

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobile Seminar for Local Teachers, Provides Inside Tour and Special Insight into SRS Projects and Programs during National Science Week

AIKEN, S.C. (Nov. 12, 2014) – Dozens of area educators recently participated in a “mobile seminar” while visiting major facilities at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and learned about a wide variety of nuclear-related occupations and missions at the Department of Energy site.

“The goal of this unusually extensive tour was to demonstrate how what’s learned in the classroom today will later apply to jobs at SRS, Plant Vogtle and other nuclear-based corporations found in the greater Aiken-Augusta area,” said Kim Mitchell, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Education Outreach. “We want to help teachers throughout the Central Savannah River Area enhance this area of awareness for students in our middle and high schools.”

Nuclear Workforce Initiative Program Manager Mindy Mets acknowledged that many people throughout the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) do not recognize the value of nuclear-related knowledge and skills to support occupational needs found within businesses and industry, such as advanced manufacturing, Homeland Security and the field of medicine.

“This tour, which is a part National Science



SRNS Bioassay Technical Director Ronie [spelled correctly] Spencer explains to the visiting teachers the purpose of the Environmental Bioassay Laboratory at the Savannah River Site. A large group of area educators recently visited SRS to learn about nuclear-related occupations and missions.

Week, helps our teachers develop the training and education programs that are needed right here in the community. They are developing educational units not only for future scientists, engineers and nuclear physicists, but also for welders, mechanics, production operators, radiation control personnel, and many more positions,” said Mets.

According to Mitchell, the site tour consisted of visits to the Savannah River National Laboratory, Bioassay Laboratory, Mixed Oxide Facility (MOX) and included an extensive walking tour of the Defense Waste Processing Facility led by Savannah River Remediation personnel. In addition, other site processes, projects and facilities were discussed and observed.

“I really appreciate the opportunity to take this tour, and I wish my students could see first-hand how science and mathematics are applied here at the Savannah River Site. I have so much information that I can share when I get back to my classroom such as the engineering involved with the robotic cranes designed for contaminated areas, the calculations involved with tanks to store waste and the chemistry involved with disposing the waste,” said Koshon Mitchell, Geometry and Advanced Placement Calculus Teacher, T.W. Josey Comprehensive High School.

This is the second year that this special event has been offered in the CSRA for students and educators.

National Science Week is celebrated annually across the United States. It is a weeklong educational opportunity to focus local, regional and national interest on all aspects of nuclear science.

The SRS Community Reuse Organization and its affiliated Nuclear Workforce Initiative are collaborating with local organizations to conduct activities designed to encourage and bring awareness of nuclear technology and the many careers available within nuclear technology and other high-tech industries.

National Science Week is organized and managed by the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History, a Smithsonian Institute affiliate, based in Albuquerque, N.M.

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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