

News from the Savannah River Site

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION • AIKEN • SC 29808

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re-evaluation of Maintenance Schedules Saves Thousands of Dollars, Hours

AIKEN, S.C. (August 18, 2015) A Continuous Improvement project to review preventive maintenance (PM) activities in the Savannah River Site's Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) is producing over \$606K in savings by revising PM schedules to better align with actual requirements and needs.

So far this fiscal year, SRTE has completed 26 Continuous Improvement projects that have already resulted in \$4.6 million in validated savings, far surpassing the total savings from any previous year. SRTE includes all of the people, facilities and activities at the Savannah River Site that are involved in work with tritium, the radioactive form of hydrogen that is a necessary component in the nation's nuclear defense. SRTE's work is managed for the National Nuclear Security Administration by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS).

SRTE conducts preventive maintenance on thousands of systems and components, with individual PM frequencies varying from weekly to multi-year. These frequencies were established when each system or piece of equipment was first installed in the plant. "Our operating experience told us that a lot of these schedules could be reduced and still ensure safe, efficient operations," said Kirsten Aylward, SRNS SRTE Maintenance Manager. "So we took a closer look to figure out how often each of these PMs really needed to be performed."

The team analyzed the regulatory and safety requirements, actual performance, risk, and other factors before recommending new PM frequencies. The new schedules will save over 4,000 manhours per year in SRTE maintenance mechanics' field time.

Putting these new schedules in place required a large number of revisions to the two computer program databases that document and maintain the regularly scheduled work activities – nearly



SRTE employees perform preventive maintenance. A Continuous Improvement project resulted in revised schedules for PM activities, saving over 4,000 manhours per year in SRTE maintenance mechanics' field time.

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1,600 record updates in all. Normally, inputting that many changes would have been a lengthy and time-consuming process, but SRTE developed an automated program tool that saved at least 80 hours of employee input time. The tool used automated desktop software to apply the changes to the appropriate records in the databases.

“SRNS employees use Continuous Improvement projects to change the way things are done. The result is money saved, improved processes, enhanced safety, or all three,” says Pat Rapp, SRNS SRTE Quality, Continuous Improvement & Business Excellence Manager. “We make use of the expertise of the employees actually involved in the work to accomplish real improvements.” The PM Frequency Reduction team had more than 25 members, all contributing their particular expertise

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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SRNS- 2015 - 382