

● DECEMBER 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today



## High-level visitors

Deputy Secretary of Energy  
and DOE senior advisor tour SRS



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## This month

Manufacturing excellence • Toys for Tots/Angel Tree • \$25K in mini grants for nearby schools



# Welcome to the December 2021 edition of **SRNS Today**

**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

### On the cover

Deputy Secretary David Turk (third from left) and DOE Office of Environmental Management Senior Advisor William "Ike" White (fourth from left) visited the H Canyon Control Room, where SRNS employees gave them updates on current missions.

The December holidays are a cause of celebration for many. Although the potential for distractions has been high, SRNS finished another calendar year with unparalleled performance and safety excellence that is worth celebrating.

In December, Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk and DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) Senior Advisor William "Ike" White visited the Site and toured several facilities, including the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility and H Canyon, to learn more about our current and future missions. Thank you to all who worked before, during and after the visit to make sure our guests had a productive and informative visit.

SRNS also celebrated state and federal regulators' approval of a cleanup plan of a radiologically contaminated, 25-mile long stream corridor. This important decision helps SRNS achieve its cleanup missions.

Additionally, SRNS was recognized for Manufacturing Excellence in South Carolina and named the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce's Corporation of the Year. We also completed our annual Toys for Tots campaign and celebrated the end of our very successful 2021 United Way campaign. Although this year was a joint Site campaign, SRNS exceeded its company goal of \$800,000 by raising \$827,691. Year after year, it blows me away how generous our employees are and how much they are invested in their communities, and this year was no exception.

I have said I am proud of this workforce a number of times, but it bears repeating. We would not be here if not for our talented people.

Thank you all and happy holidays.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina. 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 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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### COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS)  
Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)



Photos in this issue include prior COVID-19 guidelines, regarding no mask requirements for vaccinated employees.



An SRNS subcontractor technician takes radiological readings of soil near Lower Three Runs.

## Regulators approve cleanup plan for stream corridor

**S**RNS reached an important agreement with South Carolina and federal environmental regulators on the final cleanup of a 25-mile long stream corridor at SRS that is radiologically contaminated due to operations during the Cold War.

The corridor consists of Par Pond, nine miles of canals adjacent to the pond and a stream named Lower Three Runs. The stream begins near the center of the Site, just above Par Pond, and winds its way southward across SRS.

The Record of Decision (ROD) agreement specifies what protective and cleanup actions are required, along with assurances of long-term monitoring to ensure the corridor remains within environmentally safe standards. This ROD acknowledges the successful completion of a comprehensive SRNS cleanup strategy following the decommissioning and closure of both P and R Areas. Operations involving P and R Reactor facilities contributed to the contamination of the Lower Three Runs stream corridor.

"This is the first Record of Decision that we've ever agreed upon with the regulators and the public that outlines the final closure for a large parcel of stream systems," said Chris Bergen, SRNS Environmental Cleanup and Area Closure Projects Director. "We've accomplished much of the cleanup related to this part of the Site over the years, and now, we have determined the remaining actions necessary to achieve final cleanup."

SRNS Engineer and Project Technical Lead Jim Kubar explained that much of the remaining work involves ensuring additional fencing and

signage are in place to warn Site workers and the public that potential hazards may be present. "Though it is illegal for the public to cross the fencing onto SRS, our first priority is always their safety," said Kubar. "This will be especially true when we work to remove the few areas of elevated contamination in the canal system, beginning in 2023."

Kubar said that surveying 25 miles of waterways, especially Lower Three Runs, was often challenging and sometimes potentially hazardous within the forest. "We used aerial detection equipment along with taking on-site readings every 1,000 meters along Lower Three Runs, often involving difficult terrain. Tripping hazards, feral hogs, snakes, spiders and bees could appear at any time. Though the survey is complete and active controls are now in place, we continue to conduct inspections along the stream corridor," he said.

