

● FEBRUARY 2024

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today



‘Discover Engineering’ with SRNS

Site Engineers teach students about science and careers



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Multi-level well monitoring • Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration • Nuclear Deterrence Summit



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

SRNS Engineer and volunteer Terry Wilder (right) assists Murphey Middle School students Tyrrell Yeldell (left) and Kelvon William (middle) with the “Leaning Tower of Pasta” activity, which focused on design engineering techniques.

Welcome

to the February 2024 edition of

SRNS Today

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it certainly doesn't seem that way with all the great work we have accomplished at SRNS.

Earlier this month, over 1,400 area middle school students took part in our “Discover Engineering” celebration. Engineers from around the Site led students through over 70 hands-on activities to help promote engineering fields. I'm grateful to the SRNS Engineers who took time to speak to these students, and I look forward to welcoming many of these bright young minds into our workforce in the not-so-distant future!

Our H Canyon chemical separations facility recently underwent a reconfiguration of the facility's dissolvers, allowing it to maximize planned operations in fiscal year 2024. This aligns with our Accelerated Basin-Deinventory mission and shows the flexibility of the over 75-year-old facility.

Additionally, at the beginning of the month, I had the pleasure of serving as a panelist at the 16th Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit, where SRS was a key topic of discussion. The work we are doing here is truly felt all throughout the world as we continue to make the world a safer place.

Thank you to our employees for their continued hard work. Please enjoy the SRNS Today February edition.



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located 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) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

H Canyon shows off flexibility for continued processing

SRNS employees recently highlighted the flexibility of the over 75-year-old H Canyon chemical separations facility when they reconfigured dissolvers in order to maximize planned operations in fiscal year (FY) 2024.

H Canyon's current mission is to dissolve spent nuclear fuel, currently stored in the Site's L Basin underwater storage facility. Dissolution involves lowering the fuel into one of two chemical dissolvers that dissolve aluminum clad fuel using a nitric acid solution, or an electrolytic dissolver, which adds electricity to the dissolution process for stainless steel-clad fuel.

H Canyon recently installed the electrolytic dissolver as part of a new mission to dissolve Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) stainless-steel clad fuel from the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. Japan and the United States removed the plutonium and highly enriched uranium from the FCA reactor in 2016, fulfilling a commitment made at the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit. The plutonium fuel is currently stored on-site and will be transferred to the canyon for processing upon the completion of all preparation tasks. After the FCA campaign, the electrolytic dissolver could be used for dissolution for other unique fuels in L Basin supporting DOE's plan to de-inventory the facility. H Canyon last ran an electrolytic dissolver from 1969 to 1980 as part of previous dissolution missions.

The two chemical dissolvers have most recently been used to dissolve two different kinds of aluminum clad fuel – Material Test Reactor (MTR) fuel and High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) fuel. Although these two types of fuel are both aluminum-clad, they are shaped differently due to their unique bundle configurations.

"The chemical dissolvers have to be configured with the right sized insert to fit the fuel," said H Canyon Facility Manager Matt Arnold of SRNS. "The inserts are specifically designed for each type of fuel

and help lower the fuel into the dissolver slowly, allowing it to be dissolved from the bottom, up."

"Mission needs dictated that we dissolve MTR fuel at the same time as we are dissolving FCA fuel," Manager of Environmental Management Mission Planning James Therrell said. "To do so, we needed to move the MTR dissolver insert to the second chemical dissolver due to the configuration of the facility and its requirements for running multiple dissolvers at a time. This flexibility will ultimately allow us to safely meet our long-term processing needs for SNF (Spent Nuclear Fuel) while supporting the FCA mission."

Arnold explained that changing the inserts on the dissolver is not an easy process. Since all work in the canyon must be done using remote cranes to protect workers from radiation, months of planning, preparation and coordination between departments are needed before the actual work could be performed.

"The reconfiguration was completed safely and successfully, thanks to the hard work from current employees, but also thanks to the engineers who designed this canyon back in the early 1950s," Therrell continued. "It continues to amaze me that their foresight allowed the canyon to be the flexible and adaptable facility it is to this day."

