

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area Students Explore SRS Nuclear Facilities during National Science Week

AIKEN, S.C., Nov. 14, 2013 – In support of National Nuclear Science Week, dozens of students and teachers recently spent time with Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) scientists, touring the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS).

Employees with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Education Outreach Programs selected the students and their science teachers from high schools located throughout the Central Savannah River Area that have previously participated in the DOE Savannah River Science Bowl academic competition. These students have a demonstrated interest and aptitude for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and could possibly be part of the SRS workforce of the future.

"Math and the sciences are areas throughout the U.S. where, compared to many other nations, we are struggling as a country," said Candice Dermody, SRNS Manager, Talent Management and Educational Outreach Programs. "Whenever possible, where it's a good fit, we try to align or partner with national programs where we can synergistically work together to advance the same cause on a local basis."

According to Dermody, inviting these students to visit and learn about SRS facilities, cutting-edge technology and innovative processes will help to keep them interested in seeking degrees related to science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).



Steve Wolfenden, a member of the SRNL Global Security Team, demonstrates to students from the greater Aiken-Augusta area how radiation is naturally emitted from many common sources.

“We see the value of investing in these young men and women,” said Dermody. “And in doing so, we hope each will set an example for their fellow students generating an ever increasing level of interest in STEM-related occupations. It’s good for area students, good for SRS and good for our nation.”

The day-long tour featured the Savannah River National Laboratory, Defense Waste Processing Facility and the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX) project, which is still under construction, and will eventually create nuclear fuel for commercial power reactors using DOE’s excess plutonium.

National Nuclear Science Week is a national, broadly observed week-long celebration to focus local, regional and national interest on all aspects of nuclear science. Each day provides for learning about the contributions, innovations and opportunities that can be found by exploring nuclear science.

During the week, educators, students, employers and the community participate in a national recognition of how nuclear science plays a vital role in the lives of Americans...and the world. Activities during the week are intended to build awareness of the contributions of the nuclear science industry and those who work in it every day.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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