"Everything – from characterization of potential contamination through final negotiation with our regulators – was important to successfully achieve this Record of Decision as a team. It's a big deal. We want to be sure that the public is confident that we've fully taken care of the Cold War legacy issue," Bergren said.

"The cleanup of surface water and groundwater at SRS is one of our most important missions," said Thomas Johnson Jr., DOE-Savannah River Deputy Site Manager. "The list of significant environmental remediation achievements at SRS, over just the last 10 years alone, is long and impressive. It serves as a testament to the effectiveness of our relationship with regulators and our mutual commitment to continuous improvement and safety."

# Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Corporation of the Year



Stuart MacVean accepts the award from Jason Cuevas with Georgia Power, the sponsor of the Augusta Metro Chamber's Corporation of the Year Award.

In December, SRNS was honored as the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Corporation of the Year, recognizing the company's significant regional impact as the management and operations contractor at SRS.

"Savannah River Nuclear Solutions has not only distinguished themselves with outstanding commitment to business development but with their continued commitment in community development," said Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Sue Parr. "SRNS was also named [by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, SC Biz News Magazine and Best Companies Group] one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina in 2021 among large employers. Safe work practices, transparent leadership, consistent communication and employee empowerment are just a few reasons why SRNS stands out."

As one of the CSRA's largest employers, approximately 1,600 of SRNS' 5,300 employees live in Georgia. The Augusta Chamber representative noted that SRNS has a significant economic development impact across the region: since 2008, SRNS and its corporate parents have contributed more than \$12 million throughout the CSRA in philanthropic contributions to charitable causes, education outreach investments in K-12 schools and regional two- and four-year colleges and universities, and economic development and community partnerships.

"SRNS continues to partner with the Augusta Chamber on efforts such as Leadership Augusta and the Chamber's Women In Business Luncheon series, and we're especially proud of the \$1 billion in small and diverse business subcontracting opportunities we've helped to create at SRS over the past 4 years," said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. "This award recognizes the outstanding SRNS workforce and their work in meeting our operational commitments to the Department of Energy at SRS, and also how those employees find countless ways to give back in our communities."



Andy Owens, Executive Editor, Charleston Regional Business Journal (left), South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster and Tim Heichelbech, Vice President and Division Manager, Choate Construction Company (far right), present the SCMEP Transformation and Operational Excellence Finalist Award to SRNS.

## SRNS Corporate Outreach awardees included:

- Alex Agyemang, Small Business Liaison Officer
- Jeff Bryan, Senior Manager, Central Procurement Material and Construction
- Chris Caldwell, Manager, Community Outreach
- Fred Freeman, Director, Supply Chain Procurement
- Mary Rex, Senior Supply Chain Management Program Specialist

## SRNS Transformation and Operational Excellence awardees were:

- Blake Leaphart, Principal Lean Six Sigma Specialist, Continuous Improvement
- Deanna Smith, Information Technology Business Manager
- Lisa Steed, Productivity Specialist/Facilitator, Continuous Improvement
- Michael Goffinet, Program Manager, Environmental Management Operations
- Perjetta "PK" Hightower, Interface Management Director and Continuous Improvement Manager

"Savannah River Nuclear Solutions has not only distinguished themselves with outstanding commitment to business development but with their continued commitment in community development."

**Sue Parr,**  
Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce  
President and CEO

# Recognition for South Carolina manufacturing excellence

During the recent South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP) Conference in Greenville, South Carolina, SRNS employees were named as finalists for the Corporate Outreach Award and the Transformation and Operational Excellence Award.

The Corporate Outreach Award honors a manufacturer for making a tangible and measurable impact on communities in South Carolina.

"SRNS employees have a time-honored tradition of supporting those in need, often donating to our local food bank, the Heart Fund, site-wide blood drives, the United Way and Toys for Tots campaigns," said Stuart MacVean. "In addition, multiple teams of employees go out into the community each year with tools, paint, building supplies, rakes, mops and big hearts to help the elderly, the impoverished and local non-profit organizations during our Days of Caring."