Both the chemical and electrolytic dissolving processes produce a liquid that is sent through the Site's liquid waste facilities, where it is made into glass through a process called vitrification. It is then safely stored on-site until a federal repository is identified.



SRS missions expand off-site

Dennis Carr (center) and Aiken Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David Jameson (second from left) commemorate the opening of the Centennial Building with a ribbon cutting on Feb. 20. The newly-renovated office space will accommodate up to 400 employees in support of expanding national security missions at SRS.

Also pictured (left to right) are Bill Blake, SRNS Business Services; Jeff Allison, NNSA-Savannah River Field Office Deputy Manager; Gary Bunker, Aiken County Council Chairman; and Bryan Cox, NNSA-Savannah River Field Office Public Affairs.

Consolidated groundwater withdrawal permit granted

SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) recently received a consolidated groundwater withdrawal permit from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for Site Infrastructure's H Area process wells.

Previously, the H Area process wells were split between two permits due to the county line running through H Area. Each permit contained different withdrawal limits, making it difficult to swap between wells to support production needs. The yearly limit for the Aiken well was set by SCDHEC based on historical use.

"Since SCDHEC tracks water use on a county basis, they typically do not permit wells across county lines; however, they were willing to consider the Site's need for flexibility while maintaining compliance," said Site Infrastructure System Engineer Tyler Wiseman.

Wiseman explained that when dealing with aging infrastructure and emerging issues, Site Infrastructure well usage needs to be innovative and adaptive. "The receptiveness demonstrated by SCDHEC to consider the three wells as one system offers Site Infrastructure an integrated approach to provide process well water to SRNS and Savannah River Mission Completion facilities in H Area," he said.

Discussion of obtaining a consolidated permit arose when support was requested for a leak repair being done in H Tank Farm. Site Services had to "split" the well water distribution system between two wells (one in Aiken County and one in Barnwell County) to support the needs of H



One of three H Area wells utilized to support production needs.

Area. Due to a lower water withdrawal limit placed on the Aiken County well, Site Infrastructure was close to reaching their yearly limit early in the year. The consolidation provided the additional capacity needed.

"This new consolidated permit allows for more efficient and continuous support of the critical missions in H Tank Farm and H Canyon," continued Wiseman. "Having the H Area wells on the same permit allows necessary maintenance to occur without environmental concerns of over-withdrawal. Without these wells and the water they supply, both facilities would not be able to operate and meet their customer needs."

The Site encompasses parts of Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale counties and is bordered on the west by the Savannah River and Georgia. The Site's H Area is home to three wells, one located in Aiken County and two in Barnwell County, which provide process water to H Area facilities.

Collaboration for new SRS sample lab leads to savings

SRNS recently worked closely with Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) to create a sample analysis laboratory in H Area that will decrease processing downtime and save taxpayer dollars.

The safety requirements for operating a piece of equipment known as the General Purpose Evaporator (GPE) state that all solution fed to it be basic rather than acidic. Located in the Site's H Area Outside Facilities, the GPE concentrates low-level radioactive solutions from various sources, including sump material, leaks, lab waste and rainwater.

"The GPE helps concentrate the waste to ensure H Canyon produces as little as possible," said H Area Laboratory Project Lead Engineer Regina Marquez, of SRNS. "To ensure the facility complies with safety requirements, we sample the solution in the GPE feed tanks prior to processing. If the sample results come back acidic, we add a strong base to bring the pH to basic levels."

Until the addition of the H Area laboratory, samples from the GPE feed tanks were sent miles across SRS to SRNL for analysis.

"The process of pulling samples, packaging them, sending them across SRS and then giving SRNL time to sample could take as little as one to two days, and at times, take as long as six days, depending on what day of the week the sample was pulled and the laboratory's workload," Marquez explained. "We determined that this downtime could be

eliminated by creating an H Area laboratory to do the sample analysis."

