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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer Days for Lakes and Streams: SRNS Intern Helps Monitor the Environment

SRNS Intern Sharpens Math and Engineering Skills before Pursuing Graduate Studies

AIKEN, S.C. (August 6, 2015) – When it comes to his internship at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Clemson University student Garrett Hall has combined his love for the outdoors and interests in math and engineering.

For the past two summer sessions, Hall has interned in the SRNS Sample Data Management Group at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS). This group collects and analyzes all environmental monitoring data for the site, which spans 310 square miles.

This summer, Hall has focused on the surface water monitoring program, which monitors the primary streams at SRS.

“My favorite part of this internship is seeing how the sample data process comes full circle – starting in the office writing equations to calculate stream flow, then going out into the field to observe how technicians collect the data, and finally analyzing the data collected from the equipment. My internship has not just been about sitting in an office crunching numbers. I grew up with a passion for the outdoors, hunting and fishing at every



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions intern Garrett Hall (right) demonstrates the operation of an ultrasonic flowmeter, a device used to measure water flow, to Nayantara Ojha, math teacher at Allendale Fairfax High School (Allendale, S.C.), during a recent TREAT (Teaching Radiation Energy and Technology) workshop at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

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given opportunity, so it has been an amazing opportunity to get out of the office to observe the sample collection process and how the flow equations I have helped develop are being implemented by the flow meters stationed in the field,” said Hall.

In addition, Hall is part of a 50 year tradition by working on the annual SRS Environmental Report for 2014. SRS employees have published an environmental report every year since the early 1960s.

“Our group monitors the flow rates of all the primary streams on site, and we take samples to determine levels of contamination that could be in the water. Garrett has specifically helped us update all of our flow information, and his important work is being released to the public. At SRNS, we are stewards of our environment, and the annual environmental report provides proof to the public that we work in an environmentally safe manner,” said Mike Griffith, Manager, SRNS Sample Data Management.

In July, Hall gave a demonstration on various ways to determine flow including the use of a weir with an ultrasonic flowmeter and using area velocity measurements at a TREAT (Teaching Radiation Energy and Technology) workshop held at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

“This has given me the spark I need to start a new school year. My students often ask me, ‘When am I ever going to use math in real life?’ Now, I’ll be able to share Garrett’s job as a profession that requires a strong foundation in math,” said Terri Gibbs, seventh grade math teacher, Evans Middle School.

“People who grew up in this area may not realize the diversity of job opportunities available. You don’t necessarily have to move across the country to find a career that interests you and plays to your strengths. The workshops have allowed me to learn more about careers at the Savannah River Site, and it’s right here in the CSRA,” added Jennifer Ward, eighth grade math teacher, Evans Middle School.

Sponsored by DOE, TREAT workshops provide an opportunity for kindergarten through 12th grade teachers to learn about careers in the engineering, nuclear and environmental fields, so teachers can take information back to their students.

“I was happy to answer questions about how I’ve been able to utilize my foundation in math during my internship at the Savannah River Site, so teachers can encourage their students that the math taught in the classroom can be applicable, and you can actually do something enjoyable with it,” Hall said.

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Hall graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in bioengineering. He will return to Clemson University in the fall, where he will pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

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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