MacVean also noted that SRNS is pleased to have a significant impact on thousands of area students and educators in K-12 schools and regional two- and four-year colleges and universities through an extensive array of education outreach programs, apprenticeships and memorandums of understanding.

The Transformation and Operational Excellence Award is presented to a company that demonstrates to the business community impressive results achieved through the adoption of continuous improvement and/or operational excellence tools and techniques.

"It was exciting to receive this honor, plus it affirms that our continuous improvement program is on track and steadily progressing."

**Lisa Steed,**  
SRNS Continuous Improvement

"In October, we were notified that we were one of three finalists for the Transformation and Operational Excellence Award. It was exciting to receive this honor, plus it affirms that our continuous improvement program is on track and steadily progressing," said Lisa Steed, SRNS Productivity Specialist/Facilitator, Continuous Improvement.

Steed credits earning the recognition to SRNS management's strategic vision and strong employee support. "Continuous improvement is an integral part of our company culture. Every person at SRNS seems to be engaged in continuous improvement in some form or fashion. For me, the achievement validates that my chosen field of work has real value for my employer, which is not something I had experienced with other companies prior to joining SRNS in 2017. I find it to be quite rewarding," added Steed.



Representatives from the Augusta Chamber of Commerce name SRNS the 2021 Corporation of the Year.



SRNS employees recently surpassed their \$800,000 United Way campaign goal by raising \$827,691, contributing to the \$1.4 million sitewide goal.

## SRS contractors team up for United Way

SRNS, Centerra, Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA) and Savannah River Remediation (SRR) joined forces and raised a total of \$1,465,649, surpassing their original \$1.4 million goal for the 2021 United Way campaign.

All companies reached their goal during this joint campaign. SRNS raised \$827,691, surpassing their \$800,000 goal; Centerra raised \$160,000, meeting their \$160,000 goal; BSRA raised \$203,379, surpassing their \$200,000 goal; and SRR raised \$274,579, surpassing their \$260,000 goal.

This year's theme was "Strengthening Families. Strengthening Communities," and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sitewide campaign was extremely important.

SRNS 2021 United Way Chair Rachael Simon was inspired by the immense support from employees throughout the campaign. "With the many challenges we faced the past two years, it means a lot that our SRNS employees and employees across SRS have shown up in support of the United Way campaign," said Simon.

"We would not have been able to have such a great campaign without the help from our SRS family," she continued. "I especially want to express my appreciation to all the campaign chairs for their leadership within their organizations throughout this year's campaign. We would not have been able to meet our goal without each and every one of you."



SRS employees and United Way representatives gather at the 2021 SRS United Way Campaign thermometer to celebrate another successful campaign.

United Way of Aiken County President Sharon Rodgers said the organization is very grateful for the faithful support and overwhelming generosity of SRS employees. "The SRS United Way Campaign means the world to United Way of Aiken County, our 30 partner agencies and 45 critical need programs," said Rodgers. "The SRS Campaign is our largest contributor and helps provide funding so that we can collectively form a safety net to help our most vulnerable citizens with the challenges they face every day, such as homelessness, food insecurity, childcare, medical care, prescription drugs, transportation, home repairs, utility assistance, domestic violence, child abuse and programs for the intellectually and physically challenged.

"Over 125,000 people in Aiken County receive almost 500,000 services each year. The impact is positively immense, and our gratitude is endless. Thank you, SRS, for giving so generously your time, talents, testimony and treasure to give others an opportunity for a better life," Rogers continued.

The 2021 campaign benefits the following agencies surrounding SRS: United Way of Aiken County; United Way of the CSRA; United Way of Edgefield County; United Way of McDuffie County; United Way of the Midlands; United Way of Screven County; United Way of South Carolina, including Bamberg, Colleton and Hampton counties; United Way of Anderson County; and United Way of Barnwell County, including Allendale County.