Establishing a new laboratory involved procurement of a new piece of analytical equipment and ensuring all safety and laboratory standards were met.

"SRNL was very supportive of our efforts by ensuring we met all technical requirements. Even the simplest lab analysis is complicated when it involves maintaining the high standards of safety associated with our type of work," Marquez said.

SRNL also helped write the procedure needed to run the analytical equipment and to train H Canyon operators on its use.

"This was a major factor in getting the lab running, as H Canyon Operators had never performed this type of work before," continued Marquez. "This project required all hands on deck and SRNL stepped up."

Since lab implementation, the sample analysis downtime has reduced from two to -six days to four hours at most. "This will lead to significantly reduced costs as well," she said.

"DOE appreciates the effort and collaboration taken to implement this time and cost saving laboratory," said DOE-Savannah River Senior Program Manager Jeff Bentley. "SRS prides itself on continuously improving and looking for better ways to safely perform some of the Department's most important nuclear-related missions."



SRNS subcontractors lower the Westbay system into the multi-level monitoring well.

SRNS utilizes multi-level well monitoring system

Reactor fuel and target assembly manufacturing at SRS has been shut down for over 35 years; however, traces of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) remain underground in aquifers in an area of the Site once used for this purpose. The source of these VOCs, which pose no off-site threat, is associated with prior use of chlorinated solvents to degrease metal during target assembly and reactor fuel fabrication processes.

For over 40 years, SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) have actively monitored the groundwater plumes in this area. Westbay systems have been used, since the 1990s, to monitor contaminated groundwater in the deeper aquifers beneath SRS.

The Westbay system is a multi-level groundwater monitoring technology that allows samples to be collected from different sampling intervals within a single well, as opposed to conventional groundwater monitoring wells, which only allow for the collection of a single sample from one interval. One Westbay system is used in place of multiple conventional wells, saving money by reducing the amount of drilling and material needed to install multiple conventional groundwater monitoring wells.

Bryce Garner, Senior Scientist, EC&ACP Engineering Remediation Support, stated, “Westbay technology has proven to be very efficient in collecting data. One advantage of this system is that no excess groundwater needs to be removed from the wells prior to sample collection, preventing the need for any potential wastewater treatment.”

By using the Westbay system for this project rather than conventional single-screen monitoring wells, EC&ACP was able to reduce drilling and installation costs, leading to a cost avoidance of approximately \$3 million.

“The long-term plan for groundwater contamination in this area is continued monitoring to understand plume concentrations and movement over time to determine the need for clean up,” continued Garner. “Going forward, the team plans to continue utilizing the Westbay system, installing more deep groundwater monitoring wells.”

Employees complete DOE accident investigation training

Representatives from DOE Headquarters (DOE HQ) recently visited SRS to conduct a five-day training session on Federal Accident Investigation Boards (FAIBs) with the goal of training a group of Site employees to perform accident investigations for DOE.

This is the first year this intensive accident investigation simulation course has been offered to SRS contractors. Illustrating DOE’s investigation process, the course covers roles and responsibilities, planning, teamwork, collecting and controlling evidence, core analytical techniques, report writing and quality reviews. Successful completion of this course meets the training requirements outlined in DOE O 225.1B, “Accident investigations,” for both FAIB Chairpersons and Accident Investigators.

SRNS Deputy Director of Mission and Contractor Assurance Tamara Baldwin stated, “It is important to have our employees trained as accident investigators so that we can understand and identify the causes (both individual and organizational) that contribute to accidents on-site so that those deficiencies can be addressed and corrected. These corrections are, in turn, intended to prevent recurrence and promote improved environmental protection, safety and health of DOE employees, contractors and the public.”

Employees from SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance with prior background in Causal Analysis and/or Issue Investigations were invited to take the course. Twenty-three employees completed the course. They are eligible to participate in investigations for significant issues and events that may occur throughout the Site, as well as evaluate operations to prevent accidents and promote continuous improvement.

