah River, gives a tour of the Salt Waste Processing Facility and explains to area teachers how the laboratory's hot cell allows lab workers to remotely collect radioactive process samples from the facility.



Leon Cummings (left) and Curtis Brown



Dennis Adams (from left), P.G. Mock and Chester Enlow



Edie Richardson (left) and Elaine Boyleston

# 25 year reception

More than 1,350 current and retired SRNS employees attended the annual SRNS 25-Year Reception at the Augusta Convention Center on Oct. 6. The event honors active and retired employees who have 25 years or more of continuous service at SRS.





A panel of SRNS senior executives entertain questions during the Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals' RECHARGE event on Oct. 18, at the University of South Carolina Aiken's Etheredge Center. The event included networking opportunities, presentations by several SRS and community leaders, and a vendor fair. AMP is an organization sponsored by SRNS that provides a foundation of leadership principles to help employees be a leader worth following well as provide an environment of support through professional development and community outreach events. AMP serves SRNS full-time employees who have between seven and 20 years of work experience.

## DOE, NNSA Celebrate Radiological Assistance Program Anniversary

Members of the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) from Savannah River Site, along with their counterparts from the eight other RAP regions from around the country, were among the invited guests for the national program's 60th anniversary.

Recently, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) invited RAP team members, Members of Congress, interagency colleagues and other honored guests to celebrate the past achievements, current excellence and bright future of one of our Nation's premier first-response resources at the Naval Heritage Center in Washington, D.C.

The Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) has been on constant standby to evaluate and minimize the hazards of a radiological or nuclear incident since it was first created by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1958.

RAP consists of a cadre of scientists, engineers, and technicians well-suited to respond to any radiological emergency thanks to their extensive training. They are federal and contract employees who regularly work with radioactive material at DOE and NNSA facilities. The RAP teams are based in nine geographical regions that allow the teams to efficiently assist Federal, state, local and tribal officials in dealing with any crisis involving radioactive materials or devices across the country.

SRS is home to the DOE Region 3 RAP Team, which is responsible for the region that includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, but they have also assisted RAP Teams from other DOE regions for many events. In addition, DOE Region 3 RAP personnel played an important role in the overall DOE response assisting the Japanese government after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, initiated by a tsunami wave, in 2011.

Regional Program Manager Christina Edwards of NNSA and Trent Edwards and Kelly Crandall of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions represented the team at the anniversary event. Edwards staffed an exhibit about radiation instruments, which gave visitors the opportunity for a hands-on comparison between the technology of yesterday and today. Crandall worked at a display about large scale responses where he briefed attendees about the RAP response and technical guidance provided to the Japanese and U.S. governments following the earthquake and tsunami, which resulted in radioactive releases from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactors.

"For more than six decades, RAP's success is a testament to the hard work, persistence and technical skills of thousands of dedicated Americans," said Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty, current Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator, and a former RAP team member herself. "Thanks to these men and women, the mission of RAP—radiation monitoring, decontamination assistance and medical advice and analysis—is carried forward to this day."



Capping off an action-packed Nuclear Science Week, SRNL hosted a booth at the 2018 Atoms in the Alley event to showcase its impact on the Aiken Community. During the event, SRNL researchers "made snow" and demonstrated "wearable chemistry" for dozens of science students young and old.

"SRNL is a chemistry lab and we do a lot of materials research, so we wanted to share science that was both interesting to kids and highlights our competencies," said Marissa Reigel, Materials Applications & Process Technology Manager. "That's why we chose to explain the chemistry behind glow sticks and demonstrate how the same absorptive polymer found in baby diapers can be engineered to make fake snow."

In addition to learning more about chemistry, visitors to the booth learned more about SRNL's safety culture. Children were encouraged to "dress like scientists" with lab coats and eye protection before conducting their experiments.

"This was a great opportunity to show aspiring young scientists more about how we do our work safely," said Lisa Ward, Scientist. "Each time we began our demonstration we reinforced the importance of the personal protective equipment they were wearing and the role it plays in conducting safe hands on work."

Atoms in the Alley is a free, family-friendly event that promotes science and raises awareness of the Savannah River Site Museum. It is part of Nuclear Science Week, which is a week-long celebration to focus on local, regional, national and international interest on all aspects of nuclear science. Nuclear Science Week takes places internationally each year on the third week in October.



Students wore the proper personal equipment including a lab coat and safety eyewear for their experiments to make snow.

### Richard Burns named as SRNS 'Boss of the Year'



Richard Burns

Savannah River Site recently held its annual Boss of the Year awards ceremony in observance of National Boss' Day to acknowledge managers for their exceptional leadership styles. This year's SRNS Boss of the Year award was presented to H-Canyon Facility Manager Rick Burns.

"A manager is responsible for protecting and supporting their team to maintain a successful facility," stated Burns. "I am grateful to work with such a supportive group of people and honored to be nominated and selected to receive this accolade."

Representatives from the Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office, SRNS, Savannah River Remediation, LLC and Centerra Group, LLC Equal Employment Opportunity Offices were recognized at the event.

Nominated managers were judged on criteria including fair and impartial treatment of all personnel; community involvement; outstanding accomplishments; and ethics, professionalism, dependability and sensitivity to the concerns of subordinates.

"The considerable number of nominees for the Boss of the Year Awards reinforces what a strong management team we have here at SRNS," said Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dennis Carr. "The nominees should feel honored to receive special recognition from the people they work with; I am fortunate and proud to have such a strong team behind me."



INNOVATION • DEFENSE  
NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

# SRNS

**Savannah River Nuclear Solutions**

**We make the world**

**safer.**