## 2021 SRNS Award Winners

**Chairman of the Year:**  
*Jimmy "Trey" Anthony*

**Manager of the Year:**  
*Mark Davis*

**Volunteer of the Year:**  
*Josh Givens*

**Leads of the Year:**  
*Stephanie Ludwick  
Kaitlin Colli  
William "Dalton" Ethridgens*

**Bill Arra Award:**  
*Cynthia Boler-Melton*

# VIPs get mission updates

**Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk and DOE Office of Environmental Management Senior Advisor William “Ike” White** visited SRS in December. While visiting, they toured H Canyon to hear about current and potential future missions. Turk also visited the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) to hear about progress being made on that important NNSA mission.



Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk (5th from left) tours SRPPF, accompanied by personnel from SRNS, NNSA SRS Acquisition and Project Management Office, NNSA Savannah River Field Office, NNSA Plutonium Modernization Office and DOE Savannah River.



H Canyon Program Manager Eloy Saldivar discusses the flexibility of H Canyon with Turk and White.

# Procurement helps local businesses grow

Leaders from SRNS Supply Chain Procurement recently provided information about doing business at SRS, during the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce’s “Third Thursday Business Builder” meeting.

“This event is held regularly by the Chamber to help people understand how they might be able to do business with some of its members more effectively,” said Fred Freeman, Director, Supply Chain Procurement. “We gladly accepted the invitation. SRNS is continually looking for opportunities to help local businesses — especially small businesses — understand they can optimize their ability to work with SRS.”

Over the past four years, SRNS has awarded more than \$1 billion in

subcontracts to small and diverse businesses. SRNS committed nearly 80% of all procurement dollars to these local and national companies.

Freeman appeared with other SRNS Supply Chain Procurement managers, and they provided an in-depth look at SRS missions and operations, followed by a “how to” presentation. Topics covered included: Partnering for Success, Managing Your Reputation, Understanding SRS Requirements and the Procurement Process.

“We told them how to find business opportunities here at SRS, and where we typically look for products and services,” said Alex Agyemang, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer. “But better yet, we also described potential pitfalls that companies should avoid, such as issues related to conflict of interest.”

Presenters also provided tips and techniques for suppliers to increase their knowledge of the procurement process. “We do our best to coach them,” said Agyemang. “These tips are essential because you can do everything right and still not win the business. These sessions allow us to provide information and receive candid feedback.”

Sue Parr, President and CEO, Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce, noted that many of those in attendance found exceptional value during the final segment of the presentation when the floor was opened for general discussion. “Our members were able to talk directly with the SRNS procurement team, the people who will be reviewing, analyzing and selecting candidates for opportunities throughout the Savannah River Site. We were quite pleased with the event and will be inviting the SRNS Procurement team to visit us next year, as well.”



Alex Agyemang, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer, speaks at Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce’s “Third Thursday Business Builder” meeting.

## \$25K in mini grants for nearby schools

Thirty-four Allendale, Bamberg and Orangeburg high school teachers recently received a combined \$25,000 in Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) mini grants. These funds will benefit more than 4,000 students attending these schools near SRS.

Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, noted that for decades, SRNS has been providing mini grants to elementary and middle school teachers throughout the region. “In fact, more than \$700,000 has been contributed to date through this highly valued program,” he said.

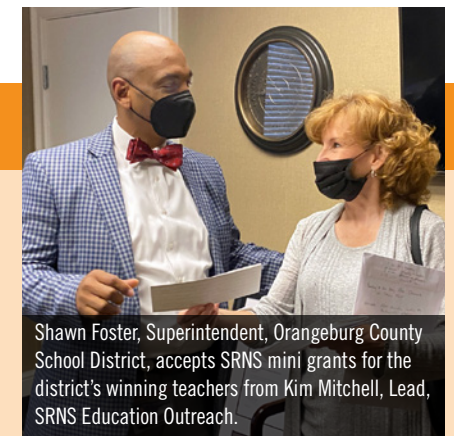
“As a company, we value a diverse workforce and representation from all the counties surrounding SRS. With approval of recent missions, such as the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, we believe that SRNS can help create a viable workforce by promoting student achievement in areas close to the Site,” added Alford.