“What a great opportunity it was for our team to learn alongside some of the incredible folks doing great work at SRS,” said DOE Accident Prevention and Investigation Program Manager Jason Brustad. “Though we are instructors, we really take on the role of facilitating this course, especially when training people with background in Causal Analysis and Issue Investigations. We seek to share and provide context for the tools presented during the class so they can be used/applied to lower tiered events, not just the ‘big ones.’ Our hope is that this course provides personnel with a better level of understanding and can aid in addressing the systemic weakness associated with all events.”

Three Murphey Middle School (MMS) students build a structure during National Engineers Week.



Over 1,400 students ‘Discover Engineering’ with SRNS volunteers

During the week of Feb. 2-9, SRNS engineers helped area middle school students “Discover Engineering.” As part of the celebration, 40 engineers led 1,484 students through 72 hands-on activities.

Formerly known as “Engineering Teach-Ins,” “Discover Engineering” highlights how engineering impacts the world from the perspective of engineers. Since the outreach program’s start in 2008, SRS volunteers have impacted more than 30,000 students.

“This is a major opportunity to expose students to the world of engineering,” said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. “Our partnership with local schools continues to spark interest in our most-needed scientific and technical careers. It supports a growing and viable workforce.”

SRNS Engineer Terry Wilder volunteered at Murphey Middle School (MMS) and led an activity called “Leaning Tower of Pasta,” teaching students the importance of structural design engineering.

“I truly enjoy connecting with the next generation of future leaders,” said Wilder. “Engineering is a promising career option in a world where students tend to idolize professional athletes, celebrities and social media influencers. These activities show students key elements that we look for in our future engineers and that this career could be the perfect fit for them.”

MMS eighth grader Tyrrell Yeldell said, “Although my group struggled to build a spaghetti structure that could withstand the pressure of the textbooks, I realized how important engineers are to the world and the safety of buildings all around us. I love Minecraft and working with computers. Terry showed me how I can transform these talents into a computer engineering career.”





SRNS Engineer and volunteer Terry Wilder distributes supplies to MMS students for the "Leaning Tower of Pasta" structural engineering activity.



SRNS Education Outreach Specialist Taylor Rice assists MMS students in building a structure made from spaghetti and marshmallows.

In conjunction with National Engineers Week, the demonstrations are part of DiscoverE, which celebrates the contributions of engineers world-wide. SRNS volunteers focused on engineering degrees, average salaries, recommended courses, extra-curricular activities, and other ways for students to plan for early success.

Tanya Redic, a science instructor at MMS, was amazed at the opportunities SRNS has provided local schools since becoming a science teacher nearly 20 years ago. "This program is the engine that will drive my students in the right direction to become future scientists, engineers and mathematicians," said Redic. "SRS is making a difference and helping students pursue bigger dreams."

SRNS Engineers share expertise with students

Fifteen Aiken County Public School District (ACPSD) high school students recently completed job shadow experiences with SRNS leadership, Engineers and Education Outreach personnel to get an inside look at engineering, and learn about the facilities and career opportunities at SRS.

"My hope is for students to walk away from today feeling confident in pursuing a career in engineering," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Program Lead. "National Job Shadow Day and National Engineers Week created a perfect opportunity for our engineers to expose students to the different disciplines of engineering in a real-world setting. This experience will bring the next generation of future leaders right back through our gates."

Students toured the Waste Solidification Building (WSB), which was designed and built as a nuclear facility and repurposed for tours and training. During the tour, SRNS leaders stressed the importance of workplace, public and environmental safety in their overview of SRS. SRNS Engineering Managers Carla Wheeler and Will Cosey highlighted the SRS Apprenticeship

Continued on next page >>



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www.srs.gov/general/outreach/edoutrch/meet_the_team.htm



Aiken County Public School District students test out a mock glovebox during a tour of the Waste Solidification Building at SRS.

SRNS Engineers *continued*

School, SRNS Internship Program and additional workforce opportunities for graduating seniors interested in engineering.

