

News from the Savannah River Site

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Innovative Disposal of Concrete Culverts Completed Ahead of Schedule

AIKEN, S.C. – June 30, 2015 – Nearly 100 large concrete culverts, eight feet in height and seven feet in diameter, most slightly contaminated due to previously stored radioactive waste, have been reduced in overall size and shape by breaking them into smaller pieces and then safely disposed of according to regulatory standards at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) by primary contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS).

By carefully breaking these culverts, which resemble concrete storm water drainage piping, into small pieces, half the amount of space was needed than originally expected.

The disposal areas are covered with a deep, protective layer of soil within an engineered trench.



Al Rodriguez, First Line Manager, SRNS Solid Waste, inspects concrete culverts prior to being crushed by SRNS personnel to greatly reduce the size of the area needed for disposition at SRS.

DOE-Savannah River Operations Office acting Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition James Folk believes that this space-saving concept was a clever idea. “This is a good example of how we work smart at SRS, wisely using the resources at hand when possible,” said Folk.

The original schedule provided a year to complete this initial project involving the safe disposal of 100 culverts; however, the task was finished five months ahead of schedule. One hundred culverts continue to be stored at the site’s E Area and will also be processed and buried as well, once a plan and schedule have been created and approved.

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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