This new outreach initiative assisting local high school teachers by SRNS further develops their employment pipeline by providing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classroom materials and equipment to area educators.

Using the grants, teachers can purchase equipment, computer programs, hands-on kits and other products to enhance their students’ performance and STEM learning experience.

“On behalf of the Building Construction class at the Orangeburg Career and Technology Center, I — along with my students — want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for being awarded a mini grant from SRNS,” said Tracey Scoville, Certified National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Instructor. “This grant will enable me to purchase personal protective equipment and tools that will be used to create an individual toolbox for each student, which will eliminate the risk of contamination, ensuring the safety of all students and instructors. These tools will be used to construct various projects that will develop their skills as they pursue their NCCER Certification.”

Shawn Foster, Ph.D., Ed.D., Superintendent, Orangeburg County School District expressed his appreciation to SRNS for expanding the mini grants program to include high schools in Orangeburg County, as they received a large share of the grants. “Orangeburg’s teachers responded to this opportunity with tremendous enthusiasm, and I couldn’t be more excited to watch as the \$19,250 in funding SRNS awarded our teachers impacts special projects in classrooms, across grade levels and throughout our schools.”



Shawn Foster, Superintendent, Orangeburg County School District, accepts SRNS mini grants for the district’s winning teachers from Kim Mitchell, Lead, SRNS Education Outreach.



# Helping Santa deliver

**For 30 years**, SRS has participated in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Angel Tree programs. Since 1991, SRS has collected and donated more than 588,000 toys to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

The two programs have combined into one campaign, which has become an important tradition that benefits those less fortunate children in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).

In addition to the toys collected during this year's campaign, over \$25,000 was raised, surpassing the original \$20,000 goal.

"It's a blessing to have each organization here because it adds to what we are trying to do to serve those families in need in our community. Since the Toys for Tots mission is to collect new unwrapped toys for less fortunate children on Christmas, the SRS campaign helps us complete the mission," said Augusta Toys for Tots Coordinator Anne Woods.

"The past two years have been a huge adjustment for people everywhere," said 2021 SRS Toys for Tots and Angel Tree Program Campaign Chair Theresa Houston. "We are so fortunate to have such selfless and giving employees at SRS. The SRS Toys for Tots and Angel Tree program campaign is dedicated to helping those less fortunate children in our communities by collecting toys and finding Santas for Angels in the CSRA."



Colonel Claude H. Davis III, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (Ret.), explains the history and tradition behind the annual Toys for Tots program.



Dennis Carr, LaKendra Coach, Megan Corbin, LaToya Ardis, Willis Holley, Theresa Houston, Stephanie Craig of SRNS, and Salvation Army Capt. April Tiller.



The Marine Toys for Tots Program distributes an average of 18 million toys to seven million less fortunate children each Christmas.

In addition to Toys for Tots, SRS started participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program in 2000. Over the past 20 years, SRS employees have been adopting Angels and have given gifts to over 16,000 children in the CSRA. During this year's campaign, 492 Angels were adopted.

"Thank you to all the SRS employees who participated in this year's campaign. Your acts of service and simple kindness of buying a toy or being Santa to an Angel will impact these children in ways that you cannot imagine; and who knows, these children may pay your kindness forward by doing the same years from now for other children," Houston continued. "Because of all of you, we are able to continue giving back to our local communities year after year."

The Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Angel Tree programs in Augusta serve the following counties: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes and Wrens.

The Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Angel Tree programs in Aiken serve the following communities: Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, North Augusta, Beech Island, Belvedere, Williston, Salley and Couchton.



