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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Innovative Efficiencies and Safer Alternatives Improve SRNS Environmental Storm Water Sampling Equipment and Process

AIKEN, S.C. (March 24, 2015) – Beginning in the early 1950s, Dr. Ruth Patrick was a visionary in environmental monitoring – collecting samples from a variety of plants, soil and sources of fresh water to determine the effect that radioactive contamination may have had on the environment at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site (SRS). Today, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) continues Patrick’s legacy through methodical data collection and an improved monitoring system that collects and transmits data via cell towers to SRS employees for display.

“In the past, we have had technicians who walk down trails to reach several monitoring stations scattered across the 310 square mile site to collect environmental samples and sampling data, entered into a log book,” said Amy Meyer, SRNS Manager, Sample Data Management. “With the recent installation of electronic rain, flow, and automated sampling equipment, environmental data can be instantly and automatically gathered from locations throughout the Savannah River Site onto a dedicated computer server.”

“It makes our job safer and considerably more cost-effective,” added Meyer. “To see the information, we simply open our dedicated website and use the computer interface provided to review each stream of data.”

Storm water monitoring enhancements include immediate text



*An innovative and computerized process now used at the Savannah River Site allows for the highly efficient management of environmental sampling information. Jessie Pierce, SRNS Environmental Monitoring, records readings using special equipment installed near a small stream at SRS.*

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notifications of rain events and wireless startup of automated samplers where SCDHEC permits require sampling to be performed within 30 minutes of rain flow. Field technicians now spend about 25 percent less man hours gauging and waiting for rain and flow events.

To date, this initiative has resulted in an annual cost avoidance that is significant. “The cost avoidance in man-hours saved alone is impressive,” said Meyer.

Meyer is also quick to point to the reduction in risk for affected employees. It’s not unusual for an SRNS technician to encounter a hazard while walking to a storm water monitoring station located in a creek, stream, runoff collection basin or some other body of water. Potential exposure to snakes, alligators, feral hogs, bees and tripping hazards can all be minimized using the new system for those sites converted to a remote monitoring location.

This innovative and computerized process allows for the highly efficient management of sampling information while reducing errors attributed to the entry of handwritten data. In addition, the new system provides enhanced data integrity, faster data availability and overall increased productivity.

SRNS environmental management officials are currently studying and experimenting with other potential ways to expand their computerized environmental data collection and display system.

*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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