“We are constantly addressing staffing concerns in engineering and gearing up to build a sustainable and qualified workforce to support our national security missions,” said Rich Zaharek, SRNS Chief Engineer and Nuclear Safety Officer. “Our organization supports all aspects of SRS missions, and it is incredibly important for students to see their potential in different engineering disciplines.”

The ACPSD selected students from Midland Valley High School, South Aiken High School, Aiken High School, Silver Bluff High School and Aiken Scholars Academy to participate based on their interest in a four-year degree program involving STEM.

SRNS Director of Engineering Technical Services Eric Johnson served as a mentor and educator, leading students through the WSB facilities, while discussing career pathways at the Site.

“Hiring, developing, and maintaining engineers is critical to the future of SRS,” said Johnson. “We have a great deal of talent in the local community, and recruiting that talent starts with helping students understand their interests and the endless STEM opportunities that exist across the Site.”



Tall Pines STEM Academy students ask five panelists about their experiences working at SRS.

Local students learn about Cold War history, SRS careers

On Feb. 9, a panel of volunteers from SRS aimed to inspire and motivate students from Tall Pines STEM Academy (TPSA) to pursue careers in STEM. Students toured the SRS Museum and Café Scientifique to learn about Cold War history and discuss science with full-service employees.

“The goal for this event was to connect students with five panelists who represent multiple specialties at SRS and spark student interest in STEM careers,” said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. “In order to learn about a ‘day in the life’ at SRS, student attendees prepared questions for our panelists.”

Established in 2015 and owned by the SRS Heritage Foundation, the SRS Museum serves as a primary vehicle for sharing the Site’s unique history. It also highlights the important role employees play in the nation’s defense, nuclear deterrence and discovery.

“Seeing the model of a nuclear reactor in the SRS Museum was my favorite part,” said Sophia Premo, TPSA eighth grader. “After speaking to real engineers, I could see myself becoming a Geological or Aerospace Engineer.”

Featured panelists included Maggie Chapman, SRNS Business Services; Terry Wilder, SRNS Staffing and Development Engineer; Rakeem Jones, SRNS Information Technology Services Engineer; Colleen Davis, SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects; and David Tamburello, SRNS Mechanical Engineer.

“I participate in these volunteer opportunities because I started at the Site as a student and see the benefit in influencing and motivating children at an early age,” said Chapman, who began work at SRS as a teenager. “The job variety and security is the best part about working here, and I think any child interested in STEM should take a look at what we have to offer.”

SRNS Education Outreach continues to create opportunities for students to match their interests with mission-critical occupations. Since 2008, the program has reached more than 500,000 students, educators, community members and volunteers. Many programs rely on volunteers to mentor, teach and provide valuable insight to future job candidates.

“Even if I touch just one life today, it was worth it,” said Jones. “I want these students to understand that they can make this a reality in the near future. I am 22 years old, the ‘baby’ of most work groups, but this has been such a rewarding experience. I’d recommend that other employees get involved and inspire the next generation of future leaders.”



SRNS personnel led the WSB tour that focused on the safety design features of the facility and roles of engineering within a built environment.

SRPPF forms Culture Enhancement Team

Employee volunteers are striving to strengthen and improve the workforce culture within the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) and Pit Production Program organizations at the Site.

Slated to operate the SRPPF for a minimum of 50 years once construction activities are completed, the Pit Production Program has formed a dedicated Culture Enhancement Team to help shape the execution, approach and direction of culture improvement initiatives, while championing a healthy SRPPF organizational culture.

“Post CD-1 approval, SRPPF leadership began to focus on establishing a healthy culture for the future operations organization,” said Donald (Don) Moody, SRPPF Culture Enhancement Lead.

During that time, several initiatives began to take shape, including a System for the Multiple Level Observation of Groups (SYMLOG) survey conducted in 2021, followed by Edventures employee training for those supporting the SRPPF and Pit Production mission. The SYMLOG survey administrators sought to better understand effective leadership, group dynamics, and team performance by assessing factors known to directly influence effectiveness. Additionally, this survey served as a method for collecting feedback for continuous improvement and provided performance improvement methods.