**Theresa Houston**

**AT SRNS:** Records/Information Management Specialist

**IN THE COMMUNITY:** 2021 SRS Toys for Tots/ Angel Tree Program Campaign Chair

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

As the chair of this year's SRS Toys for Tots and Angel Tree program campaign, Theresa Houston understands what these efforts can mean in a child's life.

"When I was a child, there was one Christmas where we didn't have many presents under the tree," recalls Houston, a Records/Information Management Specialist in the SRNS Document Control Group. "Thanks to Toys for Tots and Angel Tree, my brother and I had something on Christmas morning, and I've never forgotten that. You never know what impact you will have on a child with the simple kindness of buying a toy or being Santa to an Angel."

Houston is a U.S. Air Force veteran and says her military service career in logistics and records gave her skills needed to help organize this complicated campaign. She also supports local animal rescue agencies by fostering cats for adoption.

See "Helping Santa deliver" on page 10 for more details about the Toys for Tots and Angel Tree program campaign. "We are so grateful that SRNS and its employees like Theresa give so much of their time and support to families across our region," said Salvation Army of Aiken Captain April Tiller.

## South Carolina Emergency Management Division certifies SRNS instructors

The SRNS Emergency Response Training and Evaluation Group (ERTEG) recently partnered with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) to create an agreement that allows SRNS employee training instructors to teach courses offered by the state agency within their area of expertise.

SCEMD, a division of the Adjutant General's Office, is the coordinating agency responsible for the statewide emergency management program. Its mission is to develop, coordinate, and lead the effective preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies and disasters to save lives, reduce human suffering, and minimize property loss.

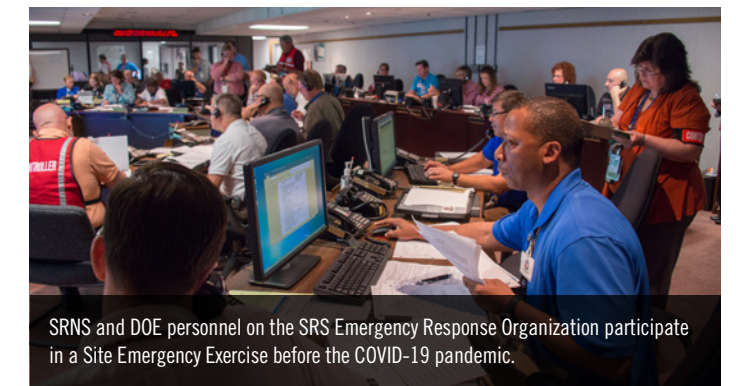
With four nuclear power facilities in South Carolina, and two closely located in neighboring states, the partnership with SCEMD allows SRS personnel, who are uniquely positioned to share valuable nuclear experience and emergency response tactics, to participate in comprehensive state and federal training programs.

"This partnership provides a significant benefit to SRS and SCEMD by allowing SRS to host Emergency Management classes on-site and share experiences and lessons learned with other emergency responders," said SRNS ERTEG Acting Manager Michael Lewis. This also allows SRS to build relationships with surrounding counties by delivering trainings and specific nuclear experience to their personnel. Lewis stated, "SCEMD has

identified the need for additional qualified instructors in the Aiken area and is excited to partner with SRS."

Site training personnel may also be allowed to teach FEMA Incident Command System classes in the future, which is a basic requirement for all emergency responders to help them better understand FEMA's response process.

"Emergency Management personnel will now have easier access to courses and can pursue other certifications including the South Carolina Certified Emergency Manager (SCCEM) Certificate and the International Association of Emergency Management Certified Emergency Manager Certificate, which will help the Site's Emergency Management staff achieve subject matter expert status," he said. A majority of ERTEG members and Emergency Management employees have either earned or are currently working toward obtaining their SCCEM.



SRNS and DOE personnel on the SRS Emergency Response Organization participate in a Site Emergency Exercise before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# SRNS



**Savannah River Nuclear Solutions**

We make the world **safer.**