The SYMLOG survey results led to the formation of three key areas of focus: compelling workplace, leadership/employee engagement and fostering a teaming/collaborative work environment. Similar items were later identified during a visit from Marvin Adams, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs (NA-10).

Over time, members of the SRPPF leadership team helped identify a cross section of employee volunteers to serve as members of the Steering Committee, dubbed the Culture Enhancement Team.

Led by Moody and Executive Sponsor Erika Baeza-Wisdom, Deputy Vice President, NNSA Plutonium Programs and Operations, team efforts have increased in the last year.

Bi-weekly meetings are designed to monitor progress and guide implementation of employee-driven engagement strategies. The team has also formed sub-groups to tackle each of the three key focus areas and offer effective solutions to potential issues and suggestions to management.

“We believe that investing in people will yield the greatest results,” said Moody. “We have a team that wants to make a positive difference.”

In addition to recently launching a quarterly employee-focused newsletter, which highlights the achievements and activities of SRPPF employees both at work and in their personal lives, the team set a goal to sponsor one employee activity per quarter. An inaugural Fall Festival Chili Cook-off, sponsored by SRPPF and Pit Production management, drew large crowds during employee lunch breaks and was met with positive reception and enthusiasm. Other recent team activities include hosting an SRPPF table at the CSRA College Night event and facilitating a “Best Dressed” contest during the annual employee Holiday Luncheon.

“In any organization, establishing the proper environment requires a continuous focus on defining expectations, ensuring effective communication, employee engagement, training, performance feedback and teambuilding,” said Baeza-Wisdom. “The Culture Enhancement Team was designed to expand upon the existing SRS commitment to excellence in safety and quality. We recognize that a healthy, disciplined culture is necessary for the success of any organization, but these traits are critical for the enduring SRPPF pit mission.”



Members of the SRPPF Culture Enhancement Team, along with senior management, provided and served chili to employees during the inaugural Fall Festival Chili Cook-Off on Oct. 25, 2023.

SRS featured at Nuclear Deterrence Summit

Progress at SRS was a key topic at the 16th Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit, held Jan. 31-Feb. 2 in Washington, DC. The event hosted industry experts and leaders from the field of nuclear deterrence who gathered to discuss globally-significant topics such as nuclear stockpile maintenance and security, nonproliferation and the future of the Nuclear Security Enterprise.

The 2024 Summit included speakers from the NNSA, DOE, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, National Laboratories, the U.S. Department of Defense and industry contractors.

Dennis Carr, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), the managing and operating contractor at SRS, participated in two panels on Feb. 1, the first of which featured pit production updates from SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the two sites responsible to NNSA for supplying plutonium pits to meet stockpile requirements.

Carr's second panel featured contractor heads at some of the key NNSA sites responsible for stockpile stewardship and national security, including Kansas City National Security Campus, the Nevada National Security Site, the Pantex Plant and the Y-12 National Security Complex. Carr and other panelists provided updates and discussed many of the challenges and priorities involved in nuclear operations.

"It was a pleasure having the opportunity to participate as a panelist at the 2024 Nuclear Deterrence Summit," said Carr. "The Summit brings together some of the most talented and knowledgeable industry experts from across the nuclear deterrence field. This event serves as a true meeting of the minds and an opportunity to share best practices, learn from one another and work together toward our common goal of national and global security."

NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby served as this year's keynote speaker, discussing current and emerging challenges in the global



Dennis Carr (second from right) joined other key leaders in the field of nuclear deterrence as a panelist at the 2024 Nuclear Deterrence Summit.

landscape, as well as providing updates on NNSA progress and plans for the upcoming year, including the latest at SRS.

"On the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, SRPPF, we continue with design and simultaneous construction start, baseline cost and schedule updates and long lead procurement," said Hruby. "We have reconciled safety basis issues and put in place an NNSA first-of-its-kind construction management contract."

Hruby concluded, "There should be no doubt in anyone's minds – NNSA is modernizing our stockpile both on-schedule and at pace. One thing is certain; we need the Nuclear Security Enterprise to be at its best. People, safety and security remain top priorities."



Alex English, speaker and NBA legend and South Carolina Native (center) stands with SRNS employees Malik Lightbourne, Anitra McManus, Lane Boone and Eugene White.

SRNS supports Martin Luther King Jr. event

SRNS recently provided their support to the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration as a bronze sponsor, contributing \$500 to assist the University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken) and Aiken Technical College with this special occasion.

During the celebration, NBA legend and South Carolina native Alex English gave an uplifting speech to hundreds of people who gathered at the USC Aiken Convocation Center. The event also featured winners of the 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay and Creative Visual Poster contests, as well as the Human and Civil Rights Champion Award recipients.



THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Trey Strickland is the Facility Operations Manager for B Area Labs at SRNS. In this role, he coordinates facility projects and improvements, is the Operations liaison for numerous organizations and planning groups, and serves as his building's Facility Administrator and Fire Protection Coordinator.

When Strickland joined SRNS in 2022, he had over 12 years of operations experience. Strickland said, "I'm extremely grateful to work for a company with such a strong safety culture and to have such a supportive management team within the Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects organization."

Aside from his standard job functions, Strickland has actively submitted improvement ideas to the SRNS IDEAS program, where he received the award for the most accepted and implemented ideas for 2022 and 2023.

After visiting an assisted living facility, Strickland was driven to become more involved in the community; he currently volunteers with Aiken Senior Life Services, an organization that provides meals to senior citizens and hosts bingo nights each week. Sharing his love for the outdoors, he also guides youth hunting excursions to encourage kids to get out in nature. Strickland has volunteered in various SRS outreach activities, including Toys for Tots and the Heart Walk, and served as the previous chair of the ACES Local Safety Improvement Team, of which he is still actively involved.

Strickland was born, raised and still resides in Ridge Spring, South Carolina, where he learned the small-town values he continues to apply in his work. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, traveling, spending time with his kids and watching South Carolina Gamecocks football.

Trey Strickland

AT SRNS: Facility Operations Manager for B Area Labs

IN THE COMMUNITY: Aiken Senior Life Services volunteer

LSIT Leadership Day reinforces commitment to safety

Safety leaders from Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSITs) across the Site recently gathered for their annual LSIT Leadership Day. All 23 SRNS LSITs participated, as well as those from Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance.

This all-day event hosted by SRNS Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality (ESH&Q) division provides training and developmental opportunities, along with hands-on activities to reinforce the importance of active participation to drive excellence in safety and security performance.

"Approximately 60% of our workforce has less than five years of experience on-site; never has our safety culture been more impressionable," said Nick Miller, SRNS Safety Culture Steering Committee Chair and Environmental Management Operations Deputy Vice President. "The Leadership in this room is the key to carrying on our world-class legacy of safety performance."

Presentations were given throughout the day on topics including Human Performance Indicator tools, the behavior-based safety philosophy, how to have crucial conversations and discussions on maintaining Site's safety culture. Attendees also participated in a variety of teambuilding exercises which encouraged effective communication strategies and the importance of hazard awareness when safety circumstances are unclear.



Lea Simons, Health and Safety Manager of Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality, engaged Local Safety Improvement Team members in activities.

"Thank you to all our LSITs and management who came out and made this year's LSIT leadership day a success," said SRNS Senior Industrial Hygienist and Safety Culture/Engagement Subject Matter Expert, Kristin Creed. "We appreciate all you do to help us maintain a healthy safety culture across the Site! In particular, we appreciate SRNS President and CEO Dennis Carr for providing his support and presence, kicking off the day with a sincere invitation to the LSITs to provide their insights and ideas for how we can continue to improve."

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Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges

Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent

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Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wastefoms



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